
FESTIVALS

A FACTUAL CULTURAL EXPLORATION OF NEPAL.



FACTUAL - ARTS - CULTURE - PEOPLE - PLACES - HUMAN INTEREST

Format: Documentary Series

Duration: 26 × 5

Nepal/USA 2020

Produced and Directed by:

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FESTIVALS

5 x 26 (English & English Subs)

Nepal, famously known as a land of the Himalayas and for its vibrant ethnic and folk traditions. There are many unique cultural festivals practiced by the Nepalese people in this small beautiful country. This documentary mini series sets out to explore Nepal; we will be unfolding the myths and legends, ancient traditions, while experiencing the divinely inspired mystical cultures and the diversity of its people.

Number of Episodes - 5

- 1 - Festival of Tihar
- 2 - Festival of Dashain
- 3 - Festival of Saraswati Puja
- 4 - Festival of Maha Shivaratri
- 5 - Festival of Gai Jatra

Trailer:

www.vimeo.com/450922077

Password: F1

Episode 1 - Festival of Tihar

Festival of Tihar is a five-day cultural event that shows reverence to the Gods, celebrating the bonding between humans and animals. During the festival, crows, dogs, cows, oxen, and brothers are worshiped, respectively.



Episode 2 - Festival of Dashain

Festival of Dashain is a celebration of Mother Goddess Durga's triumphs over evil. It is the longest festival practiced by Nepalese, which takes place for 15 days in September or early October each year. Families reunite and share blessings while performing ancient rituals.



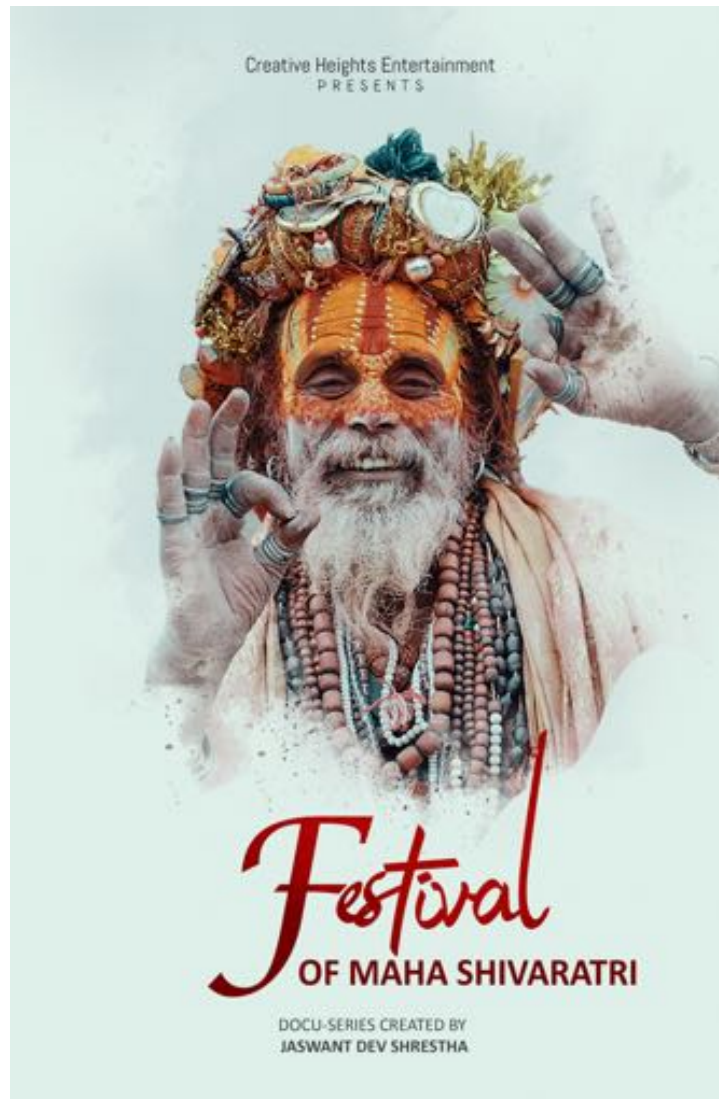
Episode 3 - Festival of Saraswati Puja

Children are given their first reading and writing lessons during this festival in the belief that the Goddess of knowledge Saraswati will help them excel in school. This day is also considered the best day to start learning new things.



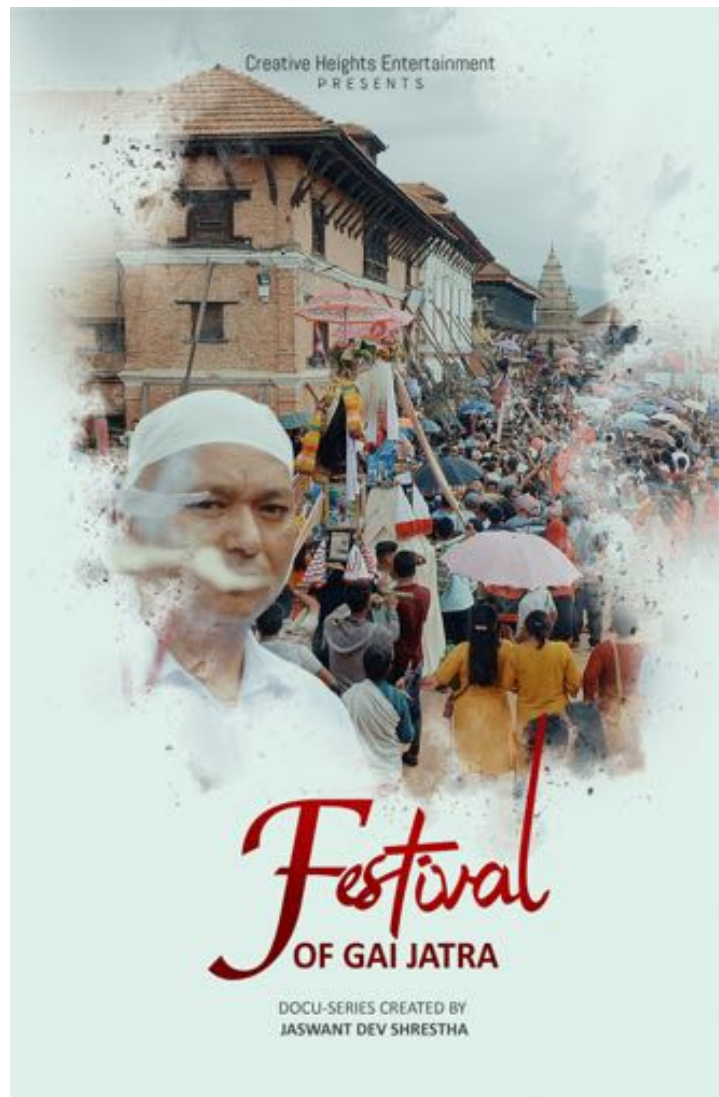
Episode 4 - Festival of Maha Shivaratri

Hundreds of thousands of people visit from all around Nepal and abroad. The Holy men transform themselves as Gods. Married women get busy performing various rituals, trying to make Lord Shiva happy so he can bless their husbands with long life and success. And all the single girls hope to be blessed with a great life partner, like Shiva himself.



Episode 5 - Festival of Gai Jatra

It's a tradition going on for centuries, honoring the deceased family members from the past year. Bright colored costumes, painted faces, wearing masks, loud music is the main attraction. People try not to mourn the loss of the family member; instead, they turn their sadness and tears into laughter.





Created by
Jaswant Dev Shrestha

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Emmy nominated from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences - Heartland Chapter, Jaswant is the first Nepali/American to receive such an Honor.

Director's Statement: Festivals is a five-part - Documentary mini-series about the annual cultural festivals celebrated in Nepal. I hope our documentary series will be not only significant to the people who are involved in the making of the film, but also for future generations, for the people who love Nepal and for those who want to learn about different cultures of South Asia.