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First Run Features Presents

ALGORITHMS

Four Moves In, We Are All Blind

Leading distributor of independent cinema, New York based First Run Features has acquired the North American rights to the Indian documentary Algorithms, directed by Ian McDonald.

Algorithms is a riveting feature documentary on young blind chess players of India. Following three boys and a champion player turned pioneer over three years, Algorithms uncovers the fascinating but largely unknown world of Blind Chess. The documentary has screened in over twelve international festivals and won four awards, including Best Film at Film South Asia, where the jury picked Algorithms for its elegance and for “magically and incrementally evoking deep emotions out of singularly non-narrative material rendered in the fluid abstraction of black and white.” Directed by British filmmaker Ian McDonald and produced by Geetha J, AkamPuram, from India, Algorithms is the first ever feature documentary about Blind Chess.





Marc Mauceri, Vice President of First Run Features, said, "we couldn't be more pleased to be working with Ian and Geetha on their strikingly original and beautifully crafted film. It's the first documentary from India we've taken on, and we're excited about bringing it to a North American audience as well as working with both the Indian and chess communities to build audiences and awareness."

"It is great that First Run Features has picked up Algorithms even before it has had a screening in the US," commented director Ian McDonald. "This shows their belief and confidence in our film. We now look forward to how a North American audience respond to the story of blind chess from India."

"As one of the most respected independent distributors in the US, I am so happy that First Run Features has come on board. The time is right as they will now take it beyond film festivals to a general theatrical audience. This will also help in creating visibility for a community of blind chess players who both need and deserve it," remarked producer Geetha J.

First Run Features has been a leading indie film distributor since 1979. Four years ago, the company celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a major retrospective at the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Recent releases include Michael Apted's 56 Up, the Academy Award-nominated documentary, The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers, Joe Berlinger's Crude, and Kings of Pastry, from filmmaking legends DA Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus. For more information, go to www.firstrunfeatures.com

For more information on the film go to www.algorithmsthedocumentary.com