



# INDRANI KOPAL

## DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

 Indranikopal@gmail.com

 www.indranikopal.com

 +60 19 606 8262  
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 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### PROFILE



#### About me

I decided to pursue a journey where my heart felt more at home with documentary storytelling. I believe it is through the process of documentary and sharing that our mundane stories become profound.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### LECTURER

SUBANG JAYA  
Mar 18' – PRESENT

#### TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY

Lecturer conducting digital media production, post-production and distribution classes and seminars for undergraduate students.

#### CREATIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

KUALA LUMPUR  
JAN 2016 – PRESENT

#### FAR EAST DOCUMENTARY CENTER

Founder of Far East Documentary Center, through a passion for documentary films. Through various collaborations, Far East produces documentary films and web content that promotes cultural, social awareness and change.

#### DOCUMENTARY FILM EDITOR

SAN MIGUEL DE  
ALLENDE  
AUG – DEC 2015

#### BUNDAY PRODUCTION

Editor of the feature-length documentary, *"Before The Trees Was Strange"*, a film that explores the meaning of race and how it plays a role in the formation of both individual and cultural identity.

#### INDUSTRY TRAINING

NEW YORK  
2014 – 2015

#### AUSTIN STREET PRODUCTION

Assistant producer of various program proposals and an editor of the in-house program trailers. Austin Street specializes in the development, production, and post-production of cable television and on-line programming.

#### VIDEO JOURNALIST

KUALA LUMPUR  
2006 – 2012

#### MALAYSIAKINI

Shot and edited over 50 short web documentaries and news features focusing on social and political issues, especially the issues of marginalized rural Malaysian Indians.

#### TV PRODUCER

KUALA LUMPUR  
2004 – 2006

#### MITV NETWORK SDN BHD

Produced a dozen Tamil TV Magazine programs with 13 episodes each for Varnam Channel.


### SOCIAL

 [indra3012](#)

 [indra05](#)

 [indranikopal](#)

 [indranikopal](#)

 [indra05](#)

### EDUCATION

#### Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

NEW YORK, USA  
Fall 2012 – Fall 2015

#### HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Master of Fine Arts (MFA)  
Documentary Studies and Production  
MFA GPA: 3.98 /4.0

#### BSc in Communications

MALAYSIA  
2007 - 2011

#### OPEN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA


Bachelor of Multimedia Communications with Honours.  
*Majored in Web Broadcasting.*

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### SKILLS

#### PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Award winning documentary film director, producer and editor.
- Adept cinematographer: can operate various semi-pro series and DSLRs.
- Proficient video editor: Adobe Premiere Pro, Avid Media Composer and Apple Final Cut (19+ years of editing experience)
- Working knowledge of Adobe After Effects and Photoshop.
- Proficient in researching video content and archival material.
- Skilled educator in documentary production, video editing and audience outreach strategy.

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

##### GUEST SPEAKER

2006 - PRESENT

- PEO Convention in Albany, New York (2015)
- 6th iLEAD Conference 2018, Taylor's University, Malaysia (2018)
- Women:Girls - The Young Changemakers Summit (2016)
- AGNI Filmmaking Camp in Malaysia (2016)
- Curtin University, UCSI University, Monash University, Sunway University (2006-2012)

##### VISITING SCHOLAR

DEC 2017

MacEwan University, Edmonton  
Canada

##### CITIZEN JOURNALISTS MALAYSIA TRAINER

2008-2011

Video Trainer for the Citizen Journalism Program (cj.my), Malaysia

##### TRAINER, TLMDC, TIMOR-LESTE

2009

Conducted Video Journalism Workshop at The Timor-Leste Media Development Center (TLMDC), East Timor.



### HONORS & AWARDS

#### 2007-2018

##### INTERNATIONAL

- **2018** Mira Nair Award for Rising Female Filmmaker for "Incarcerated Rhythm", New York
- **2015** Best Student Documentary Award at The American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase Presented by American Express at Cannes, France
- **2014** Bustle's Annual Upstart Award, New York
- **2014** Best Short Documentary at 9th Annual Harlem International Film Festival, New York.

##### LOCAL

- **2016** AGNI Youth Icon Award, Malaysia
- **2015** Kalai Payanam Award, Certificate for International Achievement, Malaysia
- **2015** Great Women Of Our Time Award for "Arts & Media" by The Malaysian Women's Weekly Magazine, Malaysia
- **2008** Most Outstanding Asian Youth Ambassador (AYA) Award, Runner up.
- **2007** Justin Louis Award in Freedom Film Festival, Film 'She's My Son', Malaysia

##### FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

2012 – 2015

**2012-2015** Fulbright Malaysian Graduate Study And Research Scholarship Award

##### ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Provost Scholarship (Hofstra)  
PEO Scholarship 2012-2013

##### FILM FESTIVAL JURY

- 2016** Agni Film Award
- 2016** Freedom Film Festival
- 2017** Pesta Filem Kita
- 2018** Freedom Film Festival
- 2018** Malaysian Indian Wedding Photography and Videography (MIWPV) Competition
- 2018** New Hope for Malaysia Video Contest
- 2018** IACT Student Film Festival

##### FELLOWSHIPS

**2010** The 2010 International Emerging Documentary Filmmakers Fellowship at The Documentary Center at The George Washington University, DC.

##### FEATURED IN


Hassan, Badrul Redzuan, and Dr Roslina Abdul Latif. "Political Economy of Media and Change." Indrani Kopal: A Case Study of Video Journalism as Women Leadership. International Conference on Communication and Media 2012 (i-COME'12) 1- 3 November 2012, Penang, Malaysia. Academia.edu.


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### PORTFOLIO



***Incarcerated Rhythm (Feature Documentary)***  
**80-min/USAMalaysia/2018**  
**Directed/Edited by Indrani Kopal**

The film focuses on the re-entry journey and the integration process of the men back into society.

1. World Premiere and the Winner of Mira Nair Award at the 13th Annual International Harlem Film Festival 2018, New York
2. Official Selection of the 32nd Annual Edmonton International Film Festival 2018, Canada
3. Official selection of the Bucharest Film Awards 2018, Romania
4. Official Selection of the Portland Film Festival 2018, USA
5. Semi-finalist at the Courage Film Festival 2018
6. Winner, Award of Merit, The Accolade Global Film Competition (MAY 2018)



***Before The Trees Was Strange (Feature Documentary)***  
**1hr 25 min/Bahamas/2016**  
**Edited by Indrani Kopal**

*A personal documentary about race, family, love and forgiveness.*


1. Premiered at the 13th Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) 2016
2. Official Selection of 12th Annual Harlem International Film Festival 2017
3. Official Selection of Flathead Lake International Cinemafest 2017
4. Official Selection of San Diego Black Film Festival 2017
5. Official Selection of the 12th edition of the CaribbeanTales International Film Festival ("CTFF2017")
6. Official Selection of the 4th Annual New Zealand Film Awards 2017
7. Screened at REEL DOCS: Documentary Film Series 2017 at San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

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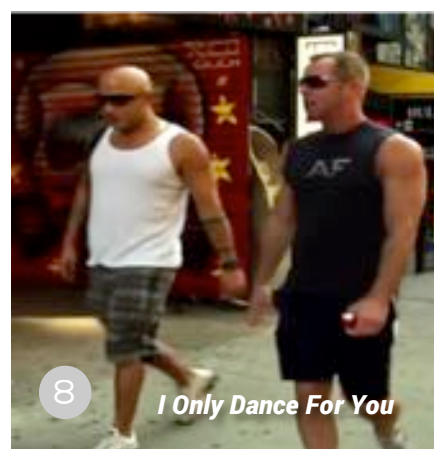
### PORTFOLIO

#### 6 *The Game Changer* (USA, 2014, 17 minutes) Notable Awards

- The American Pavilion's Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at Cannes Film Festival 2015  
"BEST STUDENT DOCUMENTARY AWARD"
- The 2nd Annual Northeast Film Festival (NEFF)  
"BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY AWARD"
- Harlem International Film Festival  
"BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY AWARD"
- Windrider International Student Film Festival (WISFF) 2016  
"FINALIST FOR DOCUMENTARY"



#### 7 *Love in Despair* (Malaysia, 2009, 5 minutes) Short News Features for Malaysiakini.tv (2006-2012)



#### 8 *I only dance for you* (USA, 2010, 10 minutes) GWU's International Emerging Filmmakers Fellowship (May - July 2010)

#### 9 *She's My Son* (Malaysia, 2007, 13 minutes) Freedom Film Festival 2007 Justin Louis Award Winner



#### 10 *Living Jazz with Bill Saxton* (USA, 2013, 11 minutes) \*\*Official Selection of the 2013 10th Annual Langston Hughes African American Film Festival In Seattle, WA.


\*\*Official Selection of the 2014  
9th Annual Harlem International  
Film Festival, New York.

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### PORTFOLIO

#### NON-COMMERCIAL PERSONAL & COMMISINED WORKS

Films/Awards	Role	Project Type	Duration/Country/Year
<b>Inclusion Equals Love</b> (Short Documentary)	Director/Editor	Commissioned	26min/Malaysia/2018
<b>Biography Web Series – Dr Hartini Zainudin</b>	Director/Editor	Commissioned	30-min/Malaysia/2017
<b>Saving Malaysia</b> (Short documentary)	Editor	Commissioned	30 min/Malaysia/2017
<b>Teacher, The Tradition Bearer</b> (Feature Documentary)	Director/Editor	Collaborative Project	48 min /Malaysia/2018
<b>The Garden</b> (Film-Poem)	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	5-min /USA/2017
<b>An Artist In Search</b> (Short Documentary)	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	11 min/Bahamas/2017
<b>KataKatha: The Conversation</b> (Feature Documentary)	Editor	Commissioned	1hr 50 min/Malaysia/2016
<b>KataKatha: Film Poem CHAOS IN MOTION</b> (Video Essay)	Editor	Commissioned	12 min/Malaysia/2016
<b>The Journal</b> (Short Film) <i>*Official Selection of Diamond in the rough cut Film Festival</i>	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	6 min/USA/2015
<b>Allons-y</b> (Short Film)	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	4 min/France/2015
<b>Unafraid of The Shadows</b> (Short Documentary)	Director/Shooter/Editor	Personal	7 min/USA/2013
<b>Video: The people's voice</b> (Short Documentary)	Director/Editor	Personal	15 min/Malaysia/2011
<b>The Young Changemakers</b> (Short Documentary)	Director/Editor	Commissioned	2-min/Malaysia/2016 & 2018

FEATURED IN - [HTTP://WWW.INDRANIKOPAL.COM/FEATURED-IN.HTML](http://www.indranikopal.com/featured-in.html)




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### MALYSIAKINI (2006-2012) NOTABLE NEWS FEATURES AND WEB DOCUMENTARIES



#### 1. [no25 | Behind the revolt](#) (24 minutes; 2008; editor, director, writer)

The docu analyzes and highlights the chronology of the events that has led Malaysian Indians to the street protesting on the Nov 25, 2007. Despite repeated warnings and a court order which allowed the police to 'arrest on sight', they came out in the thousands on Nov 25 into the streets of Kuala Lumpur.

#### 2. [Revisiting Malaysia '1988' Judiciary Crisis](#) (9 minutes, 2008, director/editor)

<https://vimeo.com/1555720>

Two decades have passed since the 1988 judiciary crisis. But the effects still linger. The phrase 'judiciary crisis of 1988' is generally understood as relating to the suspension and sacking of Supreme Court judges including the then Lord President Salleh Abas.



#### 3. [Bersih Rally 2007: A cry for royal help](#) (13-minutes; 2008; editor, director, writer)

The Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih) wants an election system that is free and fair. Bersih organised a massive rally in Kuala Lumpur on Nov 10. Despite a police cordon and use of water cannon and tear gas, some 40,000 protesters managed to march to Istana Negara (Royal Palace) where a petition was handed to the King's representative.

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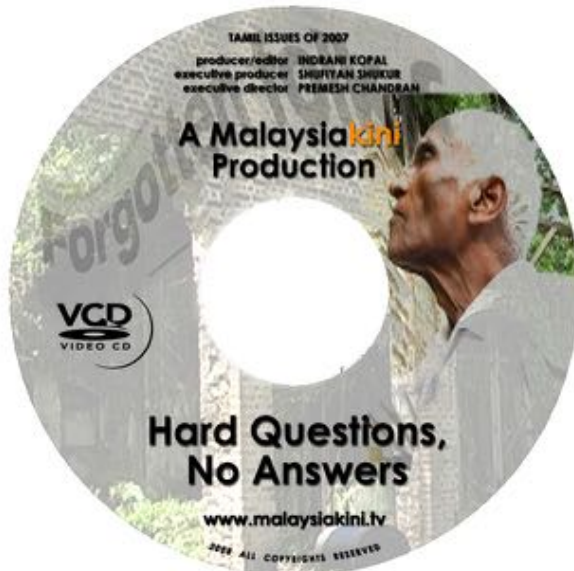
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### **PICTURE: VCDs produced in Malaysiakini**

#### **4. The forgotten Malaysians (9 minutes; 2008; editor, director)**

A story of the Orang Asli from Royal Belum, Hulu Perak. This video was a 'Merdeka' project. And among many that I produced for Malaysiakini in the year of 2007, this video remain the best in terms of its production quality and in the overall presentation.

#### **5. [Kg Buah Pala- pawn in a political game](#) (7 minutes; 2009; editor, director, writer)**

The plight of the villagers in Kampung Buah Pala or as 'Tamil High Chaparral' as it popularly known

to Penangites hit the headlines recently after they received a court order to vacate their old settlement of which three generations have lived to make way for a modern condominium.

#### **6. [Love ... in despair](#) (5 minutes; 2009; editor, director, writer)**

Forced by poverty and disability, a woman contemplated suicide. She wanted to take her 13 children with her. Just when Parameswari had come to the conclusion that death was the only remedy, fate had a pleasant surprise in store.

#### **7. ['They stole 11 months from me'](#) (17 minutes; 2008; editor, director, writer)**

This is the story of vulnerable young single mother who shares her tragic story of how 11 months were stolen from her life ... Rajeswary, a Malaysian woman locked up 11 months mistakenly by her own government, the single mother was six months pregnant when she was accused of being an 'illegal' Sri Lankan immigrant.



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### 8. [Deleted from victors' history: The other freedom fighters](#) (10 minutes; 2008; editor, director)

A story about members of the 10th Regiment of the Communist Party of Malaya led by Abdullah CD and their role in gaining independence for the country that remains unrecognised. They have been based deep in a thick jungle at the border of Malaya and Thailand area, since the end of 1953 following a continuous onslaught against them by the British forces.



### 9. ['Penans will die if jungle is destroyed'](#) (8 minutes; 2008; editor, director)

The Penans, an indigenous group of people who lives in Ulu Baram Sarawak, Malaysia are waging a battle on two fronts simultaneously. On one hand, they are trying to protect their jungle from being destroyed by loggers while on the other they are trying their best to get the authorities to provide them with the most basic necessities in life.



### 10. [SPECIAL REPORT: Escape from slavery](#) (4-part series, 2006, director/editor)

<https://vimeo.com/9694396>

On an evening in August 2005, while some 200 estate workers were gathering for a Hindu festival at the small temple, one man had only one thing on his mind - escape. It was the best opportunity for P Ramudu and his heavily pregnant wife A Kalaivany to make a dash for freedom, to escape the clutches of their 'owner' who has 'forced' them to work on the plantation.





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## **The Tale of Three Women's Struggle for Justice and Equality**

*Shot & Edited by Indrani Kopal*

<https://www.engagemedia.org/Members/indra05/videos/the-tale-of-three-womens-struggle-for-justice-and-equality/view>


The tale of three women's struggle for justice and equality. About Guppy Union that was started by women workers who worked in a plastics factory in Balakong, Cheras. Their struggle and desire to start a union started 14 years ago, when they were frustrated with their bosses for increasing their wages by a mere 10 sen.

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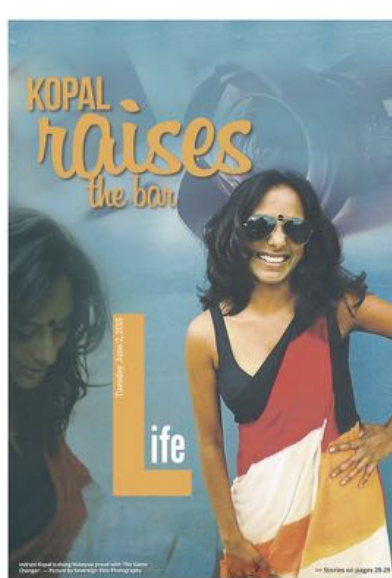
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### BIOGRAPHY

Indrani Kopal is a Film Lecturer in the School of Communication at Taylor's University, Subang Jaya, Malaysia. Her primary research interests focus on documentary filmmaking and in particular the use of first-person narrative to empower the story protagonist. Other research interests include biographical films as cultural memory and national identity. She is an Internationally recognized award-winning filmmaker and a Fulbright Scholar. Her documentary "The Game Changer" was screened at 17 international festivals and won multiple awards. She recently premiered her personal feature documentary film - "Incarcerated Rhythm" in Harlem, New York and currently in post-production of "Phos Graphis: Ismail Hashim", a feature length documentary that explores the sensibility, temperament and aesthetics of the acclaimed Malaysian photographer Ismail Hashim.



Pic 1: 2007, Winner of Justin Louise Award

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### PERSONAL STATEMENT

*"I have always been curious about the lives of others. Interviewing people and hearing extraordinary stories for the six years working at Malaysiakini from 2006-2012 fueled my interest in people around me. From "illegal" temple demolitions that created an uproar among Tamils in Malaysia, to the investigative documentary that shook Malaysia as it focused on a slavery case in Bahau, Negeri Sembilan, to a family that escaped after being bonded laborers for three generations, these stories convinced me of the importance of everyday lives. Being able to tell stories of workers rights, the plight of the urban poor, land evictions, poverty, stateless citizens, death-in-custody, gender and sexuality, these are all ongoing themes that have become a part of me as a filmmaker, stories that have influenced me profoundly. Giving a voice to the 'voiceless' has become a mission as I continue to grow as a filmmaker."*