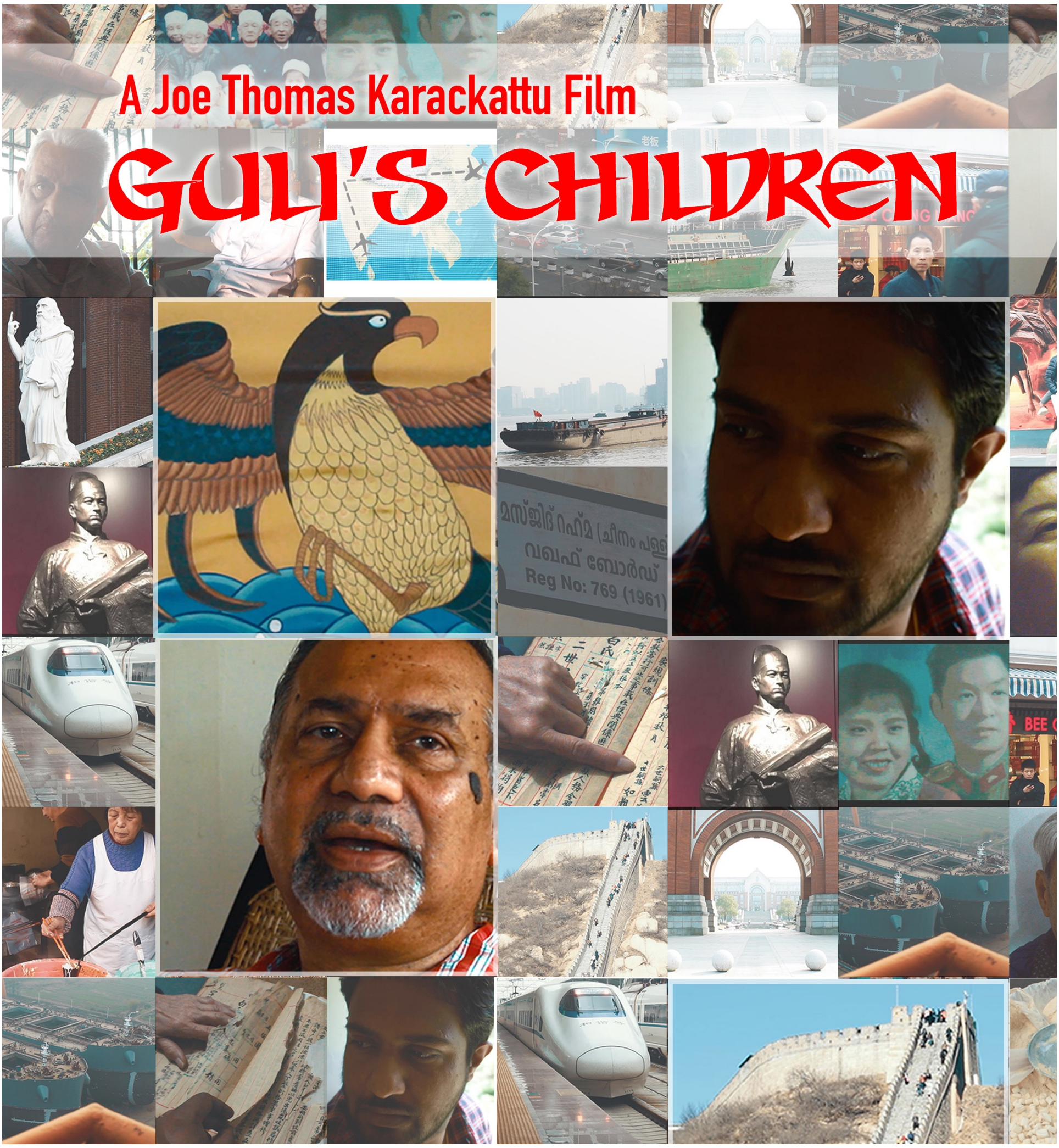

A Joe Thomas Karackattu Film

GULI'S CHILDREN

This is a short film on the cultural-historical ties between Kerala and China. Spanning over two years of research, and nearly 20000 kilometres of fieldwork across India and China, this film is about Joe's search for the forgotten links in Kerala-China history. Calicut (or GULI in Chinese) was an important node in the overall links between China and Kerala. Hence, the title, “Guli’s Children”.

This film tries to bring out the linkages by locating physical artefacts and also traces of human genealogy that survive to this day. It is based on fieldwork and interviews (including record of anecdotal history) with academics and other interviewees in India and China. It successfully locates the descendants of a Malayalee family (from Kerala) that moved to China over 700 years ago, and settled there. Dr Joe Thomas Karackattu is the first Indian to have located the family in China. The film is a work of non-fiction, and is basically a visual representation of his current research.