

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **CELEBRATING WOMEN IN CINEMA**

with

**Guneet Monga**

Producer & CEO, Sikhya Entertainment and Founder of Indian Women Rising

**Sandrine Brauer**

French film producer and Founder President of the 50/50 Collective

**Sreyashi Sen**

Asia's only Woman Film Distributor and Producer of upcoming Indo-French venture

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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Women in cinema is a large topic straddling women's portrayal in films to women in the industry itself. The participation of women in cinema is as old as the métier itself. A long journey has been covered and with the advent of social media and technology and with it has come a commendable shift in themes, women-centric roles, the breaking of age and marital barriers, and more women behind the scenes in leadership roles. Women are now writing, producing, directing, editing more than ever before. Yet, how many women directors and producers can one recall? Are women getting the recognition they merit on international platforms? Are films made by or led by women getting the right attention? Is there pay parity? Is there a feminine aesthetic? Should we even define the art of cinema by gender? Whither women in cinema in India and France, two film power-houses?

The Embassy of France in India is pleased to celebrate and bring together three women in the movie business who have not only carved a niche for themselves, but are working to show others the way, through their cinema, but also through their engagement off camera. Here's how -

1. **Ms Guneet Monga**, Producer & CEO, Sikhya Entertainment, Indian producer of the Indo-French joint productions like "The Lunchbox" "Masaan" and "Taj Mahal" and founder of "Indian Women Rising – A Cinema Collective" has been chosen to be conferred the **French award of *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres*** for her contribution in the field of cinema.

2. Confirming the priority spot for gender equality for France's diplomacy and French cooperation with India, the Ambassador of France to India, H.E. Mr Emmanuel Lenain, **endorses an agreement with French Collectif 50/50**, represented by its co-president, the French producer **Sandrine Brauer**, which commits the Embassy to promote equality and diversity in its audiovisual cooperation with India, in particular by providing equal opportunities to male and female professionals.
3. Film Distributor and producer, **Sreyashi Sen**, will be involved with an **Indo-French co-production**, 'Slow Joe' which will be **filmed in France**. This project revolves around the real life interaction of an Indian tour guide with musical talent who meets French musician Cédric de La Chapelle out of which was born a musical association which led the tour guide to shine in the jazz world.

While the award ceremony and the signing of the Charter will be closed door restricted events, here is a short programme conceived for 14<sup>th</sup> April to connect with the visiting women producers.

### **PROGRAMME ON 14<sup>th</sup> April 12, 2021**

- Discussion on *Women in Cinema: Stronger Together*  
With the participation of producers Guneet Monga, Sandrine Brauer and Sreyashi Sen  
**11.30 am to 12 noon, The Leela Palace Hotel**
- Q&A with media  
With the participation of producers Guneet Monga, Sandrine Brauer, Sreyashi Sen  
**12 noon to 12. 30 pm, The Leela Palace Hotel**
- **One-on-One interactions** can be facilitated with the producers through appointment thereafter, in presence or via telephone or online.

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**For confirmations, appointments, queries please reach out to –**

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A special portrait and group shot by LA Times Photographer, Stephanie Cornfield will be made accessible free of rights on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 in addition to photographs related to the investiture of Ms Guneet Monga and the signing of the 50/50 Charter

More information on the French Embassy's gender equality programme and the 50/50 Charter log on to [www.ifindia.in/equality](http://www.ifindia.in/equality) and <https://ifindia.in/women-in-cinema>

## ABOUT THE PRODUCERS



**Guneet Monga** is an Indian film producer, a BAFTA nominee and amongst the first producers from India to be inducted in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She is the founder of Sikhya Entertainment that has been at the helm of pushing content-driven cinema with films like *The Lunchbox*, *Masaan*, *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Pagglait*, *What Will People Say*, *Soorai Potru*, *Haraamkhor*, *Monsoon Shootout*, *Zubaan*, *Peddlers* and Oscar Winning Short Documentary - *Period. End of Sentence* to name a few. Guneet Monga is one of the most renowned filmmakers not just in India but also across the globe, symbolising the victory of content with her projects.

She recently founded a cinema collective called Indian Women Rising aimed at discovering, amplifying & distributing the work of Indian women filmmakers across the globe.



**Sandrine Brauer** is a Paris-based independent film producer. Amongst other films in development, Sandrine is producing *Scammer*, written by Stephane Foenkinos, Tania de Montaigne and Shirel Amitai who is directing the film and plans to shoot it in India in November. Sandrine's latest productions include:

*Manto*, by Indian director Nandita DAS; the film premiered in 2018 Festival de Cannes, Un Certain Regard official selection.

*Fig Tree*, directed by Alamork Davidian Israeli-Ethiopian director, that premiered in 2018 Toronto Film Festival;

*In Between*, directed by the Palestinian director Maysaloun Hamoud, awarded in San Sebastian Film Festival;

*Gett*, *The Trial of Viviane Amsalem*, directed by Ronit and Shlomi Elkabetz, the 2015 Golden Globe nominee and Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Film and the opening film at Cannes Director's Fortnight 2014.

*Tous au Larzac* aka *Leadersheep* documentary film by Christian Rouaud that won the 2012 best documentary Cesar award, and part of the 2011 Cannes Film Festival official selection.

In 2018, she was part of the 40 founders of the Collectif 50/50 that currently brings together more than 1,500 professionals from the French creative, film and television industries. Structured as an action tank, the Collectif 50/50 is firmly committed to a process of reflection and a fight for equality, parity and diversity in the film and audiovisual industry. The

Collectif 50/50 draws up surveys, develops actions and tools, and promotes incentives to public authorities and the various actors of the sector in order to accelerate change.



**Sreyashi Sen** is Founder and Managing Director of DARPAN GLOBAL. She was Country Manager for development projects with Singapore International Foundation. After a short stint with UN Women, she started her own organization and was a consultant for film festivals as well as on the Publications Consultative Panel for the Media Development Authority for 7 years. This urged her to start the first ever Indian film festival in Singapore. DARPAN GLOBAL (which began its journey in 2011) is a Singapore home-grown brand which produces, distributes and curates content across platforms. She is also the only woman movie distributor in South and South East Asia, having distributed and screened close to 95 movies across genres and languages, which include arthouse cinema as well as blockbusters. DARPAN is presently developing feature projects and web series with India, Malaysia, Cambodia Philippines and France.

Sreyashi has produced the short film "Solitude" shot entirely during COVID and the motivational series for 100's of migrant workers " Our Stories Your Stories" and "Our Songs Your Songs" for the Prime Minister's Office Singapore.

Sreyashi initiated an MOU at Cannes Film Festival (2018) for SE Asia with Philippines to form a consortium to promote equal opportunities for gender in the industry