

CINE CENTRAL, CALCUTTA

2 CHOWRINGHEE ROAD, KOLKATA – 700 013

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Report on the activities of Cine Central, Calcutta during the period between August 26th, 2008 to 25th August, 2009, placed at the Annual General Meeting on 25th August, 2009 at 6.00 pm at Paschimbanga Bangla Academy Auditorium, 1/1, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata – 700 020.

Dear Members,

I, on behalf of the President and Executive Committee members, welcome you to this Annual General Meeting.

Cine Central, Calcutta has passed yet another year. During this period we have tried to achieve our goal of enhancing film-appreciation movement. You are aware that Film society movement today is in deep crisis. The advancement of technology has enabled the viewers to see films in their drawing rooms. So where do the film societies stand? We believe that as long as cinema exists, film society will continue to play an important role.

We feel that time has come when film societies needs to broaden their activities in a new direction. It is imperative to hold workshop, seminars, inter action with film-makers besides film screening to help the cineaste who are conscious and discerning enough to differentiate good film from pop culture cinema.

Cine Central, Calcutta is determined to uphold the banner of film society movement overcoming various hurdles. We have already taken some steps in this regard. We are trying to revive our reputed magazine – CHITRABIKSHAN before “Boi mela-2010”. We also propose to hold discussion/ seminar on various aspects of film culture. Our Annual Children's Film Festival has become very successful.

Unfortunately many of our plans remain on paper due to paucity of fund. With the amount collected as subscription, you will appreciate, it is hardly possible to hold regular screening of films taking into account the high hall rental and freight charges; leave aside other programme. Unless the organization is financially sound, it cannot sustain and reach its goal. We, therefore, appeal to all our members and well-wishers to come forward to help us to overcome

this acute financial crisis. **We would request you to be a little more active. You can surely help our society in various ways. If you have some spare time, please do come to our office for giving a helping hand – your professional experience may be of use to the society.** You can also collect some advertisements for our publications or arrange to get sponsors for our programmes. **We do not intend to raise the subscription but we expect from our members some voluntary help and contribution in whatever way they can. We hope our appeal will not go in vain.**

Friends, now I present the report of the activities undertaken in the last one-year. But before that, it is our duty to pay homage to the departed souls of those who rendered their lives for upholding the cause of the movement or have been associated with the film world.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the sad demise of Tapan Sinha – an outstanding film director of Bengal. He was recipient of “**DADA SAHEB PHALKE** award and also given Life time Achievement in 2008. He died on 15th January, 2009.

We also mourn the sudden demise of Nabyendu Chattopadhyay, eminent Film Director, died on 14th January, 2009.

We conducted a condolence meeting to pay our tribute to Tapan Sinha and Nabyendu Chatterji in association with Nandan on 13th February, 2009.

With a heavy heart we inform the sad demise of Sontosh Roy Chowdhury, a close associate and former Executive Committee member, who passed away on 20th July 2009.

We mourn the death of Kunal Mitra, a rising actor of Bengali cinema. We pay homage to Rajat Roy, our close associate, Film Critic and writer, and Sakti

Samanta, renowned film Director. We pay homage to Prakash Mehra, Director and Leela Naidu well known artiste in Hindi Cinema,

We pay our tribute to Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, famous Sarod Player, Habib Tanbir, a stalwart of Indian Theatre and Pop Singer Michael Jackson. We pay homage to famous singer Supriti Ghosh, Alpana Bondopadhyay and eminent music director Bhaskar Chandravarkar.

At the end we pay our respectful homage to Subhas Chakraborty, Minister of Transport, Sports & Youth Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal who was a friend and well wisher of our society.

ALOK CHANDRA CHANDRA MEMORIAL LECTURE

5th Alok Chandra Chandra Memorial Lecture was delivered on 20th July, 2009 at Nandan-II by eminent Filmmaker Shri Buddhadeb Das Gupta who spoke on “Understanding Cinema”. Many film society personalities, members, students and journalists were present.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S FILM FESTIVAL

This year the 9th International Children’s Film Festival was successfully held in multiple venues, in collaboration with Nandan (West Bengal Film Centre), Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Govt. of India and UNICEF. We made it a point to extend the festival to different corners of the State with the help of UNICEF, municipalities and NGOs. We would like to record our appreciation to Rishra Municipality and Beliaghata Education Aid Centre, Kolkata. On 25th May, 2009 the city and the neighbouring districts experienced a severe cyclonic storm “Aila”. The inaugural programme had to be cancelled. Aila. We convey our deep sympathy to those affected by this natural calamity. But schedule film shows from next day onward were successfully conducted. 45 nos. of film from different countries were shown during the festival. About 60,000 children participated in the festival with free entry passes distributed in advance.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF NEW CINEMA

The landmark programme of Cine Central, Calcutta, **International Forum of New Cinema**, was held successfully as a distinct programme of **14th Kolkata Film Festival** held from 14th November, 2008 to 20th November, 2008 at Basusree Cinema, Kolkata. Shri Mrinal Sen, the doyen of Indian Cinema inau-

gurated the festival. Shri Soumitra Chatterjee eminent film actor and Chairman of Kolkata Film Festival was present as the Guest-in-Chief. Shri Tarun Mazumdar, renowned film director and Chairman, Nandan, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Shri Nilanjan Chattopadhyay, Director, Kolkata Film Festival was present as Special Guest. Hon’ble Justice Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen, our President and Chairman, West Bengal Human Rights Commission presided over the function and our Vice-President

Dr. Biswajiban Majumdar Chairman, Bidhannagar Municipality gave vote of thanks.

Shri Girish Kasaravalli eminent Kannada Film Director presented his film ‘**GULABI TALKIES**’ on this occasion.

During Festival we screened 42 feature films from following countries – India, Netherlands, Germany, Slovakia, Uruguay, Hungary, Poland, South Korea, Norway, Switzerland, Iran, Mexico, Israel, France, Sweden, Pakistan, China, Greece, Egypt and Cuba.

As a part of the Forum festival, 18 films in DVD format were shown at Gorky Sadan from 26th November to 4th December 2008. In the said programme Films from following countries – Turkey, Egypt, Czech, France, Portugal, Afghanistan, Cuba and India. During the festival we brought out a commemorative brochure, and eight issues of Daily Bulletin. Further, a pavilion was set up at Nandan Complex where our publications were displayed and sold.

On the last day we arranged a simple but impressive closing function, where the well known cinematographer Mazhar Kamran presented his debut film MOHANDAS. Also present in that function was Shri Uttam Haldar an actor of the film and noted Bengali Film Director Shri Raja Sen.

FILM SHOWS AND FUNCTIONS

During this period altogether 125 feature and short films from 35 countries were screened. We would like to highlight some of the programmes:

For the first time a retrospective of Tapan Sinha was held in this city by our society. A film festival with 16 nos. of selected films under the name “Tribute to Tapan Sinha” was organized at Uttam Mancha from 15th– 18th September 2008 and from 22nd to 25th September at Rabindra-Okakura Bhavan, Salt Lake. The film festival was inaugurated by Shri Mrinal Sen

doyen of Indian Cinema and renowned actress Smt. Madhabi Mukherjee was present as special guest. The closing function was held at Rabindra-Okakura Bhavan in Salt Lake City. The noted actress Smt. Mousumi Chatterjee, eminent play writer and actor Shri Manoj Mitra and Dr. Biswajiban Majumdar, Vice-President were present at the function.

It may be mentioned here that Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen, our President presented a memento, on behalf of the society, to Tapan Sinha for his valuable contribution in film making on 23rd July, 2008 at his residence.

A Retrospective of renowned Japanese Film Director – Keisuke Kinoshita was organized at Nandan-II from 15th to 18th January, 2009.

Mr. Fujio Samukawa, Hon'ble Consul General of Japan, Kolkata inaugurated the function and Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Mayor, Kolkata Municipal Corporation was Guest-in-Chief. Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen presided over the function. Our Vice-President Dr. Biswajiban Majumdar and Shri Nilanjan Chattopadhyay, Chief Executive Officer, Nandan also graced the occasion.

Like in the past, Tri-Continental Human Rights Film Festival – 2009 was organized to focus film of social significance. This programme was conducted in association with Breakthrough, New Delhi and Sawayam, Kolkata from 6th to 8th February, 2009 at Nandan-II.

We held South African Film Session with 4 films in DVD format in March 2008 in association with FFSI (Eastern Region)

A session of Portuguese Film was organized in association with Camoes-Portuguese Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Consulate General, Kolkata from 26th to 28th June, 2009 at Nandan-II.

We are pleased to report that this year we took a special initiative to have a gathering of our well-wishers and patrons with the kind courtesy of Ambuja Realty. We arranged this Vijaya Sammilani in October at Swabhumi. A large number of well-known dignitaries were present. Being apprised of the activities of our society, they assured to give a helping hand. We hope to arrange a similar function in this year also.

BOOK FAIR

In February, 2009 we participated in the 'Kolkata Boi Mela' at Milan Mela, new venue where we sold DVD/CD of classical cinema with assistance of Angel Video apart from Books and Magazines of cinema. We also participated in Delhi Book Fair in

April – 2009.

NANDAN

We are getting excellent co-operation and support from Nandan (West Bengal Film Centre). Our heartiest thanks to Nandan authority for their help and cooperation.

AMERICAN CENTRE

American Centre invited our members to five Film programmes held at their auditorium. We appreciate their collaboration.

UNICEF

UNICEF has extended their help and cooperation in organizing **International Children's Film Festival**. Cine Central, Calcutta has been declared as one of UNICEF's partners in the developmental activities. We hope in future our cooperation will be more extensive and stronger. We express our heartiest thanks to the State Representative and officials of UNICEF, West Bengal.

LIBRARY

During this period we added few books and some film journals. We are providing facilities to the interested members and researchers for the use of the library.

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. We expect more cooperation and help from SRFTI in the days to come.

ROOPKALA KENDRO

Roopkala Kendro always invites our members to their festival and special programme whenever organized. We appreciate their gesture towards our society.

FFSI AND OTHER FILM SOCIETIES

We are maintaining good relations with FFSI. We hope, FFSI will take more initiative to strengthen film society movement. We are having good relations with all film societies in India and whenever possible we extend our help and cooperation to the societies of this region and other

regions too.

In association with some film societies we organized a meeting in memory of Rajat Roy, eminent film critic and our member on 22nd March, 2009 at Nandan-II.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF FFSI

In 1959 a handful of Film Societies of India gathered to form Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI) to promote and propagate film culture and film appreciation movements all over India. To celebrate Golden Jubilee of FFSI Eastern Region of FFSI held a three days programmes at Nandan-II, Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Programme.

Suchitra Film Society (Bangalore) of Southern Region organized Golden Jubilee Celebration during their 3rd International Film Festival on 20th January, 2009. On this occasion Suchitra Film Society did a unique programme by honouring Five Film Society Activists who are still functioning. Shri Sadhan Chakraborty, General Secretary, Cine Central, Calcutta attended the programme as their guest.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

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

You are aware that we have already started our Website (www.cinecentralcalcutta.org) and we are happy that a large number of members and other film enthusiasts are regularly visiting the site. We are planning to send intimation of our programmes through e-mail. The Monthly Film Bulletin, the organ of Cine Central, Calcutta, is being dispatched in the first week of every month. However, we are concerned about the postal delay. We have taken steps to make this Bulletin move informative.

Our society remains committed to educate, enlighten and broaden the public appreciation of film as an art form.

TOWER GROUP

We shall be failing in our duty if we do not mention the support we have received from the renowned business house Tower Group. Our sincere thanks to Shri Ramendu Chattopadhyay, Chairman & Managing Director.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lastly, we extend our sincerest 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 of different countries in Kolkata. We also convey 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 Newspapers.

Our sincere thanks also to Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata Police, Agricultural Income Tax Authority, Kolkata Chalacitra Utsav, Peerless Inn, Kalpataru (Uttam Mancha), Karukrit, University Institute, Tapan Sinha Foundation, Alliance Francaise du Bengale – Culture, American Centre, Kolkata Max Mueller Bhavan, Kolkata Gorky Sadan, Paschimbanga Bangla Academy, Roopkala Kendra, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Bidhan Nagar Municipality, Rishra Municipality, Channel-8, Hotel Lindsay, Peerless General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd. Human Rights Commission, West Bengal, Angel Video, Tapan Theatre, Sujata Sadan, Montu Bose, Basusree Cinema, Bengali Association, New Delhi, Amaresh Ganguly, John Mantosh, Dover Lane Music Conference, Federation of Film Societies of India, Arabinda Roy, P C Sircar- Magician, Tower Group, Publishers & Booksellers Guild, Nilmoni Dhar, Mackintosh Burn, Mr. U. Radhakrishnan, and Emta Group of Companies. Lastly our heartiest thanks to all our patrons, sponsors, well-wishers and members for their help, co-operation and unstinted support.

With personal regards and best wishes,

Sadhan Chakraborty
General Secretary