Press Release, Wednesday 21 September 2022

SERPENTINE BACK TO EARTH FILM AWARD

Image: Invisible Demons, © Rahul Jain

Serpentine and curated streaming service and film distributor MUBI are delighted to announce that the winner of this year’s Serpentine Back to Earth Film Award is Invisible Demons by Rahul Jain. The winning film was announced at the Serpentine on 21 September 2022.

The film award, presented by the Serpentine Film Committee in conjunction with Serpentine’s recent Back to Earth exhibition, recognises and supports filmmakers and artists who work with documentary film to respond to the environmental crisis.

Bettina Korek, CEO, and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine said: “Rahul is one of the most exciting, up-and-coming filmmakers of his generation, and it is an honour to have Invisible Demons win Serpentine’s Film Award. The film captivates the viewer’s imagination from beginning to end, and it transcends singular topics to address climate justice. Now in a third year...
of programming. *Back to Earth* initiatives have been a remarkable testament to what a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary practice Serpentine is. Rahul’s poetic and dramatic film embodies this idea.”

**Lady Elena Foster, Chair of the Serpentine Council, Trustee, and Film Jury Member** said: “All nominated films of the Serpentine Back to Earth Film Award impressed the jury panel in ways that we could not have imagined – every film tackles the topic of ecology and/or the climate crisis in its own, distinctive style: whether it be through narrative, music or visual effects. *Invisible Demons* is a piece of excellent cinematography and photography, with the most beautiful scores. It is a truly compelling film that tackles the core of climate change, and the director, Rahul Jain succeeds in demonstrating his artistic eye throughout every aspect of the film. Congratulations to Rahul and the team for creating such a wonderful piece of film and art.”

**Josh Berger, CBE, Special Advisor** said: “Rahul has created a poetic and powerful film about the tragedy of climate change in today’s India. *Invisible Demons* delivers stunning visuals but tells a harrowing story with urgency, and further establishes Rahul Jain as one of the key documentary film makers of his generation. It’s fantastic that The Sepentine’s Back To Earth film award can serve as a platform for an important film and talented filmmaker.”

*Invisible Demons* offers a deeply experiential and new perspective on its subject, namely the omnipresent climate reality of today. Jain engages the senses by directly stimulating our desire to live in a world with equitable access to clean air and water.

The winner received the prize of an exclusive edition by artist Arthur Jafa. The film premiered at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, and will be released in select cinemas on 30 September 2022, and will be available on MUBI from 4 October 2022. The other nominees for this year’s Serpentine Back to Earth Film Award included *Bring Your Own Brigade*, by Lucy Walker; *Fire of Love*, by Sara Dosa; and *The Territory*, by Alex Pritz.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Director and writer Rahul Jain earned a Master of the Arts in Aesthetics and Politics from the California Institute of the Arts. His final thesis of studies was titled The Anthropocene in the Cinema. Jain’s debut film as a director, *Machines*, shot in a textile factory in Gujarat, India, screened at over 160 international festivals. Over the course of its festival run *Machines* received 17 international prizes including Best Film, Zurich Film Festival; Next Generation Director Award, Yamagata International Film Festival; Best Cinematography, Sundance Film Festival; Best Film, Moving Academy of Motion images, Mumbai; International Jury Award, Thessaloniki Documentary Festival; Best Single International Documentary, Thessaloniki Documentary Festival. Produced by Participant, *Invisible Demons*, shot in its entirety in Delhi, is Jain’s sophomore effort.
SERPENTINE BACK TO EARTH FILM AWARD JURY AND ADVISORS

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine
Bettina Korek, CEO, Serpentine
Lady Elena Foster, Chair of the Serpentine Council and Trustee
Josh Berger, Special Advisor
Es Devlin, Artist, Jury Panel Member

- Lucia Pietroiusti, Strategic Consultant, Ecology and Founder, General Ecology
  Kostas Stasinopoulos, Associate Curator, Live Programmes

FILM COMMITTEE

Nina Fialkow – Co-Head of Film Committee of the Council

Emmy Award winning producer and independent filmmaker. Member of the film partnership, Impact Partners. Chair of the Massachusetts Arts and Cultural Council, a Trustee of the Boston Ballet and sits on the Board of Advisors at the Isabella Gardner Museum. Nina also sits on the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the International Council at The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, a think tank within the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Kristin Ólafsdóttir – Co-Head of Film Committee of the Council

Kristin Ólafsdóttir is an award-winning producer, independent film maker and owner of Klikk Productions where she has been producing and directing documentaries, films and theatre plays since its inception in 2002. Kristin’s latest films are: Rebel Hearts (Sundance Competition 2021), Against the Current (2020) and InnSæi (2016). Kristin is a philanthropist, mainly fundraising for and raising awareness on issues relating to education, women and children as well as environmental issues. She sits on the Prince Albert Foundation Board, is a founding Patron of the British Fashion Council Foundation and is an ambassador for VOW to End Child Marriages. She is also a former Guardian of UN Women in Iceland. Kristin is an LSE Graduate with the Chevening Scholarship.

Carolyn Dailey, Fim Committee Member

Carolyn is the founder of Creative Entrepreneurs (CE) which empowers creative people to build successful businesses. She launched CE at No. 10 Downing Street in 2016 with the endorsement of launch ambassadors architect Zaha Hadid, fashion designer Anya Hindmarch, grime music leader Jamal Edwards and Second Home founder Rohan Silva. CE has further collaborated with Charlotte
Tilbury, Roksanda Ilincic, Thomas Heatherwick, Bella Freud, Ajaz Ahmed (AKQA), Matthew Slotover (Frieze), Amanda Levete and other creative founders to champion aspiring creative entrepreneurs. Previously, Carolyn spent over 20 years with entertainment leader Time Warner helping HBO, CNN, Warner Bros. and Time Inc. expand their reach in Europe. She originally joined the Time Warner family as a member of Ted Turner’s startup team in London that launched CNN in Europe. She has been named by WIRED Magazine as one of the Top 10 Women Digital Powerbrokers, by Creative Review as one of the Top 50 Creative Leaders, and by BIMA as one of the Top 10 Entrepreneurs significantly progressing the creative industries. She has lectured and presented on creative entrepreneurship at institutions including Central St Martins, Cambridge University, No. 10 Downing Street, the V&A, the Serpentine Galleries, the Whitechapel Gallery, the Design Museum, London College of Communications, Ravensbourne University, D&AD and the London Design Festival. She is a Life Member of BAFTA.

Josh Berger, Special Advisor

Josh Berger is an international leader in the media and entertainment industry, with over 35 years of experience. He is the former President and Managing Director of Warner Bros. Entertainment UK, Ireland and Spain, and former President of the Harry Potter Global Franchise Development group at Warner Bros. Berger was previously Chairman of the Board of Governors of the British Film Institute (BFI) and was board Director of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). He is currently non-executive Chair of The BRIT School Trust and also sits on the Board of Directors of Secret Cinema. Berger is a producer of Guy Ritchie’s upcoming film, The Interpreter, as well as being a producer of the Tony-award winning Broadway musical Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations. He is also an executive producer of the third instalment of the Fantastic Beasts film series, Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore and the BBC documentary Fantastic Beasts: A Natural History. Berger was appointed a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen’s 2012 Birthday Honours List for services to the UK’s creative industries. He holds a BA from Harvard college, an AMP from Harvard Business School and is an Honorary Professor at The University of York, from where he received an Honorary Doctorate degree. Berger served on President Obama’s National Finance Committee for both presidential campaigns.

About MUBI

MUBI is a global streaming service, production company and film distributor dedicated to elevating great cinema. MUBI makes, acquires, curates, and champions visionary films, connecting them to audiences all over the world. MUBI is a place to discover ambitious films from iconic directors to emerging auteurs. A new hand-picked film arrives on the platform every day, each carefully chosen by MUBI’s curators. Notebook explores all sides of cinema culture — both in print and online. And with MUBI GO, members in select countries can get a free ticket every week to see the best new films in cinemas.
MUBI is the biggest community of film lovers, available across 190 countries, with more than 12 million members around the world. MUBI acquired renowned sales agent and production company The Match Factory and Match Factory Productions in January 2022. Subscription plans are £10.99 a month or £71.88 for 12 months, or £15.99 Premium a month or £131.88 for 12 months to include MUBI GO. MUBI is available on the web, Roku devices, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, LG and Samsung Smart TVs, as well as on mobile devices including iPad, iPhone and Android.
For more information please contact comms@mubi.com

About Serpentine

Championing new ideas in contemporary art since 1970, the Serpentine has presented pioneering exhibitions for half a century from a wide range of emerging practitioners to the most internationally recognised artists of our time.

Across two sites only 5 minutes apart, in London’s Kensington Gardens, the Serpentine presents a year-round, free programme of exhibitions, architecture, education, live events and technological innovation, in the park and beyond.

Proud to maintain free access for all visitors, thanks to its unique location, the Serpentine also reaches an exceptionally broad audience and maintains a deep connection with its local community.

About Back to Earth

*Back to Earth* is a multi-year project that invites over sixty leading artists, architects, poets, filmmakers, scientists, thinkers and designers to respond to the environmental crisis. With the support of partner organisations and networks, these collaborators are devising artistic campaigns, protocols and initiatives.

Interdisciplinary at its core, *Back to Earth* manifests throughout all of Serpentine’s onsite, offsite and online programmes, sharing its resources in order to amplify ongoing projects or campaigns around the climate emergency, as well as to develop new ones. *Back to Earth* considers ecology as embedded in everyday practices and agencies.

*Back to Earth* is a programme about change and a catalyst for change. Echoing the global response to the climate crisis, Back to Earth is a complex web of interconnected research, interventions and activities. The project asks: What new ecosystems can foster agency within organisations? Which kinds of research-sharing, resource-sharing and collaborative working practices are necessary to present complex responses to complex problems? How can arts institutions bring visibility to
climate actions that create positive change for communities, places and imaginations around the world?

The programme emerged out of Serpentine’s long-standing engagement with the topics of extinction and the disappearance of species, knowledges and customs, which began with the 2014 Extinction Marathon, co-curated with artist Gustav Metzger, as well as out of General Ecology, Serpentine’s overarching environmental research project. Collaborators include Judy Chicago, Sir David Adjaye, Vivienne Westwood, Etel Adnan and Olafur Eliasson.

The Serpentine Back to Earth Film Award follows the international premiere of Manthia Diawara’s film, A Letter from Yene, commissioned by Serpentine, MUBI and PCAI Polygreen Culture & Art Initiative as part of Back to Earth.

For more information please contact mubi@organic-publicity.co.uk and Nicolas Smirnoff, Head of Media Relations, nicolass@serpentinegalleries.org; +44 7570 291 018

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