



CINE CENTRAL CALCUTTA FILM BULLETIN

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October – 2017

ANNUAL REPORT for the period 1st April, 2016 to 31st March, 2017 Presented by the General Secretary in the Annual General Meeting on 15th September, 2017 at M.P. Birla Planetarium Seminar Hall, Cathedral Road, Kolkata-700 071

Dear Members,

I on behalf of our President and Members of the Executive Committee heartily welcome all of you to this Annual General Meeting.

Since, 1965 we are dedicated to spread film appreciation among masses. We have already completed Golden Jubilee and now slowly progressing towards Diamond Jubilee. Standing at this landmark when we look back we feel both proud and sad. We can justifiably feel proud on the fact that our society is still the most active, vigorous and the largest film society in the country. But what sadden us is the decline of film society movement in our state. Many important and well known film societies have practically become defunct. We believe that a healthy film society movement can help to produce better Bengali Cinema.

The year just gone by is indeed a difficult year for us, despite many odds we have successfully conducted various programmes notably 'International Forum of New Cinema-2017' & 16th International Children's Film Festival-2016'.

The world of cinema projection has changed radically. Gone are the days of 35 mm/16mm projection. Now it, is the age of DCP- Digital Cinema Projection. Unfortunately this system is available in multiplex and some well-known cinema hall. As a result we are unable to show many important contemporary films as these are available only in DCP format. We also have the perennial problem of non availability of halls and steep rise in hall rental. Another hard reality that the support from the Embassies, High

Commissions and the Consulates are not as generous as in the past. Presently, the situation has become very critical. We are trying our best to cope with the situation and search for alternative channel to import films by paying screening fees.

Once again we reiterate that average age group of our members are over fifty. It is imperative to involve the young generation and give new thrust to the organization.

Throughout the year, we work hard to organise different programmes specially to focus young generation film makers across the world.

Dear friends, it is our earnest appeals please come forward to help your society in whatever way you can. We seek your active help and support to take the organization further ahead.

Now I present the report detailing our activities during the past year.

IN MEMORIAM

Before we continue further, it is necessary to pay our homage to all those who have left this world leaving behind rich contribution in the cultural field and in the world of cinema.

During this period under review we had to suffer a great loss with the passing away of great writer Mahasweta Devi on 28th July, 2016. She was recipient of Magsaysay Award for Journalism and Indira Gandhi Award for National Integrity.

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We deeply mourn the death of famous actress Gita Sen, Sumita Sanyal, Sova Sen. We also lost oldest cinematographer Ramananda Sengupta & famous actor Om Puri.

We lost a close friend on the sudden demise of Biren Das Sharma who was Associate Professor of SRFTI.

We are shocked and sadden at the tragic death of well-known folk singer and music director Kalika Prasad Bhattacharjee.

We deeply mourn of the sad demise of eminent poet & Essayist Prof. Tarun Sanyal.

We pay heavy heart we inform the demise of Pinak Mukherjee who was a member of the Executive Committee for many years.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

Our 16th International Children's Film Festival was successfully held in multiple venues from 7th July, 2016 to 31st October, 2016 in collaboration with UNICEF & Nandan (West Bengal Film Centre). The festival was inaugurated by His Excellency Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, Governor of West Bengal on 7th July, 2016 at Nandan-I. Hon'ble Justice Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen, President Cine Central, Calcutta gave the welcome address. Mr. Asadur Rahman, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, West Bengal. Shri Yadab Mondal, IAS, CEO Nandan were the distinguished guests. The unique feature of the ceremony was the lighting of the lamp by the children. The inaugural film was 'The Jungle Book' (USA). Children from different schools, NGO centers, both from rural and urban areas attended the programme and they were provided with Tiffin & Gift.

The film shows were continued at Nandan-II from 8th July to 12th July, 2016. Subsequently the festival was organized in six other districts in West Bengal. About Eighty Thousand children participated in the festival. All shows of the festival were free of any admission charges.

We are greatfull to UNICEF, West Bengal State Office & Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Govt. of West Bengal for providing helping hand to organize this state-wide programme.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF NEW CINEMA

This year we have made a departure from the earlier practice of holding International Forum of New Cinema along with Kolkata International Film Festival held in November, 2016. We realised that the main focus of the International Forum of New

Cinema is getting lost in the glitter & glamour of the star studded high voltage mega festival. We have decided to restore the original theme of the International Forum of New Cinema and hence ventured to present separately this 30th edition of the landmark programme. We believe as long as films will be there, there will be need for independent festival to showcase the young and creative film makers throughout the globe.

This year the festival venue was Swami Vivekandana Auditorium (Moulali Yuba Kendra). A colourful inaugural ceremony was held on 27th March, 2017 in presence of many film personalities and discerning viewers.

The festival was inaugurated by Eminent Actor Smt. Lily Chakraborty. The stage was shining with august presence of our president Hon'ble Justice Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen, Shri Nripen Ganguly, veteran film director.

The inaugural film was the Mexican Film 'The Empty Hours'.

The renowned Bengali & Hindi Actor Smt. Lily Chakraborty while accepting the 'Satyajit Ray Life Time Achievement Award' recalled her experience in working with many renowned directors.

Veteran film director Shri Nripen Ganguly was awarded the Indibor Bose Memorial Award.

As the time was very short for organizing independent International Film Festival we could not get some important films from European countries. However, the festival had a variety of films with the participation of 20 countries with 27 films. The weeklong festival was concluded on 2nd April, 2017.

It is pleasure to state that we published festival bulletins for seven days and also a brochure on festival films.

A festival of this kind requires a lot of financial and infrastructural support. In the past we received financial support from the Govt. of West Bengal which was denied since 2015. However, we have received some donations and we hope that in the coming days you will help us in getting advertisement and sponsorships.

EUROPEAN UNION FILM FESTIVAL

This year EU Film Festival 2016 was held at Nandan and British Council Auditorium from 24th June to 2nd July, 2016 and we were a privileged partner in the festival. The event showcased a 24 award winning European Films from 24 European Countries. The opening film was 'JACK' a film from Germany, directed by Edward Berger. This year festival jointly organized by EU Delegation Office (New Delhi), Nandan, FFSI (ER) and Cine Central, Calcutta.

GENERAL FILM-SHOWS AND FUNCTIONS

In this period we screened 27 Films from 9 countries.

In the month of April, 2016 we screened 2 films from Vietnam.

In the month of May, 2016 we present the firstever Guatemala Films in Kolkata. Two films were screened in that occasion.

In September, 2016 we organized a Colombian Film Session in association with Embassy of Colombia, New Delhi. We screened four recent films from Colombia.

In the month of October, 2016 we organized Hungarian Film Festival in association with Balassi Institute Hungarian Cultural Centre, New Delhi. Five notable films from Hungary were shown on that occasion.

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A big Mexican Film Festival in association with Cultural Affairs, Mexican Embassy, New Delhi was organized in the month of December, 2016 at Nandan. Seven (7) recent films were shown on that festival.

In the month of February, 2017 we presented the first ever Signapore Film Festival in Kolkata at Nandan in association with Singapore High Commission to India, New Delhi. Four notable films were shown on that festival.

BOOK FAIR

This year also we set up a colourful stall at Kolkata Book Fair at Milan Mela Ground, which attracted a large number of visitors. There was huge rush of film enthusiasts in our stall to have rare DVD or Film Books. Like in the past we arranged to sale DVD/CD of classic Cinema in collaboration with Angel Video.

LIBRARY

During this period only three new books and few journals were added in the library. We are trying to reorganize the library so that member can use it on every Saturday. But we are yet to get the services of a retired librarian.

NANDAN

We are getting excellent co-operation and support from Nandan (West Bengal Film Centre). Our heartiest thanks to Nandan authorities for their help and cooperation. We have conducted several programmes in collaboration with Nandan during this period.

NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE

We are getting all cooperation from NFAI as in the past. We acknowledge their help and support in film appreciation movement.

SATYAJIT RAY FILM & TELEVISION INSTITUTE

We are having excellent cooperation and collaboration with SRFTI. It is worth mentioning that we have been given storage space for maintaining a large number of celluloid films donated to us by different Embassies, High Commissions and International Film Institutes. We expect more cooperation and collaboration from SRFTI in the days to come.

FFSI & OTHER FILM SOCIETIES

We are maintaining good relations with FFSI. We hope, FFSI will take more initiative to strengthen Film Society movement. This year European Union Film Festival was jointly organized with FFSI (E.R) in Kolkata. We are having cordial relations with all film societies in India and whenever possible we extend our help and co-operation to other film societies.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

During the period under review, we had four meetings of the executive committee to discuss programmes as well as organizational matters.

We would also request you to check the website. Please keep contact by visiting Society office or over phone in the first week of every month for programme information.

Besides posting we are sending our monthly bulletins to our members through Email.

We are now in the Social network FACEBOOK, please put your LIKE to get various updates.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We convey our sincere thanks to the Film Institutions and agencies of different countries, authorities of different International Film Festivals, Diplomatic Missions of different countries in India and all Consulates in Kolkata. We also extend our sincere thanks to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Government of West Bengal (Department of Information & Cultural Affairs and Finance), UNICEF, National Film Development Corporation, Doordarshan, All India Radio, all Electronic Channels and all Print Media.

We express our deep appreciation to Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata Police, Agricultural Income Tax Authority, Nandan West Bengal Film Centre, Peerless Inn, Alliance Francaise du Bengale Culture, American Center, Kolkata, Max Mueller Bhavan, Kolkata, Gorky Sadan, Paschimbanga Bangla Academy, EIMPEA, Rabindra Okakura Bhavan, Salt Lake, Bidhan Nagar Municipality, Peerless General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd. Satyajug Employees Co. operative Industrial Society Ltd., FFSI & other film societies, Enlighten Film Society, Angel Video, Basusree Cinema, Moulali Yuba Kendra, John Mantosh, Dover Lane Music Conference, Publishers & Booksellers Guild, U. Radhakrishnan, Emta Group of Companies, Bengal Phototype, Mrinal Sen, Soumitra Chatterjee, Ranjit Mallick, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Goutam Ghose, Sandip Ray, Yadab Mondal, Arkadeb Bhaduri, Chitta Debnath, Arabinda Roy, Swapan Mallick, Siladytya Sen, Althea Phillips, Nirmal Dhar and others.

Our special thanks to United Bank of India, Patton International, The Peerless General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd., Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Ltd, Sureka Properties, Bengal Greenfield Housing Development Co. Ltd.

We are grateful to our Patrons, Sponsors, well-wishers and members for their help, co-operation and unstinted support.

Dear friends, we are confident that with your active support our society will continue its journey towards another milestone.

Best Regards & Thanks.

Parimal Mukherjee
General Secretary

APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS AND WELL-WISHERS TO CONTRIBUTE IN THE LEGAL FUND

You are aware that Cine Central, Calcutta is now in the midst of a legal battle over its office premises i.e. 2, Chowringhee Road. The society is functioning from this premises for the last 50 years. Now, along with all other tenants the society has also received eviction notice of Calcutta High Court through local Police Station. We have already filled appropriate petition in the High Court seeking stay and revocation of eviction order. The matter is still pending in the court.

You will appreciate the fact that fighting a legal battle is very costly affairs. We have already incurred substantial amount. This matter was discussed in the last Annual General Meeting held on 15-09-2017. The house approved the proposal of the Executive Committee to raise Special Fund for legal expenses. We would, therefore, request all our members and well-wishers to contribute generously in the legal fund. All contributions will be duly acknowledged with proper receipt. We look forward to your positive response.

PROGRAMME IN OCTOBER - 2017

Film shows will be held in the last week of October, 2017. Please see website, Facebook or contact society office on and after 12-10-2017. We will be also sending you email giving full details of the programme.

WRITE FOR BULLETIN

We are happy to inform that Department of Post, Govt. of India has given necessary permission for posting monthly film bulletin at a concessional rate. We invite all our readers to contribute short articles on any aspects of cinema.



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