

Rare honour for Naga music



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Some mesmerizing [Naga](#) music will reverberate in a castle on a rocky island off the coast of Italy and the heights of the Himalayas around the same time this month [end](#) as filmmaker-critic Utpal Borpujari's documentary "Songs of the Blue Hills" has been invited to three [more](#) international film festivals.

The film has been selected to the 12th Ischia [Film Festival held](#) under the patronage of the President of Italy in the medieval Aragonese Castle located on the Mediterranean Sea, the 7th International Documentary and Short [Film Festival](#) of Kerala (IDSFFK) and the Ladakh International [Film Festival](#) after having already earned high appreciation in six international film festivals.

Produced by [Centre](#) for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), an organisation under the Union Ministry of Culture, the film features an eclectic range of [Naga](#) musicians who are practising the folk music of various [Naga](#) tribes in their pure and contemporary forms.

The 96-minute film earlier got invited to the Doc Outlook International Market of the Visions [du Reel Film Festival](#) (Nyon, Switzerland), Gothenburg Independent [Film Festival](#) (Sweden), New York Indian [Film Festival](#) (NYIFF), Eyes & Lenses Ethnographic [Film Festival](#) (Warsaw, Poland), the World Music & Independent [Film Festival](#) (Washington) and Signs 2014 Documentary [Film Festival](#), Kochi.

It has now been invited for the “Documentari fuori concorso” section of the Ischia [Film Festival](#) which, complementing its unique venue, focuses on the importance of reflecting cultures and locations in audiovisual works.

“Every year, the festival presents a selection of films from all over the world, emphasizing the cultural identity or the landscape's features of a certain territory through the audiovisual narration,” says a spokesperson of the festival which was designed in 2002 by Michelangelo Messina for “The Association Art Movie e Music”.

The [Festival](#) is an important part of a wider project called "Cinema and territory" that aims at protecting cultural and landscape peculiarities of territories in order to promote them through the audiovisual medium.

“Songs of the Blue Hills” features some fascinating music as well as dialogue with musicians like veteran Ao folk singers Sademmeren Longkumer and A. Bendangyanger Tsuwar Jamir, Chakhesang folk veteran Zachunu Keyho, classical pianist Nise Meruno, and groups like the Tetseo Sisters, the Nagaland Singing Ambassadors, the Chancel Choir, Ru’a, Üsou’s Instrumental, Abiogenesis, Nagagenous, Baptist [Youth](#) Choir Poilwa Village and Purple Fusion.

In addition, experts such as Dr A Lanunugsang, Lipokmar Tzudir, Gugs Chishi, Theja Meru, Vivee Peseye, Som Kamei, Zubeno Mozhui and Dr Abraham Lotha have shared their views on the changing face of [Naga](#) music in recent times.



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