

KALPAVIGYAN: A SPECULATIVE JOURNEY

The First Documentary Film On Bangla Kalpavigyan And Indian Science Fiction

PRESENTED BY	CoFUTURES
PRODUCED BY	BODHISATTVA CHATTOPADHYAY
DIRECTED BY	ARUNAVA GANGOPADHYAY
PRODUCTION	2018-21
RELEASE YEAR	2021
RUNNING TIME	82 mins
TYPE	Documentary
LANGUAGE	Bangla with multiple language subtitles

Description

This is the first documentary film on the history of Bangla Kalpavigyan and on Indian Science Fiction. But what is Bangla Kalpavigyan? Is there such a thing as Bangla Science Fiction? Is there such a thing as Indian SF?

This is our journey with the genre, captured and presented like never before in film. Beginning with the early work of writers such as Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain (Begum Rokeya) and the speculative mode in Bengal, and ending with the pioneering webzine Kalpabiswa, the film traces the historical arc of Kalpavigyan over a century of the genre. The principal focus of the film are the genre magazines of the 1960s-80s published in Kolkata and the writers and editors who ignited the movement by giving it shape and form through these magazines. The film is built around a series of conversations with these writers and their successors, and also features critical reflections from researchers and scholars who have worked with the genre both in relation to Bengal and Kalpavigyan as well as the wider phenomenon of SF.

The figure of Adrish Bardhan, the editor of the first Bangla SF magazine, 'Aschorjo', looms large over the film, as do major writers such as Satyajit Ray, Premendra Mitra, and Leela Majumdar. The film dives into the particularities of editorial decisions, political concerns, and personal histories that made the magic of Kalpavigyan happen amidst often bleak publishing realities and poverty. But it also sheds warm light on the ultimately liberating strain of speculative utopianism that shapes and continues to shape the genre as an ongoing discussion between fans, critics, and writers.

The film will be of interest to all scholars of Kalpavigyan and SF.

CAST and Credits

Presented by CoFUTURES

Produced by: Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay
Directed by: Arunava Gangopadhyay
Research by: Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay
Scripted by: Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay & Arunava Gangopadhyay
Screenplay by: Arunava Gangopadhyay
DOP: Avi Bandyopadhyay
Edit: Abhishek Pradhan
Sound: Navonil Bhattacharya
Music: Subhadip Mitra
Voiceover: J.K. Chattopadhyay
Consultant Editor: Sreya Chatterjee
Colourist: Subhadip Mondal
Publicity Design: Saptadip Dey Sarkar
Animations: Debashis Mukherjee
Associate Director: Anamik Saha
Assistant Directors: Sweta Ghosh & Bijoy
Trailer Edit: Abhishek Pradhan
Promo Directors: Arunava Gangopadhyay & Koustav Bhattacharya

Featuring (in order of appearance)

Adrish Bardhan, Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay, Enakshi Chattopadhyay, Anindya Sengupta, Riju Ganguly, Sumit Bardhan, Barnita Bagchi, Anwasha Maity, Abhijit Gupta, Sandip Ray, Moumita Sen, Team KALPABISWA, Anish Deb, Ranen Ghosh, Amitananda Das, Abhijan Roychowdhury

Special Appearance

Samit Basu, Sukanya Datta, Sami Ahmad Khan, Salik Shah, Mimi Mondal

Enactment

J. K. Chattopadhyay, Saswati Chattopadhyay, Sweta Ghosh, Debraj Naiya

Kalpabiswa

Ankita, Santu Bag, Prasenjit Dasgupta, Biswadip Dey, Sandipan Chattopadhyay, Sandipan Ganguly, Dip Ghosh, Soham Guha