**Embassy of India**

**Muscat**

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**Press Release**

***OMAN-INDIA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2018***

Embassy of India, Muscat, in association with Oman Film Society and Kalamandalam, Muscat, will be organizing an “Oman-India Short Film Festival 2018” on 8-10 August 2018, as part of year-long celebration of 70 years of India’s Independence, which commenced on 15th August 2017 and will conclude on 15th August 2018.

Indian Embassy in Muscat has been organising a series of cultural, economic and community events as part of celebration of 70 years of India’s Independence, including dance and music performances, essay and quiz competitions, exhibition of paintings, seminars and workshops with a view to highlight the journey of India as a nation since its Independence in 1947. Indians have also resolved to build, by August 2022, when India will celebrate 75 years of Independence, a New India, which will be clean and free of corruption, poverty, terrorism, communalism, and casteism.

This is for the first time that an Indo-Oman Short Film Festival is being organized in Oman, with participation of Indian and Omani Film makers. It is hoped that such a Festival will become an important milestone in cultural relations between the two countries and will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of India and Oman.

The Festival is open to short films produced in English, Arabic or in any other Indian language. However, non-English short films must have English sub-titles. The aim of this Festival is also to motivate and encourage short filmmakers in Oman. It is, therefore, required that most scenes of the short film should have been cinematographed in Oman, except a few unavoidable scenes. Short films should have been directed by an Indian Expatriate residing in Oman, or an Omani National. The length of films must be from **5 minutes** to **15 minutes** (including titles). The Film should have been produced/ completed after **31st December 2015.** Last Date of submission of entries is **15-07-2018.**

Cash award, Certificate and memento will be given in the following categories:

Best short film- RO.500/-

Best Child short film (Under 19 year category) - RO.300/-

Best Director, Best Actor Male, Best Actor Female, Best Cinematographer and Best Screenplay- RO.250/- each

Best Child Director, Best Child Actor Male, Best Child Actor Female, Best Child Cinematographer, and Best Child Screenplay- RO.150/- each

A five-member Indo- Omanese Jury, comprising three renowned Jurists based in Oman and two celebrity jurists from India, will judge the films. Pre-Screening of entries will be held, on 8-9 of August 2018, at Oman Film Society Theatre. The Award Ceremony will be held on 10th August 2018, Friday, in Indian Embassy Auditorium, which will also comprise performances by Indian and Omani artists. For further details, on terms and conditions for participation in the Festival, please contact Mr. S.N. Gopakumar (96057566) and Mr. Biju Varghese (99013344) or Email at oisffoman@gmail.com.

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**Muscat, 28th May 2018**