

National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru

Ministry of Culture, Government of India

in association with

Vikalp Bengaluru

presents

a biographical film about filmmaker Ellis Dungan

An American in Madras



Directed by: Karan Bali

on Friday 10th January 2014 at 5.30 pm

at the Auditorium,

National Gallery of Modern Art,

Manikyavelu Mansion, 49 Palace Road, Bangalore- 560052

Telephone: 080 2234 2338 e-mail: ngma.bengaluru@gmail.com

The film:

An American in Madras traces American-born filmmaker Ellis R. Dungan's years in India. Dungan made India his home from 1935-50 and became a celebrated director in the Tamil Film Industry, introducing many technical innovations and infusing it with a sense of professionalism. All this, without understanding a word of the language! Dungan also served the Madras Government in World War II, directing photo features, newsreels and wartime propaganda films and recorded historic events in India's history around the period of her Independence. The film follows Dungan's Indian connection right up to 1994, when on a trip to India, the Tamil Film Industry felicitated him for his contribution to its development, a good 43 years after he had left it!

The filmmaker:

Karan Bali is a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune with specialization in Film Direction, 1993. He has since been based in Mumbai making documentaries for TV and corporate films besides being the first AD on two feature films, *Everybody Says I'm Fine*, and *Matrubhoomi - A Nation Without Women*. He is also the Cofounder and Content-in-Charge of Upperstall.com, a serious and analytical portal on the cinema of the sub-continent. An American in Madras is his first feature length documentary.