



Department of Art and Culture

Co-presented by



MANIPUR UNIVERSITY
Department of Mass Communication

MUSU



M. K. BINODINI DEVI

Anniversary Memorial Screenings

From Page to Screen

*A Retrospective of the Films of
Aribam Syam Sharma and M.K. Binodini Devi*

with
Dialogues with the Director
Department of Mass Communication

Manipur University
Canchipur

February 21-24, 2018





IMAGI NINGTHEM

My Son, My Precious

Directed by Aribam Syam Sharma
Screenplay by M.K. Binodini Devi
Produced by: K.Ibohal Sharma
1981, 110 min. Manipuri, English subtitles
Digital Restoration by NFAI, Pune

with:

Rashi, Lekhendra, Mangi, Indrakumar,
Bhubaneswari, Manglem

Short:

BINODINI: A WRITER'S LIFE

Directed by Aribam Syam Sharma; 26m, 2002

At 1 PM

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Centenary Hall
Manipur University
Canchipur

A teacher comes to a village and an old man asks her to tutor his grand son who is sickly all the time. The teacher becomes curious to know about the old man and the boy. She finds out from a colleague that the boy's mother had been seduced by a man and dies in child birth. It turns out that the father is the husband of her cousin who is promptly apprised of the fact. Her cousin is attracted to the unfortunate boy and adopts him while her husband is absent. Subsequently the husband returns home and objects to the boy being adopted for he does not know it is his own son. The grandfather wants to take the boy back but the foster mother does not listen to it and ultimately keeps the boy.



Grand Prix. Festival des 3 Continents, Nantes
New Directors/New Films, MoMA, New York
National Film Award for the Best Manipuri Film
National Film Award for the Best Child Actor
Best Feature Film, Manipur State Film Festival

ASANGBA NONGJABI
Crimson Rainclouds

Directed and Produced by Aribam Syam Sharma
Screenplay by M.K. Binodini Devi
2003, 63 min. Manipuri with English subtitles

with:

Bhogen, Lingjelthoibi, Reena, Manglem, Tomba

Short:

ARIBAM SYAM SHARMA

Directed by G. Nirmal Sharma,; 28m,2006

At 11 AM

Wednesday, February 22, 2018

Department of Mass Communication
Manipur University
Canchipur

An artist, determined to uphold his freedom, is torn between his two loves, both only too gentle in their demands, and yet deeply caring. A sensitive man, he chooses art, knowing full well that he lets them down. While Indu would like him to change his lifestyle just a little bit, for recognition and comfort, Keinatombi would be happy to give him the little care and comfort that she thinks he needs for his art. For the time being at least, Gautam would go with her.





SANABI
The Grey Mare

Direction & Music by Aribam Syam Sharma
Screenplay by M.K. Binodini Devi
Produced by NFDC and Doordarshan
1995, 71 min.
Manipuri, English subtitles

with:
Sushila, Deben, Nabakumar,
Indu, Lala, Kumarjit

and Dance Film:

SANGAI:
DANCING DEER OF MANIPUR

Directed by Aribam Syam Sharma
Script by M.K. Binodini Devi
44 m, 1987

At 11 AM
Wednesday, February 23, 2018

Department of Mass Communication
Manipur University
Canchipur

Sanabi is the story of a beautiful dancer, the thief who loves her, and an exquisite Manipuri horse. It all begins when divorced Sakhi, who returns to the childhood home. Her father is the owner of Sanabi, a beautiful grey mare. Mangi, the thief, comes around to see Sakhi, his childhood sweetheart. She ignores him, but he persists. To attract Sakhi's attention, Mangi steals Sanabi.



National Award , Best Manipuri Film
V. Shantaram Award for Best Direction
V. Shantaram Special Jury Award
Cairo, IFFI Film Festivals



Sangai: Dancing Deer of Manipur
was selected Outstanding Film of the Year
by the British Film Institute

ISHANOU
The Chosen One

The harmony in a family in the Manipur Valley, is disrupted by the sudden transformation of a gentle, young wife into a violent woman prone to fits of wild visions. She then goes in search of the Maibi Guru, whom she thinks has chosen her to be initiated into the maibi sect. Her pleasure then lies in her new devotion and love expressed through dance and music. She finds solace in the other world of the maibi.

Directed and Produced by Aribam Syam Sharma
Screenplay by M.K. Binodini Devi
1990, 90 min. Manipuri with English subtitles

with:
Kiranmala, Tomba, Manbi, Dhiren, Baby Molly

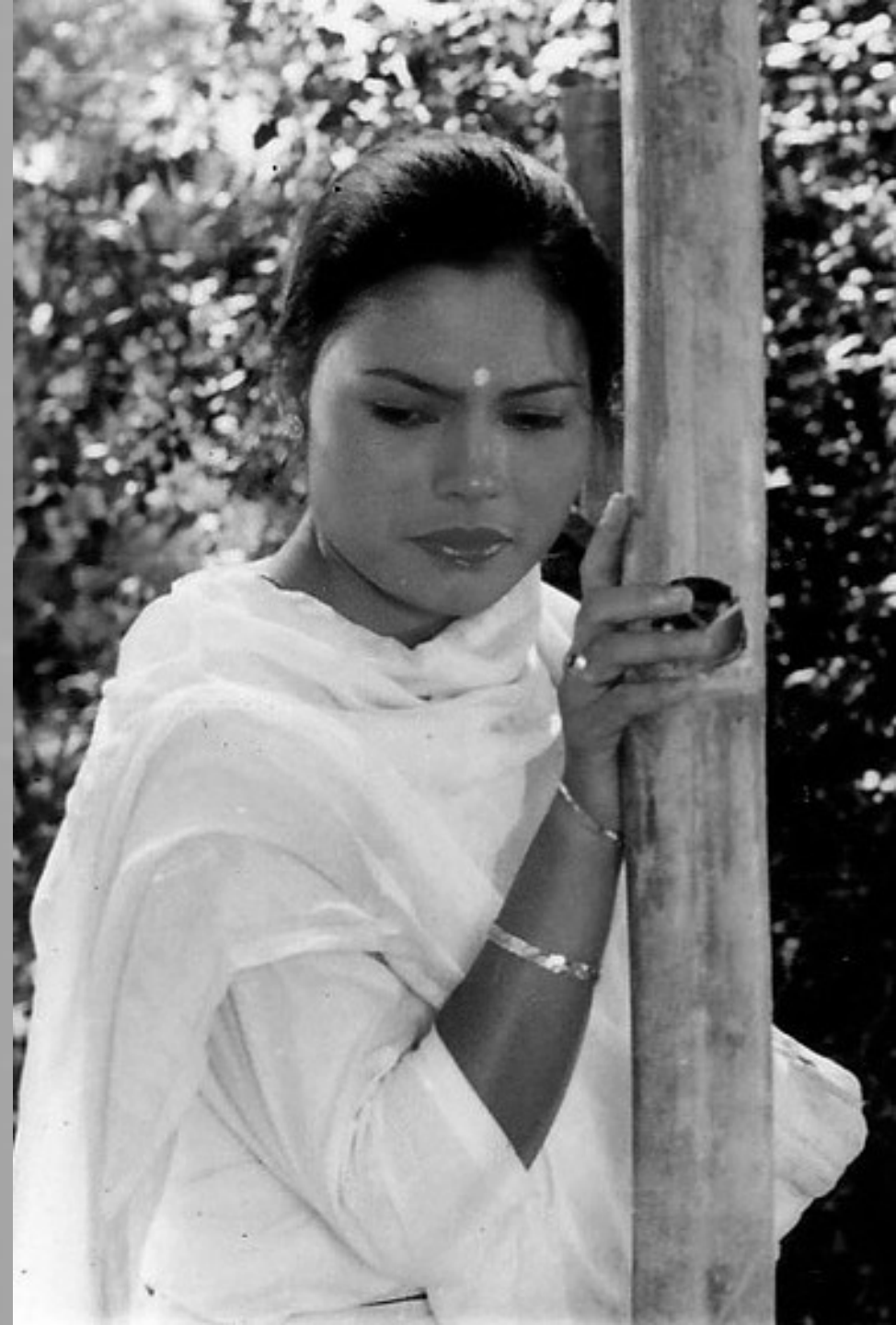
Short:
ORCHIDS OF MANIPUR
Directed by Aribam Syam Sharma
Script by M.K. Binodini Devi
23m, 1994



Un Certain Regard, Cannes
London, Toronto, Rotterdam, Hong Kong Film Festivals
National Award for the Best Manipuri Film
Special Mention, Actor (Female), National Film Festival
Best Feature Film in the Manipur State Film Festival

At 11 AM
Wednesday, February 24, 2018

Department of Mass Communication
Manipur University
Canchipur



M. K. BINODINI DEVI

Maharaj Kumari Binodini Devi (1922-2011) was that rare writer who wrote in multiple literary genres - short stories, novel, essays, travelogue, plays, film scripts, lyrics, and dance scripts. Born as a princess into a palace life as the youngest daughter of Maharaja Sir Churachand Singh, KCSI, CBE, (1891-1941) and Maharani Dhanamanjuri Devi of Manipur, she wrote under the single name Binodini and bridged the two worlds of ancient royalty and modern life. She transcended the constraints of royalty to live to the full the life of an enlightened commoner and emerged as the iconic pioneer in the evolution of Manipuri modernism. M.K. Binodini brought a deep humanism and a sense of beauty and esthetics to all her work. Her work spread beyond literature and film, theater and dance, to sculpture, environmentalism, women's issues, social activism and electoral politics.

The Princess Writer

M. K. Binodini Devi is that rare writer in the world who comes from the innermost circle of royalty to make a mark in literature. It was in this world that she had unparalleled and privileged access to that she turned her literary imagination to in her celebrated and Sahitya Akademi Award-winning novel *Boro Saheb Ongbi Sanatombi* (1979). Her last book, *Maharaj Churachandgi Imung* (2008) that her personal experience of Manipuri court life, from family to politics, offered a unique perspective that may never be captured again

The People's Writer

The vast majority of Binodini's literature is about the lives of common people and of the ordinary Manipuri. There is little hint, besides the grace and elegance of her prose, of her privileged upbringing in the understanding and empathy for ordinary people that come through in her collection of short stories called *Nunggairakta Chandramukhi* (1965). She wrote over 60 song lyrics that became popular hits, many of them on patriotic themes, such as *Lairabini Hainei Ima Nangbu Mina*, and *Nasunglanggini He Ima*, which became the anthem of the June 18 Uprising of 2001. Her 15 radio plays, like *Imagi Ningthem*, which later was made into the film by Aribam Syam Sharma, and the plays in her collection *Asangba Nongjabi* (1966), are among the most loved of All India Radio's broadcasts.

Renaissance Figure and Social Activist

Maharaj Kumari Binodini Devi's home with its open rehearsal gazebo in Yaiskul Police Lane, built on the homestead of her mother Maharani Dhanamanjuri Devi, was Manipur's artists' salon for over four decades. It was in this gathering place, where artists came and went freely, that she co-founded Roop Raag, the seminal and influential arts group of post-War Manipur in 1960, and LEIKOL, the noted women's writers' circle .

In her writing and in her arts and social activism, M. K. Binodini is recognized as a pioneer of a non-doctrinaire thinking in Manipur that borrows little from conventional modernism and is rooted deeply in Manipur's own traditions. Her works are notable for their strong, unconventional female characters and young women authors especially look to M. K. Binodini, whom they call *Imasi* or Royal Mother, as a role model. A major active presence in the social sphere, she wrote prolifically in the daily newspapers of Manipur. *Thoibidu Warouhou'i*, her 1972 essay on the state's wetlands and wildlife that ignited environmental awareness in Manipur.

National And International Recognition

Although M. K. Binodini is known best for her writing, she was also an accomplished sculptor, having been an art student at Tagore's Santiniketan. There, she became the muse of the Indian sculptor and painter Ramkinkar Baij. Many national luminaries in the arts such as actor Naseeruddin Shah, playwright Badal Sircar, novelist Mulk Raj Anand,, dancer Maya Rao, and scholar Kapila Vatsyayana, made it a point to visit her in her home in Yaiskul.

M. K. Binodini took the first all-Manipuri dance troupe on a tour of Latin America, North America and Europe in 1976. This resulted in her travelogue *O! Mexico..* But it is her collaborations with film director Aribam Syam Sharma that she had the most international impact.

M. K. Binodini was honored with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 for her novel *Boro Saheb Ongbi Sanatombi*. In 2001, she returned her 1976 Padma Shri in protest of plans to alter Manipur's historical boundaries. But the awards that M.K. Binodini loved the most was that her stories are taught to students in Manipur's schools and colleges today.

ARIBAM SYAM SHARMA

Film director, actor, and music director from Manipur, Aribam Syam Sharma came to limelight with his collaborations with writer M.K. Binodini Devi. Starting with his award winning film *Imagi Ningthem (My Son, My Precious)* that won the Montgolfière d'Or at the Festival des Trios Continents, Nantes, France in 1982, their other collaborations garnered acclaim, and attracted world-wide attention. They include *Ishanou (The Chosen One)*, the Official Selection of Un Certain Regard at the 44th Cannes Film Festival, 1991, and *Sangai: The Dancing Deer of Manipur*, declared as the Outstanding Film of the Year 1989' by the British Film Institute.

Associated with the production of the first Manipuri film *Matamgi Manipur* in 1972, as actor and music director for the film, so far he has directed fourteen features and thirty-one non-feature films, and had given music to twenty-five films. His films, though rooted in Manipur, have found favor globally. Acclaim within the country include 15 National Film Awards. He has led the advancement of cinema in the North East India, working in multiple capacities. He was the first Managing Director of the Manipur Film Development Corporation. His 1980 film, *Olangthagee Wangmadasoo*, with an original screenplay by MK Binodini, holds the record of being the longest running Manipuri film.

Retrospectives of his films include the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York (2001) on his films with MK Binodini Devi; the 38th and 46th International Film Festival of India, Goa; and the 6th Mumbai International Film Festival, 2000. Aribam was conferred the Padmashri in 2006 by the Government of India for his contribution to Indian Cinema, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India's Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008, the first recipient of the award from North-Eastern India, the 'Kamal Kumari National Award for Arts and Culture' in 2009., and was elected as 'fellow' of the Manipur State Kala Akademi in 2011.

The Government of Manipur awarded him The Manipur State Lifetime Achievement Award for Film in 2010. The Manipur State Film Development Society and the Film Forum Manipur conferred him with the Jewel of Manipuri Cinema Award in 2015.





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**Message from the Speaker
for International Mother Language Day**

Today, this International Mother Language Day, I join Imasi: The Maharaj Kumari Binodini Devi Foundation and Manipur University in saluting our mother, our *Imasi* MK Binodini.

The elegance and truthfulness of her writings in our mother language produced some of the most beloved classics of Manipuri literature. Several of these were brought to the screen by our eminent filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma.

I wish *From Page to Screen*, the retrospective that brings their collaboration to our younger generation of the university's students, all success.

Y. Khemchand Singh
Hon. Speaker
Manipur Legislative Assembly

IMAGI NINGTHEM
with BINODINI: A WRITER'S LIFE
February 21 at 1 PM

ASANGBA NONGJABI
with ARIBAM SYAM SHARMA
February 22 at 11 AM

SANABI
SANGAI: DANCING DEER OF MANIPUR
February 23 at 11 AM

ISHANOU
with ORCHIDS OF MANIPUR
February 24 at 11 AM

Dialogues with the Director
Department of Mass Communication
Registration required