



Geetha J and Ian McDonald | MELTON ANTONY

Algorithms, the documentary by Ian McDonald, follows the spirited journey of three blind players and their inspiring coach

by Meera Suresh

In shades of black and white, like the squares of a chess board, rolls out the lives of three blind chess players and their coach. Unfettered by their disability and armed with love for their game, Darpan Inani, Sai Krishna and Anantkumar fight the battle, aided by their coach Charudatta Jadhav, towards a bright future.

Algorithms, the documentary by UK-based Ian McDonald screened at PVR at Lulu Mall on Friday, takes us through their journey characterised by wins and losses, their residual raw emotions and above all a euphoric feeling of empowerment. So much that the film - that comes with the tagline 'Four moves in, we all are blind' -

is rooted in the concept of equality, where talent effortlessly pushes disability to the backseat.

When *Algorithms* opens, coach Charudatta is seen huddled in a dingy room where a competition to select two contestants for the World Junior Chess Championship for the Blind to be held in Sweden is in progress. Favourite Darpan is uprooted by 12-year-old euphoric Sai Krishna. As Sai rejoices in his win, Charudatta says: "Chess is the only sport where the blind can be on par or even better than

RIGHT MOVES

the sighted, for the game happens in mind".

A journey which begins there then moves through their past, brought alive by the words of their parents, their homes, schools, daily chores and back to the black and white boards, where they originally belong.

And, for Ian McDonald, this journey is one of awakening and revelation. "None of them view their disability as a hindrance. They see life in a different light. But, above everything there is a very clear sense of equality that this sport gives them. It makes them strong," says McDonald.

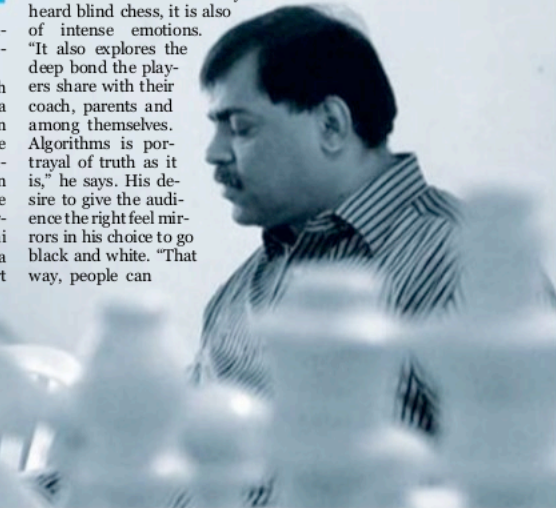
For him, as much as *Algorithms* is about the relatively unheard blind chess, it is also of intense emotions.

"It also explores the deep bond the players share with their coach, parents and among themselves. *Algorithms* is portrayal of truth as it is," he says. His desire to give the audience the right feel mirrors in his choice to go black and white. "That way, people can

focus more on the emotions, aesthetics and its textures, unblinded by overwhelming colours," says McDonald.

The documentary, produced by Geetha J under the banner of AkamPuram has won wide acclaim including the nomination for the National Film Awards in UK, questions our conceptions of success and challenges while pulling our heartstrings.

Algorithms is a reward for the wise Darpan, spirited Sai Krishna and intelligent and gentle Ananth, but more than that it is a fitting tribute to Charudatta Jadhav, the one brave and dedicated man who makes the journey a memorable one.



ENGAGEMENTS

Motor show: Cochin Vintage Club; Two-day Heritage Motor Show in association with DTTC, Ernakulam. Durbar Hall Ground

Council: Thrikkakkara Municipal Residents' Association Apex Council: Onolsavam 2015, MRA Hall, Kakkanaad, 8.30 am

Lecture: Sacred Heart Dance Club, in association with Folded Paper Dance and Theater, Hong Kong organising lecture and demonstration at SH College Tevara. 4pm.

Dance: 'Bharatanatyam' performance by Padmasree Leela Samson, Dharni, Kerala Fine Arts Hall, 7 pm

Onam Celebration: Indian Trade Fair Foundation, Painting and Smiling Contest for Kids, Casper Kids, Vyttila; 10 am

Cochin Film Society: Screening of the film 'Adi Madhyantham', Childrens Park theatre, 6.30 pm

Sports: Inauguration of CIAL's free Golf training by Indian Golf Union Southern Region Head Paranjith Singh, 9.30 am

Felicitation: Felicitation to Artish Namboothiri, who turns 90. Discussion on 'Ente Vara-Ente Jeevitham'. Writer N S Madhavan to felicitate him

Chavara Cultural Centre: Chavara food fest and art festival, inauguration by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy

Onam Fair: Ernakulam District Panchayath Poverty alleviation Unit's inauguration of Onam Market by Fisheries Minister K Babu, 9.30 am
Soul Inspired painting and exhibition at Durbar hall art gallery, 11 am to 7 pm

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