

The Great Indian School Show

Directed by: Avinash Deshpande (India)

Length: 52 minutes

Language: Hindi with English subtitles

This film describes the intense monitoring systems that are being set up in hi-end schools to watch and control children. Big Brother is watching you!

Little Shaolin Monks

Directed by: Bai Hai Bin (China)

Length: 40 minutes

Language: Chinese with English subtitles

Tucked away in the high hills of China, monks as young as age 8 enter the Shaolin order. Here, they learn martial art and Buddhist philosophy, continuing an over 1500-year-old tradition. What they are able to accomplish with their bodies is truly astounding.

Gijubhai

Directed by: Parul Gehlot (India)

Length: 20 minutes

Language: Gujarati with English subtitles

The film shares the life and work of Gijubhai, an Indian educationist who created an innovative school in Gujarat.

Kabaad se Jugaad: Upcycling Our Lives

Directed by: Shikshantar (India)

Length: 13 minutes

Language: Hindi and English with English subtitles

This film comes out of a learning event dedicated to upcycling, that is, making useful and beautiful things out of 'waste' materials. It shares the ideas and experiences of several 'zero waste' activists from around India.

**RE-MEMBERING NAI TALEEM
FILM FESTIVAL 2007
profile of films**

BLOCK 1

Colors of Paradise

Directed by: Majid Majidi (Iran)

Length: 90 minutes

Language: Persian with English subtitles

A blind boy learns the world through his hands. His father struggles to accept him. Can their relationship be healed before it is too late?

Leap of Faith

Directed by: Shammi Nanda (India)

Length: 60 min

Language: Hindi and English with English subtitles

Interact with three families who are integrating Nature's beauty, power and wonder in their lives. In Ahmedabad, Qudrat and Ajanmaya are free from school and practicing natural learning with their parents, Sumi and Chandresh. In Amrawati, Vasant and Karuna Futane and their family have been organically and naturally farming for nearly 25 years. In Kolkata, Bharat and Vinita Mansata and their family have been living without medicines and engaging with self-healing.

Loving Teacher

Directed by: Maja Tillman Salas (Peru)

Length: 28 minutes

Language: Quechua and Spanish with English subtitles

A group of teachers in Peru, South America, realize that they have been alienated from their traditional communities because they were educated in Western-knowledge-based schools. They do not want to do the same to the next generation. So, they look to one another for strength, support, and practical ideas for re-integrating with local communities, and connecting to the traditional Andean knowledge base.

Summerhill

Produced by: Summerhill (United Kingdom)

Length: 21 minutes

Language: English

This film shares the story of A.S. Neill and the Summerhill school. This school, based in England, is an 80 year old experiment. It is run on democratic principles, where students and teachers together decide their learning programmes.

Truth and Joy of Science: Muktangan Vigyan Shodhika

Directed by: Muktangan Vigyan Shodhika (India)

Length: 12 minutes

Language: English

The film depicts a space in Pune for kids to learn science by making (or breaking!) the rules themselves, coming to understand the laws of science by doing practical things.

Scary School Nightmare

Directed by: The Pinky Show(USA)

Length: 8 minutes

Language: English

This film explores some of Ivan Illich's ideas about *Deschooling Society* through the eyes of a cat. It raises some tough questions about the nature of modern schooling.

BLOCK 2

Accepted

Directed by: Steve Pink (USA)

Length: 90 minutes

Language: English

What happens when you get rejected by every college you apply to? You make one up! This feature film tells the story of Bartleby, who starts out trying to fool his parents but ends up creating a fantastic co-learning space for himself and his peers.

A New Dream

Directed by: Neal Rogin (USA/Peru)

Length: 10 minutes

Language: English

This film shares the efforts of the Pachamama Alliance, where members of the Achuar indigenous community are working with people from the modern world to sustain their ecology. Looking at the root cause of their problems, they understand the 'dream' of the modern world has to be unlearned and are organizing seminars around the world to support this process.

Zindagi ka Judav (Links of Life)

Directed by: Kanha Ram Rav (India)

Length: 3 minutes

Language: Hindi

A villager poses the question, "Don't we have enough skilled and talented people within our community? How can we manage our own affairs without dependency on outsiders?" This film was produced in the Swapathgami Filmmaking Workshop 2007.

Nahi Hona Mujhe Bada (I Don't Want to Grow Up)

Directed by: Shahid Parvez (India)

Length: 3 minutes

Language: Hindi

A painter explores why he finds it difficult to explain his contemporary paintings, their concepts and underlying philosophies, to educated adults. He seeks to transcend their 'grown-up' questions and finds inspiration to do so in his own child. This film was produced in the Swapathgami Filmmaking Workshop 2007.

Kahan Hai Hum? (Where are we?)

Directed by: Ravi (India)

Length: 4 minutes

Language: Hindi

The protagonist is a young girl who tells her story of how she didn't learn in the place and ways she was told to. This film was produced in the Swapathgami Filmmaking Workshop 2007.

Mera Beta (My Son)

Directed by: Shashi Bala (India)

Length: 4 minutes

Language: Hindi

A mother describes her struggle with herself about her decision to not send her son to school. This film was produced in the Swapathgami Filmmaking Workshop 2007.

Do Flowers Fly?

Directed by: Prosenjeet Ganguly (India)

Length: 5 minutes

Language: Visual and music only

Inspired by the book *Danger School*, this cartoon film is about how children's curiosity is crushed by the school regimentation.

Sarang

Directed by: Samandaram (India)

Length: 25 minutes

Language: Malayam

This film highlights the ideas and educational experiments of the Sarang family in Kerala.

Vigyan Ashram

Directed by: Sameer Shipurkar (India)

Length: 50 minutes

Language: English

This film features the pioneering work of Dr. Kalbag to create an alternative school that seeks to nurture curiosity and innovation in rural children in Pune. The focus is on learning while doing and multi-skill training to prepare children for real life situations. It is an effort to demystify science and technology while empowering people to find appropriate solutions to their own problems.

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BLOCK 3

Whale Rider

Directed by: Niki Cairo (New Zealand)

Length: 100 minutes

Language: Kiwi English and Maori with English subtitles

A young Maori girl struggles to lead her tribe in regenerating their traditions, despite the consternation of her grandfather. Is she the one who will fulfill the ancient prophecy of the Whale Rider?

SIDH

Produced by: SIDH (India)

Length: 42 minutes

Language: Hindi / English

The film shares the work of SIDH in Mussorie where they are trying to develop education models which keep children rooted in their local communities.

Guni: Reclaiming Self Healing in Our Communities

Directed by: Ramawtar Singh, Manoj Prajapat (India)

Length: 30 minutes

Language: Hindi

This film depicts a learning journey for indigenous ways of healing. It features the stories of traditional healers who have learned outside of formal schooling.

Production of Meaning

Directed by: Adbusters (Canada)

Length: 20 minutes

Language: English

This film explores the ideas and efforts of Adbusters to reclaim our mental environment from the hands of corporations and their propaganda.

Northstar: Self Directed Learning for Teens

Directed by: Nicholas Berger (USA)

Length: 18 minutes

Language: English

This film describes the efforts of the Northstar learning community to support unschoolers in Massachusetts.

Nature of Unschooling

Directed by: Randy Kay (Canada)

Length: 3 minutes

Language: English

A parent talks about what is important for him and family when engaging in the process of natural learning.

BLOCK 4

Narayan Bhai: In Conversation

Produced by: Shikshantar (India)

Length: 55 minutes

Language: Hindi

A Gandhian based in Veddchi, Gujarat, shares his experiences in growing up with Gandhi, his views on contemporary social-political situations, and his interpretation of Nai Taleem.

Free to Learn

Directed by: Bhawin Suchak and Jeff Root (USA)

Length: 70 minutes

Language: English

An intimate look at the Albany Free School, a small inner-city alternative in New York, USA, where there are no formal rules, no grades, no tests, and decisions are made democratically by students and teachers.

Believe the Hype!

Produced by: Mandakini Mathur and the children of Sanjeevan Vidyalaya (India)

Length: 23 minutes

Language: English and Hinglish

Students and their teacher get together in the hills of Panchgani to make a film on how advertisements are influencing our aims and dreams in life.

If the Shoe Doesn't Fit?

Directed by: Abhivyakti and Shikshantar (India)

Length: 21 minutes

Language: English

When you are between size 8 and size 9, it is not time to get new feet, but rather to find or make the shoes (or go barefoot!) that work for you. This film highlights conversations from the first Unfolding Learning Societies Conference, held in Udaipur, December 2002.

Kathalaya

Directed by: Kathalaya (India)

Length: 9 minutes

Language: English

This film describes Kathalaya's efforts in Bangalore to regenerate the tradition of storytelling and to bring storytelling into schools and communities.

How Others See Us

Directed by: (United Kingdom)

Length: 5 minutes

Language: English text only

What would an alien make of the modern education system? Based on a John Holt essay, this cartoon offers a Martian's view of the schooling system. His own questions and doubts ought to leave us wondering what is being done to children... and his suggestions give us good options to ponder.

BLOCK 5

Great New American Schoolhouse

Directed by: Danny Mylack (USA)

Length: 80 minutes

Language: English

The students of Fairhaven, an alternative school in Connecticut associated with the Sudbury philosophy, share their experiences of how they create their own learning programs and run their schools.