

Colors of Asia 2017

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Children, Seize the Future!



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A Seed of Hope

Nepal Media Help Line / Visual Folklore

A beautiful Thami village located in Nepal Himalaya near Tibet was razed by the devastating earthquake of 2015. A local slate mine, the inhabitants' primary source of income, disappeared along with it. The hopeless villagers seemed to lose their vitality, but then Kanchi, a 14-year-old village "diva" became a generator of "Hope for the Future." Her new Thami songs using traditional melodies have brought all the villagers together for reconstruction and they plan to present her song to the "god of the mine" for luck when it re-opens.



© PT Dua Pulau Digital / Tokyo Video Center

Burung Berkicau (Songbird)

Indonesia Two Islands Digital / Tokyo Video Center

Indonesians have a tradition of keeping birds in cages and sustain enormous bird markets. Popular birds are those with a repertoire of beautiful songs, adding new momentum to the business of both trapping birds in the wild and training them to sing beautifully. One teenager is counting on the bird boom to build his future. 16-year-old Ag grew up in the jungle. This episode depicts Ag's personal growth as he struggles to build a life for himself in the industry.



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Dream over Monsoon

Myanmar PS-Perfect Services / DIGITAL SKIP STATION

13-year-old Thet is the eldest son in a family of nine. The aftermath of the Nargis Cyclone has forced his family into low-paying work at a brick factory. Unable to return to school, Thet studies by candlelight at night as the family sleeps and he dreams of becoming an engineer and living happily like they did before the cyclone destroyed their lives. Set amidst the swaying economic development of Myanmar, this documentary captures the life of one boy who never gives up on his dreams.



©Carrot Films / TBS VISION

Say Cheese!

India Carrot Films / TBS VISION

Sheru is a street kid from the Delhi underground who became fascinated by photography through a children's workshop. Whatever he can earn he saves in the Children's Development Khazana (CDK), a bank managed and run by street kids that also helps them acquire life skills. Sheru wants to return to his estranged, sex-worker mother but more than anything, he wants to buy a camera and become a street photographer. He could easily grumble about his lot in life but he chooses to smile instead, and to make others smile.