



GOA UNIVERSITY

Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature &
D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies

Independence Day Commemoration

Love & WAR

Screening of docu-fiction *Farewell my Indian Soldier* by Vijay Singh
Discussion about the film, moderated by *Ms. Veda Kansar*
Expression of oral histories by *Mrs. Marise D'Lima*

DATE 14 August 2026 (Friday)

TIME 11:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.

VENUE Seminar Hall, Block B, Goa University

ORGANISERS

Prof. Anuradha Wagle

Dean, Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature

Prof. Nagendra Rao

Dean, D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies

Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida Coordinator

Dr. Anthony Gomes Coordinator & Programme Director, B.A. French

Dr. Nalini Naik Programme Director, M.A. History





ABOUT THE DOCU-FICTION

Vijay Singh's film *Farewell My Indian Soldier* is a docu-fiction, a moving portrayal of Indian soldiers who came to fight in France and Belgium during the First World War. The presence of these 150,000 soldiers in Europe is a virtually unknown fact of history.

In this film, Vijay Singh recounts the story of Indian soldiers through the eyes of love and human affection. During their furlough on French barns, some Indian soldiers and French women developed affection for each other, and children were born. These Indo-French children became the victims of taboo, because of which most people avoided them. This film is inspired by the story of one such child. In this film, a young girl, a descendant of an unknown Indian soldier and his French hostess, journeys across France, Belgium, England and India, and weaves around it the fascinating story of Indian soldiers in WW1.

Using rare archive, historical testimonies, 100-year old Indian war songs and 600 insightful letters written home by soldiers about their mind-altering experience in France, this film tells the story of these men, 10,000 of whom were never to return to their motherland.



ABOUT VIJAY SINGH

Vijay Singh is an Indian filmmaker, screenplay-writer and novelist living in Paris.

After studying History at St Stephen's College, Delhi, and at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, he moved to the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*, Paris, for his doctoral work.

From the early eighties, he started writing extensively for *Le Monde*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Libération*, *The Guardian*, and several other international newspapers and magazines.

Over the last two decades, he has written and directed four internationally acclaimed films. *Jaya Ganga* (*Jaya, fille du Gange*), his widely-reviewed first feature, ran for 49 weeks in the Paris cinemas, before repeating a similar story in the UK. Vijay Singh's second feature film, *One Dollar Curry*, was released in India, France and the UK. His film *India By Song*, released in 2010, was received enthusiastically by theatrical and television audiences worldwide.

Vijay Singh is also the writer-director of the documentaries *Shadi Lal, le cuisinier chef mystique* and *Chami and Ana the Elephant* (*Man and Elephant / L'Homme et l'éléphant*), which has been shown on nearly 100 television channels worldwide.

Before stepping into the world of cinema, Vijay Singh had published several books that won wide critical acclaim: *Jaya Ganga, In Search Of the River Goddess* (Penguin 1989; Rupa 2005), *Jaya Ganga, le Gange et son Double* (Ramsay 1985; Ginkgo éditeur 2005), *La Nuit Poignardée* (Flammarion 1987), *Whirlpool of Shadows* (Jonathan Cape, 1992; Ramsay 1992; Rupa 2005), a children's book, *The River Goddess* (Moonlight 1994), *La déesse qui devint fleuve* (Gallimard Jeunesse 1993), and *Gange, fleuve et déesse* (Editions de la Flandonnière 2014; Photographs by Jacques Raymond). His books have been translated into French and other European languages.

Vijay Singh's films have been nominated for Best Film awards at several renowned festivals. *Chami and Ana the Elephant* (*Man and Elephant/L'Homme et L'éléphant*) was awarded *Le Grand Prix des Enfants 'La Titine 2002'* in Switzerland. *India by Song* won the *River to River Digital Audience* award for Best Documentary in Florence, Italy 2010.

Vijay Singh is the recipient of the **Leonardo da Vinci Award** in 1994 for screenplay writing, and the *Prix Villa Medici hors les murs* for foreign literature in 1990.