

Mr. Shirly Samarasinghe

Mr. Shirly Samarasinghe is a Film-maker. He started his film career as an assistant director and evolved to become a production manager and a screenwriter. Gathering all those experiences with academic qualifications in film and mass media, he made his directorial debut from a short film titled 'Ahasa' - (The Sky) received Golden Award at the State Tele Awards and was accoladed with the Jury's Award for the best short film at the Bangalore Queer Film Festival in 2012 and was nominated as the Most Gender Sensitive film at the 2011 Agenda 14 Film Festival in Colombo.

In year 2022, he directed his maiden film 'Piyabanna Ayeth' (Fly Again). It was screened in 2023 and received positive reviews from film spectators as well as the critics. 'Sililare' (VoicelesWaters) is his second full-length movie as a major production, which also brought veteran actress Wasanthi Chathurani to the Sri Lankan Screen after a long pause from her performance. 'Sililare' is to be released in the year 2026 worldwide. He currently engages in the field of cinema as a freelance cinema director. He actively works in Sri Lankan print media.

Mr.Samarasinghe has served as a committee member of the Teledrama, Film and Commercial Programme Monitoring Committee and the State Literature Awards Committee since 2025. He is serving in the panel of judges of the State Television Awards in 2025.

He entered the performing arts field as an actor and a director of stage dramas as a novice artist in 2000. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Aquinas College and received a Master of Arts Degree in Mass Communication from the University of Kelaniya. He holds a Diploma in Cinematography from the National Film Corporation.

He successfully completed the Diploma in Writership and Communication at the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka and received a Diploma in Drama and Theatre from the National Youth Services.