

MEDIA KIT



B.L.I.N.D

BORN TO LIVE IN NEAR DARKNESS ?

B.L.I.N.D



SHORT DOCUMENTARY (INDIA/US)

In this coming of age story, a blind, ill, malnourished Indian girl is helped by a philanthropic doctor, who leads a quiet revolution using his innovative ideas and Braille charts.

Presented by TSC Films/
Sid Films

AWARDS/SELECTIONS

- Semifinalist, Rhode Island Intl. FF
- Gold Award, International, IIFA, Los Angeles
- Cannes IIFF
- India International Film Festival Boston
- Finalist, Bengaluru Shorts Intl. Film Festival
- Best Documentary, Sand Dance IFF
- Special Mention, 11th DadaSaheb Phalke FF
- Outstanding Achievement, Tagore IFF
- Kolkata Shorts International Film Festival
- 16 International Film Festivals by JIFF

CAST/ CREW

Producer/ Story / Lyricist: Dr. T.S.

Chandrasekar (Gastroenterologist/ Padma Shri Award Winner)

Screenplay/Direction: Sid Katragadda

DOP: Lance Kaplan (Rangitaranga)

Editing: Natalia Iyudin

Sound: SyncCinema. Chennai

Sound Editing: Dmitry Iyudin

Production/Crew: Ravi Prasad Unit

Music: Mathew D. Morgan/ Keen Collective/
Fremont

Music (Tamil): Bharati Thirumagan/
T. Kalaimagan

SPECS

Running Time: 27.42 mins

Language: Tamil (English Subtitles)

Genre: Short Documentary

CONTACT

WEB <https://filmfreeway.com/blindthefilm>

EMAIL tscmedia@gmail.com



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FILMMAKERS

PRODUCER / STORY / LYRICS

Dr.T.S. CHADRASEKAR (Producer/Story) is an internationally reputed physician, and recipient of the prestigious Presidential PADMA SHRI award from the Government of India.

For his professional contributions, and the worldwide impact of his charitable work, he was awarded the prestigious MWGO (Master of World Gastroenterology Organization), the third Indian to receive this honor. Yet another note-worthy recognition of his was the "Community Service Award" from the prestigious "American College of Gastroenterology," the first Asian and non-American to receive this recognition

WRITER / DIRECTOR

SID KATRAGADDA (Writer/Director) is an emerging, award-winning screenwriter, filmmaker, poet and playwright. His film 'Varanasi' won Best Foreign film at the Atlantic City Film Festival. He has been placed in various Hollywood screenplay contests, including Page, Screencraft and Nicholls. His play, 'The Power Outage', will be produced by Towne Street Theatre, Hollywood, in April 2020. His books, Dark Rooms and The Other Wife, won the San Diego Book Prize in 2002,2003. His writing has been published in CNN, Grey Sparrow Press, New Plains Review and various literary journals. He lives in San Diego, California.

CAMERA / EDITING

LANCE KAPLAN (DOP) is known for his Cinematography in the Oscar Nominated film Rangitaranga

NATALIA IYUDIN (EDITOR) is an award-winning Editor/Director



PRODUCER STATEMENT

B.L.I.N.D, the documentary film was conceptualized and shot to create universal awareness on empowering the blind. It revolves around the life of several blind school students, whom Dr.Chandra met during his free medical camp, and the ideas he innovated to empower them. Dr.T.S. Chandrasekar is an internationally reputed physician, and recipient of the prestigious Presidential PADMA SHRI award from the Government of India. He believes in the motto "The Empowered should empower the Under-privileged". That is why he started his MedIndia Charitable Trust, a non profit Non Government Organization, to serve the less privileged. He focused on the visual and hearing impaired, and physically challenged school students, and worked towards their betterment, independence and dignity. His innovative ideas in these areas have won him three prestigious state and two national awards, and his innovative projects have been implemented in nearby countries too. His multifaceted talents - lyricist , poet , column writer, short film writer, producer, director, actor, innovator, public awareness and environment protection collaborator - have made a difference to the world around him.

B.L.I.N.D. was made in the Tamil language, a Dravidian language natively spoken by around 75 million people residing in the state of Tamil Nadu, located in South India. Tamil language, reckoned to be over 5000 years old, is the oldest living language in the world. Tamil is the first language to be classified as a classical language of India and recognized by the Constitution of India. It is the first Indian language to be printed and published, by virtue of a prayer book being published in Tamil language, by Portuguese Christian missionaries, in 1578 AD. Tamil is also spoken in Sri Lanka and Singapore

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

India is home to the largest blind population in the world. Of the 37 million people across the globe who are blind, over 15 million are from India. What's worse, 75% of these are cases of avoidable blindness, thanks to the country's acute shortage of optometrists and donated eyes for the treatment of corneal blindness. While India needs 40,000 optometrists, it has only 8,000.

B.L.I.N.D (Born to Live In Near Darkness) narrates the story of the helplessness of India's blind. What drew me to this project was hearing stories about what the visually impaired faced in India. At the time, my mind was blown open by the superstitions and taboos surrounding this issue. The blind and other impaired, are neglected because they are believed to be repaying past sins. Blind women and girls are the hardest hit.

We met four blind girls prior to the shoot, that we decided to make the central focus of the film. The lead character of the film, Shweta, had lost her sight at a young age due to not getting proper medical treatment. Her optic nerves were damaged beyond repair. She suffered from malnutrition and illness, owing to which she had not matured, at fifteen. The next blind girl was an albino girl, a victim of genetic mutation due to generations of intra-family marriages. The third was a premature baby, born blind. And the last had lost her eyes to disease. It was crushing to imagine both what they had been through and how they could go on. But equally arresting was the palpable resilience of these girls. The fact that they could find ways to create meaning in their lives, after such experiences, was awe inspiring. This is what initially drew me to this story.

Also, I tried to intertwine the character arcs of the blind girls with that of our 'hero', Dr. T.S Chandrasekar, who gave the blind hope through his innovative braille charts. I was drawn to the story of what inspired him to come up with the braille charts, and his persistence in helping the blind. His H.I.N.T (Hygiene, IQ, Nutrition & Traffic) charts have been implemented in various countries and he was awarded the Padma Shri award by the Government of India, for his charitable work.

One of the things I felt strongly about in the making of B.L.I.N.D is that I wanted this film to have its own language, both tonally and structurally. I wanted to make a film that allowed audiences to feel what I felt when I first went to the Blind schools in Chennai – the tremendous strength, vitality and commitment that these individuals had to each other and to imagining a future for themselves and their families.



B.L.I.N.D

BORN TO LIVE IN NEAR DARKNESS ?

STILLS



MEDINDIA CHARITABLE TRUST IN ASSOCIATION WITH SID FILMS PRESENTS A TSC FILMS PRESENTATION
"B.L.I.N.D." EDITED BY NATALIA I.L. PRODUCED BY DR. T.S. CHANDRASEKAR. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LANCE KAPLAN
SCREENPLAY BY SID KATRAGADDA DIRECTED BY SID KATRAGADDA STORY BY DR. T.S. CHANDRASEKAR



B.L.I.N.D.

FINALIST
BENGALURU
INTL SHORTS

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
Cannes IFF

Born to Live In Near
Darkness ?

SPECIAL MENTION
11th DADASAHEB
PHALKE Film
FESTIVAL

Semifinalist
Flickers Rhode
Island International
Film Festival
2020

GOLD AWARD
IIFA,
LOS ANGELES

B.L.I.N.D

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