



VESAK  
2009

Outline Information - For Entrants

*Buddhist Film Festival*

# Contents

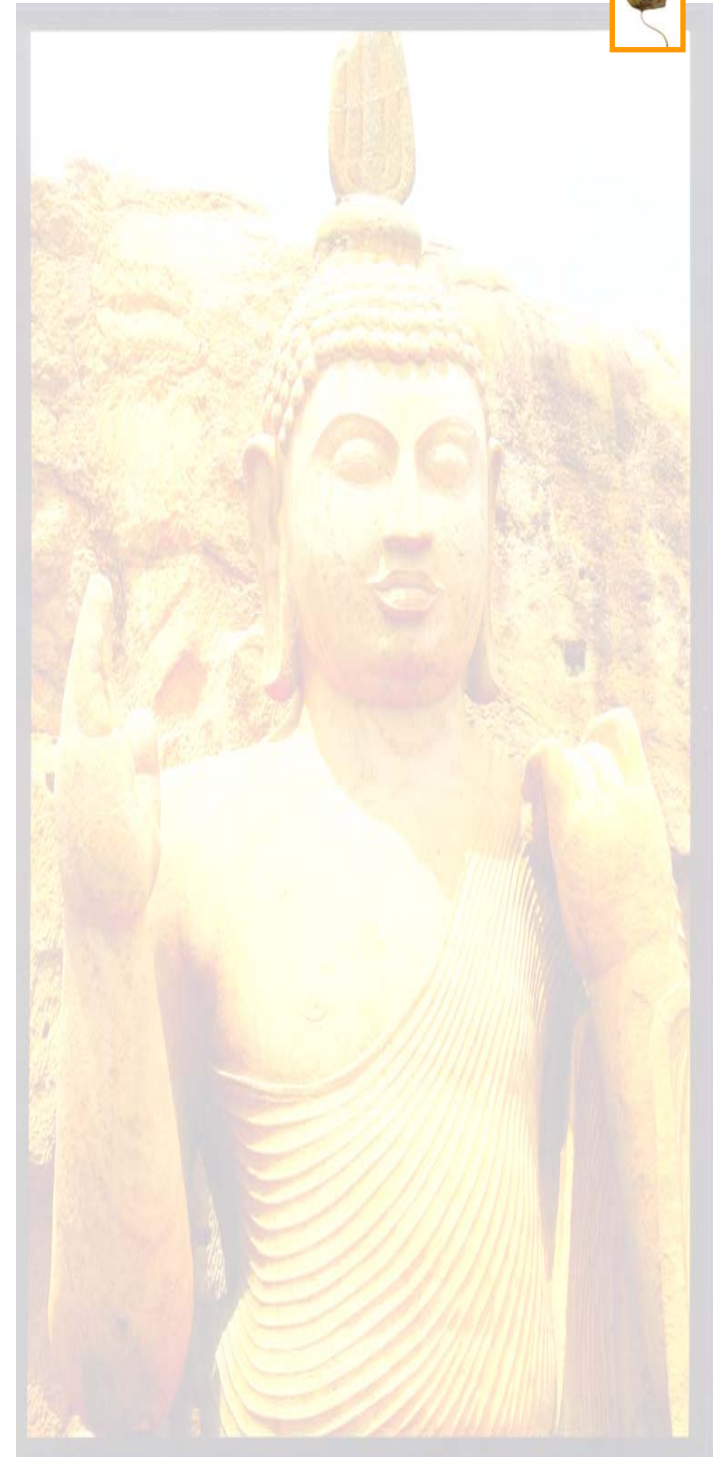
Outline Information	3
Short Film Short Competition- Call for Entries	4
Film Festival- Call for Entries	5
Workshops	6
Tourism and Worldwide attention	7
Advisory Council	8
Trustees of Light of Asia Foundation	9

## **Light of Asia Foundation**

No. 42, Lester James Pieris Mawatha, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka.

Tel: +94 777 352 628, +94 722 782 500 Fax: +94 114-512462

Email: [info@lightofasiafoundation.com](mailto:info@lightofasiafoundation.com) Web: [www.lightofasiafoundation.com](http://www.lightofasiafoundation.com)



# Outline Proposal

## Introduction



- **Light of Asia Foundation** - a non profit organization based in Sri Lanka focused on enhancing the understanding and practice of Buddhism throughout the world, through audio-visual presentations.
- **Motion Picture “ Prince Siddhartha - The Buddha”** - Light of Asia Foundation has initiated the making of the Epic Motion Picture “ Prince Siddhartha - The Buddha”, with acclaimed Shyam Benegal as Director and a star cast drawn from several countries. Filming will commence from the picturesque location at the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal.



- **National Film Corporation and Light of Asia Foundation** - In line with its objective to disseminate Buddhism using audio visual media, the Foundation has embarked upon organizing a Vesak Short Film Festival in association with the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka.
- **Showcasing, Education, Promotion-** The Festival will showcase a wide cross section of cinematic presentations on Buddhist themes, while providing interaction and educational opportunities to Film Makers and recognize their creativity by promoting their productions.
- **Enhancing Vesak Celebrations-** This document not only outlines a proposal for the Vesak Film Festival itself, but also describes how a concerted effort by all institutions concerned, to enhance Vesak celebrations, and place Sri Lanka on the world map as a major travel destination during the Vesak Month of May.

# Outline Information



## **1. Short Film Competition - Call For Entries**

Light of Asia Foundation in association with the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka is delighted to announce the call for entries for the Vesak Short Film Competition 2009, which will take place just prior to the grand Vesak Festival in Sri Lanka during the month of May.

- International Short Film Competition – For Independent foreign Film Makers, Film Schools, Universities, Sri Lankans living overseas and members of Buddhist Temples and Organizations abroad (Coordinated by Light of Asia Foundation)
- Mobile Short Film Competition – This category is open to any participant from Sri Lanka or abroad

### **Requirements:**

- Films must have a Buddhist theme
- A submission must be between 6 – 12 minutes in duration
- It may be created in any format (including flash, 3D animation & graphics), but submitted in DVD
- Films may be in black & white or colour
- There is no age limit for entrants
- Submissions under the International Category should be in English, or subtitled in English

### **Winners and awards:**

Films will be judged based on quality of film making, as well as content and message. Films will be judged by an eminent panel of international judges appointed by the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka.

The best local and foreign short films will be showcased on National Television during the Vesak week, dedicated to the Film Festival. Cash prizes for local winners. Awards and hospitality for international winners.

## Submissions and inquiries:

**All those considering entering the Competition are recommended to visit [www.lightofasiafoundation.com](http://www.lightofasiafoundation.com), and also express interest by writing to the following offices.**

(All potential entrants will be kept updated of developments and critical information and judging criteria leading up to the Competition)

International Competition-

Ms. Dinukshi Fernando, Project Manager, Light of Asia Foundation

No. 42, Lester James Pieris Mawatha, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 722 782 500, Fax: +94 114-512462

Email: [info@lightofasiafoundation.com](mailto:info@lightofasiafoundation.com)

Closing date for submissions **15 March, 2009.**

## **2. Exhibition of Feature Films- Call For Entries**

In addition to the Short Film Competition, there will also be a Festival of Feature Films on the Buddhist theme. Starting on Sunday, May 9 through Sunday, May 16, 2009, the festival will showcase the world's best Buddhist films.

Submissions are open to films of all genres (fiction, animation, documentary, experimental, music video or other) from any nation of the world. All non-English films must have English subtitles.

The deadline for submissions in the DVD format is February 28, 2009. Entries must be sent via diplomatic post to: Mr. T.M. Sangadasa, Consultant, National Film Corporation  
303, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

For enquiries, please write to: [info@lightofasiafoundation.com](mailto:info@lightofasiafoundation.com). Films selected for exhibition will be notified before the end of March 2009.







### 3. Workshops

A series of workshops will also be held during the Vesak Festival week.

These will be conducted by eminent personalities from the local and international film scene. They will focus on Buddhism and Film Making.

The detailed programme will be posted on the Light of Asia Foundation's website:

[www.lightofasiafoundation.com](http://www.lightofasiafoundation.com),

Workshops are open to all Competitors and any others who wish to attend.

Those interested in coming to Sri Lanka for the workshop are requested to make initial contact with the Foundation by writing to:

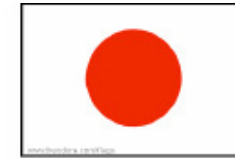
[info@lightofasiafoundation.com](mailto:info@lightofasiafoundation.com)



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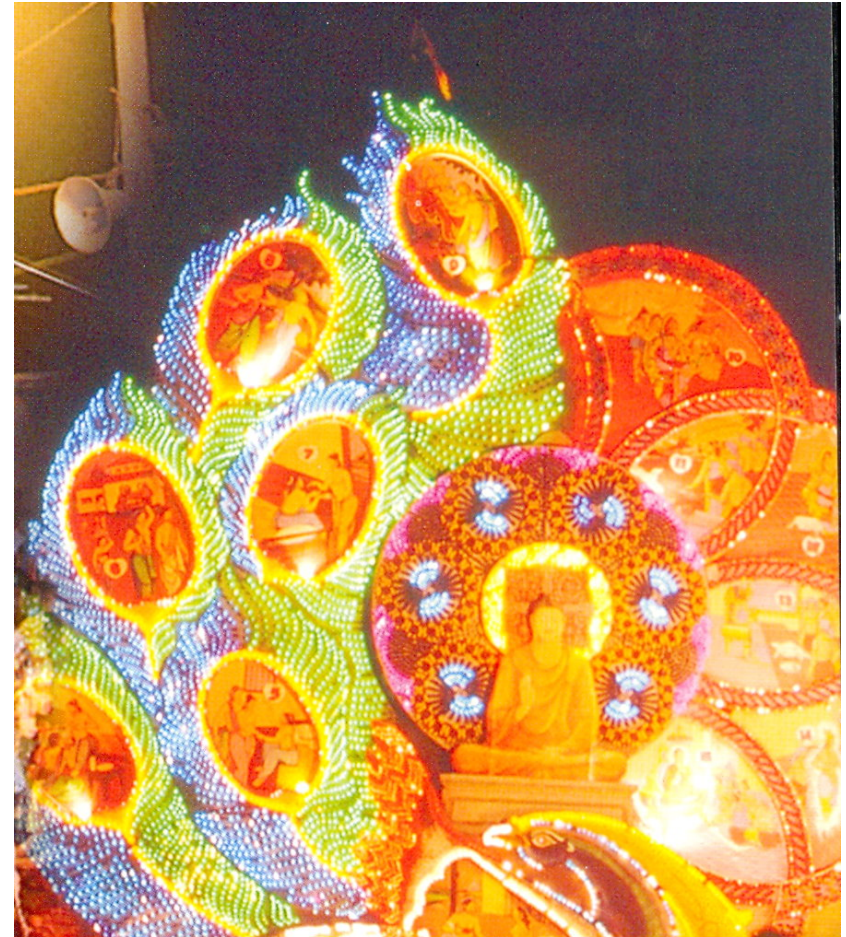


Singapore



# Tourism and Worldwide Attention

- **Foreign Delegates and Visitors -**  
The Competition, Workshops, and participation of eminent personalities, Exchange Programmes, Exhibition and Tour packages will ensure participation of foreign visitors to the Film Festival.
- **Target segments -**
  1. Students from foreign Universities, Film Schools
  2. Independent Film Makers and International Personalities
  3. Sri Lankans living abroad
  4. Meditators, Researchers and Pilgrims seeking spiritual advancement
- **Highlighting Vesak in Sri Lanka -**  
The network of the Light of Asia Foundation, The Tourist Board, Sri Lankan Airlines and other strategic bodies can market the Vesak Festival and its integrated activities. In its communication there will be much emphasis on the most celebrated event in the Buddhist Calendar, and how Sri Lanka celebrates Vesak like no other country.



- **Sri Lanka as a destination -**  
This exposure gives ample opportunity for Sri Lanka to position itself as:
  1. An exotic/ spiritual destination during the month of May
  2. A mystical shooting location for Film Makers.
  3. A country moving towards peace whilst revealing its most valued treasure - Buddhism.
  4. A reservoir of information and knowledge on the philosophy of Buddhism

# Advisory Council

An international panel will be invited from among the Advisors, Buddhist Scholars and other such eminent personalities in film making associated with the Light of Asia Foundation to conduct seminars and programmes for the Film Festival.



## **Ven. Professor Bellanwila Wimalaratana Thero**

Chief Incumbent of the Bellanwila  
Raja Maha Vihara  
Chancellor  
Sri Jayawardhanapura University  
Sri Lanka



## **Ven. Prof. Kollupitiye Mahinda Sangarakkitha Thero**

Chief Incumbent of the Kelani Raja Maha Vihara  
Professor, Department of Pali and Buddhist  
Studies University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.



## **Dr. Ananda W.P. Guruge - USA**

Dean of Academic Affairs,  
Director of the International Academy of  
Buddhism, Vice-President and Liaison Officer  
to the United Nations (UN) and UNESCO for  
the World Fellowship of Buddhists,  
Chairman of the World Buddhist University,  
Patron of the European Buddhist Union.



## **Prof. Toshiichi Endo - Japan**

Advisor to the Buddhist Academy :  
Professor, Postgraduate Institute of Pali  
and Buddhist Studies, University of  
Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.



## **Dr. Nantasarn Seesalab – Thailand**

Advisor, World Buddhist University and  
Former Secretary General of the World  
Fellowship of Buddhist.



## **VEN. DR. WALPOLA PIYANANADA**

Chief Sangha Nayake of America, President,  
Sri Lankan Sangha Council of America &  
Canada, Advisor to the President of Sri  
Lanka on International Religious Affairs,  
Dharma Vijaya Buddhist Vihara - USA



## **Shyam Benegal – Director - India**

Highest award in Indian Cinema  
Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year  
2005. Only Director to have won the  
National Film Award for the Best Feature  
Film in Hindi five times.



## **Prof. Nimal De Silva – Sri Lanka**

Director – Post Graduate Institute of  
Architecture, Senior Professor of  
Architecture University of Moratuwa ,  
Director – Centre for Heritage and Cultural  
Studies , Consultant to UNESCO Culture and  
Heritage Protection.



## **Dr. Rashpal Malhotra - India**

Vice President and Director General,  
Centre for Research in Rural and  
Industrial Development , Chandigarh, India



## **Ms. Mohini Gunasekara – Australia**

Founder President & Honorary Vice Chairperson  
Federation of Australians Buddhist Councils  
Trustee Light of Asia Foundation

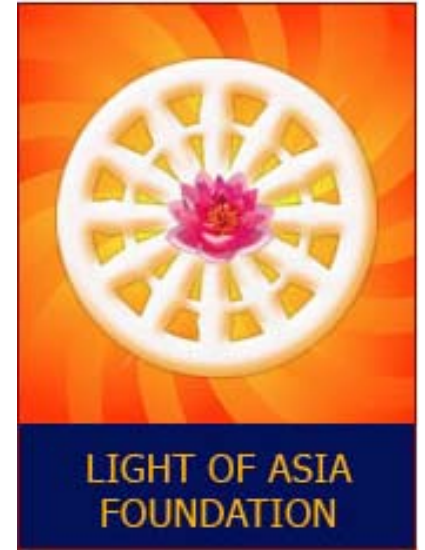


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A non profit foundation committed to the promotion of the pristine philosophy of Buddhism.

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- **DR. NANTASARN SEESALAB** THAILAND
- **PROF. NIMAL DE SILVA** SRI LANKA
- **DR. ANANDA GURUGE** USA
- **DR. RASHPAL MALHOTRA** INDIA

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