

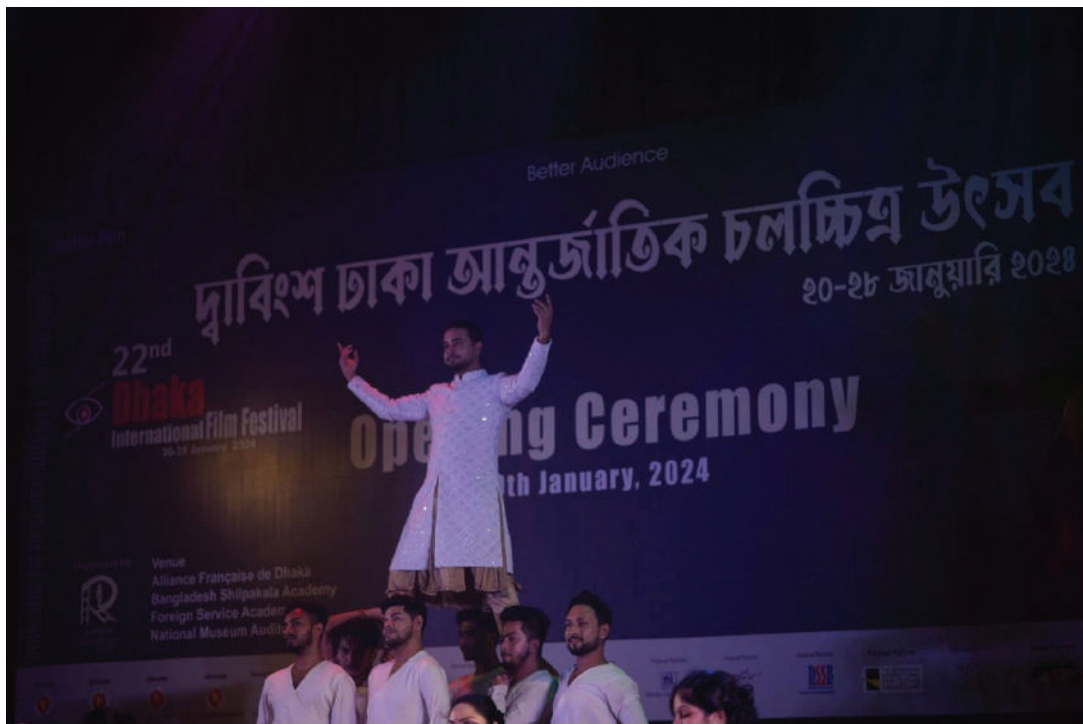
The 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival

This year it was a huge

By Bidhan Rebeiro

At Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF), we believe in the power of cinema to transcend borders and connect people from every corner of the globe. Our carefully curated selection of films reflects the kaleidoscope of human experiences, offering a window into different cultures, perspectives, and

Better Audience and Better Society'. The festival was held from January 20 to 28 at various places in Dhaka. As the curtain rises and the first frames flicker to life, DIFF becomes a melting pot of cinematic talent, drawing filmmakers, industry professionals, and cinephiles together in a celebration of creativity and cultural exchange.



emotions. Our festival is a celebration of the limitless possibilities that the world of filmmaking has to offer.

The 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival ended with the slogan "Better Film,

Films from different corners

The festival screened 252 films from 74 countries in the different sections: Asian Competition Section, Retrospective Section, Tribute, Bangladesh Panorama,

Wide Angle, Cinema of the World, Children's Film, Spiritual Films, Short and Independent Film, and Women's Film Session in this year's festival. Out of 252 in the festival, 129 were feature films (more than 50 minutes), and 123 were short and independent films. In addition, the festival screened 71 Bangladeshi movies.

Not only films but more than a hundred foreign filmmakers, producers, film selectors and coordinators (programmers), film critics, and juries have become the meeting place of Dhaka city. Films and delegates from Afghanistan, Armenia, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Congo, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Palestine, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia,

Mauritania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Representatives from Spain, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yakutia were scheduled to come.

Like the previous festival, this time too, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Summit Group of Companies, IFIC Bank Limited, Root Group of Companies, and European Union Bangladesh have given unique cooperation.

The festival partners were Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum, Anlius Française Dhaka, Star



Opening Ceremony of 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival 2024

Cineplex, Dhaka Club Limited, Norwegian International Film Festival Hogsund, Religion Today Film Festival, Sanghai International Film Festival, Channel I, Ekatar TV and Sense for Wave, CloudLive.

Opening

Finance Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali inaugurated the festival as the chief guest of the opening ceremony, while the subcontinent's renowned Indian-Bengali actress Sharmila Tagore was present as the special guest at the inaugural ceremony. Yue Liwen, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of China in Bangladesh, and Md Mokammel Hossain, Secretary of the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry also spoke at the event.

Presided over by the DIFF chief patron and former State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, the welcome remarks were delivered by festival director Ahmed Muztaba Zamal, founding organizer of this coveted film festival.

Inaugurating the 22nd DIFF, Finance Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali said, "Cinema has no border, and the audiences in Bangladesh are now watching almost every film beyond the boundaries. Through festivals like the DIFF, our audiences have been able to enjoy quality films from the entire world, and foreign audiences are also learning about our films and culture through this festival."

Eminent actress and this year's distinguished guest and jury member Sharmila Tagore said, "Through good films, we understand the world and a lot of things. I think there is nothing better than films that can communicate to everyone because images stay with you - and it does not matter whether you speak Bengali,

English, Chinese, or any other language, because images eventually get through to you. I am really honored to be here and looking forward to watching the films, and meeting my other co-jurors from tomorrow."

This year's festival began with the Iran-Bangladesh joint production film 'Fereshteh' starring acclaimed actress Jaya Ahsan and directed by Morteza Atashzamaz, under the Wide Angle Film Poster Exhibition section. The inaugural session on Saturday evening also showcased the Shyam Benegal-directed 'Mujib: Ekti Jatir Rupokar' (Mujib: The Making of a Nation).

Sections of the DIFF

The competition section included the Asian Cinema Competition. Comprised of around 15 films from various Asian countries (minimum 70-minute long fiction film), the competition category had an independent international jury board of 5 members to determine the best film.

The award for the best film was a crest, certificate and cash. Besides, there was a certificate and crest award for the best director, actor-actress, cinematographer and screenplay.

The retrospective section shows five films by George Ovashvili, an essential Georgian filmmaker in world cinema.

Bangladesh Panorama had 12 full-length pictures of Bangladesh. One full-length feature film from Bangladesh Panorama was awarded the FIPRESCI certificate by the International Federation of Film Critics.

In addition, 20 short films of 10 minutes were in this category. From the short section, the top three films are selected from among those films in the competition.



10th Dhaka International Conference on Women in Cinema 2024

Among these three, the best short film gets the FIPRESCI certificate and 2,00,000 taka, the first runner-up gets 1,50,000 taka, and the second runner-up gets 1,00,000 taka. There were three judges in this division on behalf of FIPRESCI.

China was the theme country of the Wide Angle section this year. 16 feature films were selected for this section. Besides that, a poster exhibition of Chinese films was also held during the festival.

Social Welfare Minister Dr Dipu Moni shared her remarks while inaugurating the Wide Angle section of the 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival at the Bangladesh National Museum on 22nd January. Dr Dipu Moni said that due to the effective policies and various initiatives of the government, better days of the country's film industry have returned and the future

of films would be even brighter. She said, "Through the medium of films, a country's culture, history, tradition, literature, and lifestyle can be documented and projected to the audiences - which our maestro filmmakers have done in the past. The government has been focusing on the further development of this important medium and as a result, we are witnessing the return of good films with even more in the future."

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen and Deputy Chair of Shanghai Film Association and distinguished film scholar Dr Shi Chuan were present as special guests in the ceremony, which was chaired by researcher and Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque, one of the festival committee members.

10 films for children are screened in the

Children's section. As always, this exhibition was open to all children. For underprivileged and down-syndrome children, there were special arrangements to watch movies in this category. One film from this category was nominated for the 'Best Juvenile Audience Badal Rahman Award'. Here too, there are certificates and crests as prizes.

About 21 films are screened in the Spiritual Films category. Mainly religious faith, respect for other religions, and humanitarian films are included in this category. The images in this category help in creating interfaith and cultural connections. The Interfaith Jury awards Best Feature Film and Best Documentary for this category. The award was a certificate and a crest.

The Women Film Makers Session is organized with films by women filmmakers from India and abroad. It includes 27

full-length and short films and documentaries, domestic and foreign. The three established women involved in movies selected the best feature film and best documentary film for the award in this category. Apart from this, the best female producer is also awarded in this category. The award was a certificate and crest.

The Short and Independent Films section showcases documentaries and short documentaries by emerging and independent filmmakers. In addition, it showcases 72 local and foreign short films.

Cinema of the World section curated 53 films from 40 countries.

‘Women in Cinema’ Conference

During the festival, on 21-22 January 2024, the '10th International Women Filmmakers' Conference' on the role of women in films was held in Dhaka Club's Samson Lounge



Opening Ceremony of Wide Angle Section



West Meets East Screenplay Lab 2024

in collaboration with the Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University. Rainbow Film Society organized this two-daylong conference in association with the Department of Film and Television, Jagannath University.

The objective of this conference is to improve the standard and content of women-based cinema and also to create an interaction among the women who are involved in the medium of cinema through exchanging ideas and sharing diverse experiences. The conference was officially inaugurated on Sunday (January 21) at 10 am at the Samson Lounge of Dhaka Club in the capital. Sharmila Tagore, a famous actress of the Indian subcontinent, was present as the chief guest. Sadeka Halim, the Vice Chancellor of Jagannath University, was the special guest. The inaugural function was conducted by the chairperson of the

festival Professor Kiswar Kamal.

In the first session of the day, the article titled 'Navigating Dual Identities: An Exploration of Intersectionality in Motherhood and Filmmaking' was read by Dr. Ipsita Barat, the Head of Mass Communication and Videography Department of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Professor dr. Sohini Ghosh, Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, was present as a discussant. Jagannath University Associate Professor Fatima Amin and translator-writer Alam Khorshed discussed the topic too. The first session was conducted by the Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University. Sadeka Halim.

In the second session, the article titled 'Steering through the Sinister Whisper of Modernity' was read by Samarah Jannati Jamal, Deputy Editor of Celluloid magazine. Senior Sri Lankan journalist Anuradha Kodagoda and Belgian documentary

filmmaker Anja Strelec were present as panelists in this session.

On January 22, the second day of the 10th International Film Conference began with Mehzaad Ghalib's essay 'Possibility of Female Driven Content in the OTT Platform in Bangladesh'. Dr. Ipsita Barat and actress Banya Mirza were at the discussant panel. The session was moderated by independent filmmaker Shamim Akhtar.

Anuradha Kodagoda read the paper titled 'Beyond Victimization: Exploring Agency and Alternative Representation of Female Subjectivity in Sri Lankan Cinema' in the second session of the second day. The paper was discussed by Philippine actress-producer Dr. Rebecca Shangquan Chuayunsu and Katrina Khramova. The session was conducted by Professor Kaveri Gayen of Dhaka University.

In the third session, Anja Strelec read a paper entitled 'Behind the Scenes of Empowerment: Filmmaking as a Tool to Combat Genital Mutilation'. Screenwriter and critic Sadia Khalid Riti and Bulgarian filmmaker Yana Lekarska were present as discussants. The session was conducted by Professor Kiswar Kamal.

Screenwriting competition

As part of the 22nd International Film Festival, 'West Meets East: Screenplay Competition', an interactive four-day filmmakers' seminar and workshop, was held at the Alliance Francaise Gallery on January 23-26. At the end of the four-day workshop, the screenplay 'Red Lights Blue Angels', written by Afsana Mimi and Tanveer Hossain of Bangladesh, won the first prize. The second prize went to India's Ishan Sharma's 'Kabootor' screenplay. The



Press Meet With Sharmila Tagor During 22nd DIFF

third prize went to Sri Lanka's Bavanidha Loganathan's screenplay 'Kuttu'. The best screenplay received USD 5,000 in cash, the second-placed script received USD 3,000, and the third-placed screenplay received USD 2,000 as prize money. Filmmaker Aka Reza Ghalib and screenwriter Sadia Khalid Riti were the convenors of this event.

Masterclass

The foreign guests including the cinema-loving youth of the country who participated in the class were impressed by the daylong master class. DIFF organized this master class on 27th January, for the second time and got huge attention from the whole country.

The main attraction of the master class was Iranian legendary filmmaker Majid Majidi. He arrived at the main venue of the 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival at the

National Museum auditorium on Saturday around 2 pm. Around 2:30, he attended the festival organizers' master class. The two-hour session in the main auditorium of the National Museum ended at 4:30 pm. The guests were listening with fascination. Majidi, the maker of the timeless film 'Children of Heaven' arrived in Dhaka on Friday (January 26) to attend this special session. Apart from participating in the master class on Saturday, he attended the closing ceremony of the festival on Sunday (January 28).

Before Majidi's master class, at 11am, there was the master class of Shi Chuan, deputy chair of the Shanghai Film Association of China, which ended at a quarter past 1pm. Majid Majidi's session started after lunch break. After that, the master class of Indian filmmaker, actor and artist Anjan Dutt began.

Three of this master class were conducted



Master Class During 22nd DIFF

by Bangladeshi film critic Bidhan Rebeiro. After the master classes there was Anjan Dutt's musical evening.

Winners

Dhaka International Film Festival, the country's biggest film festival, ended on January 28 in the main auditorium of the National Museum. At this time, the presence of internationally renowned stars turned the venue into a meeting place.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat was present as the chief guest in the event. Internationally renowned Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi and famous Indian actress Sharmila Tagore were special guests. The closing ceremony was preceded by M Shahriar Alam, MP, the main patron of DIFF.

Here is the winners' list of 22nd DIFF

Children Films Session

Best Children Film Badal Rahman Award: ‘

Pravas (Pravas the Tour)’ directed by Vipul Sharma.

Duration: 95min.

Country: India

Audience Award

‘Mujib: Ekti Jatir Rupokar (Mujib: The Making of a Nation)’ directed by Shyam Benegal.

Duration: 178min.

Country: Bangladesh, India

Special Audience Award

‘Bijoyar Pore (Autumn Flies)’ directed by Abhijit SriDas.

Duration: 147min.

Country: India

Spiritual Film Section

Best Feature Film: ‘Tuda I Obratno (There and Back)’ directed by Oleg Asadulin.

Duration: 108min.

Country: Russia.

Best Documentary:

‘Kunanfinda: The Land of Death’ directed by Hansel Leyva Fanego.

Duration: 68min.

Country: Cuba

Special Mention Award:

‘Surot (Reflection of Life)’ directed by Golam Rabbani.

Duration: 14min.

Country: Bangladesh

Women Filmmakers Section

Best Feature Film:

‘Ashghal-ha va Arousak-ha (Junks & Dolls)’ directed by Manijeh Hekmat.

Duration: 66min.

Country: Iran.

Best Documentary:

‘Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest’ directed by Nancy Svendsen.

Duration: 72min.

Country: USA

Best Director:

Gyeongmu NOH for the film ‘How to Get Your Man Pregnant’.

Duration: 30min.

Country: South Korea

Special Mention:

‘Mukti’ directed by Chaitali Somadder.

Duration: 19min.

Country: Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Panorama:

Full length Section

The Winning Full Length Feature Film

of the FIPRESCI Award:

‘Sabittri (A Burning Soul)’ directed
by Pantho Prosad.
Duration: 111min.

**Bangladesh Panorama:
Talent Section****The Winning Short Film of the FIPRESCI Award:**

‘Laila’ directed by Baishaki Somadder.
Duration: 9min.

The 1st Runner-up Short Film:

‘Inafi (The Scarf)’ directed by Shuvashis Sinha.
Duration: 10min.

The 2nd Runner-up Short Film:

‘Antohin Pathe (Endless Way)’ directed by Ziaul Hoque Raju.
Duration: 10min.

Asian Film Competition Section

Best Script: ‘Dov (Fortune)’ directed by Muhiddin Muzaffar.
Duration: 118min.
Country: Tajikistan.

Best Cinematography:

‘Mighty Afrin - In the Time of Floods’ directed by Angelos Rallis.
Duration: 92min.
Country: Bangladesh, France, Greece.

Best Actress:

Badema for the film ‘The Cord of Life’ directed by Qiao Sixue.
Duration: 96min.
Country: China.

Best Actor:

Anjan Dutt for the film ‘Chalchitra Ekhon

(Kaleidoscope Again)’ directed by Anjan Dutt.
Duration: 90min.
Country: India.

Best Director:

Jagath Manuwarna for the film ‘Rahas Kiyana Kandu (Whispering Mountains)’
Duration: 88min.
Country: Sri Lanka.

Best Film:

‘The Cord of Life’ directed by Qiao Sixue.
Duration: 96min.
Country: China

Special Jury Mention Film:

‘Baqyt (Happiness)’ directed by Askar Uzabayev.
Duration: 132min.
Country: Kazakhstan

Special Jury Mention Actress:

Afrin Khanom for the film ‘Mighty Afrin - In the Time of Floods’ directed by Angelos Rallis.
Duration: 92min.
Country: Bangladesh, France, Greece

Festival Jury**Asian Films Competition Section****Sharmila Tagore**

Sharmila Tagore is one of India’s leading Indian actresses known for her work in Bengali and Hindi films. At the age of 13, she made her debut in Satyajit Ray’s Apur Sansar (The World of Apu, 1959) the last film in the internationally celebrated Apu Trilogy. Thereafter she acted in a number of Ray films thereby becoming part of Ray’s international legacy. As one of Bombay Cinema’s leading stars, Tagore



The Audience of 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival

has been an icon of glamour and success in mainstream popular films while also working in films that have been departures from the conventions of mainstream filmmaking. She has worked with some of India's most highly regarded directors and actors. In 2013, the Government of India, honoured her with Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour for her contributions to Indian culture through performing arts.

Anna Shalashina

Anna Shalashina graduated from the linguistics department of Lomonosov Moscow State University in 2011 and finished MBA program at Kingston University (London) three years later. Her dissertation on film co-production was nominated for the Best MBA Project of 2014. Having worked for 8 years at leading Russian film studios, Anna founded WISH Media in 2016. The company focuses on the production of author-driven feature films and documentaries with potential for

international markets. She is a member of EAVE (B'EST) since 2014, founder of WRAP (Russian Association of Female Producers), member of Free Spirit Competition jury at 35 the Warsaw International Film Festival.

Samia Zaman

Samia Zaman is a Film Producer, Director and CEO of Ekattor Television, a leading news channel of Bangladesh. Her latest production, Feature Narrative Ajob Karkhana (Song of the Soul), has been shown around the world in Film Festivals. and won the FIPRESCI award at its Festival Premiere at Dhaka International Film Festival 2022. Samia actively mentors upcoming filmmakers through her organization International Film Initiative of Bangladesh (IFIB), a platform connecting filmmakers from Bangladesh and South Asia with the film community worldwide. She is also a founding Trustee member of Dhaka Doc Lab, a South Asian documentary pitching Forum.

Dr. Shi Chuan

Dr. Shi Chuan is the Deputy Chair of Shanghai Film Association, a professor at Shanghai Theatre Academy and Macau University of Science & Technology. Furthermore, he serves as a curator for Shanghai Film Museum. Dr. Shi is a

renowned scholar and film producer. Some of his film involvements include “Shanghai Park” (executive producer), “Return Ticket” (planner), “The Verses of Us” (co-producer), and “A First Farewell” (artistic consultant), etc. He has received accolades like the Best Documentary Golden Goblet Award at the 18th Shanghai International Film Festival and the Best Film in Generation K-plus Section at the 69th Berlin International Film Festival. In recent years, Dr. Shi has been dedicated to classic film preservation and restoration.

Tom Waller

Tom Waller was born in Bangkok, and was educated in the UK at the Northern Film School. Later, he moved to back to Thailand in 2003 to set up his production company De Warrenne Pictures, which is now one of the country’s leading production companies. His acclaimed prison drama,

The Last Executioner (2014), premiered in competition at the Shanghai International Film Festival, and also won the Best Director award at the Dhaka International Film Festival. Most recently he wrote, produced and directed *The Cave* (2019) which premiered at the Busan Film Festival. He was appointed Vice President of Film Bangkok in 2021, the film and TV division of Tero Entertainment PCL. and is currently in post-production on his next film, *Kiss of the Con Queen*, set to come out in 2024.

Interfaith Jury for the Spiritual Films Section

Andrea Morghen

Andrea Morghen is a producer, director and filmmaker. Co-founder, partner and board member of Aurora Vision. Artistic director of Religion Today Film Festival (Trento-Italy) and head programmer of Life Beyond Life Film Festival in Turin



The Audience of 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival

(Italy). Committed to the world of volunteering, he is president of the voluntary association *Sulle Strade Del Mondo ODV*. He is pursuing a PhD in Social Communication, Digital Media and Culture at the Salesian University in Rome. He has produced more than 40 documentaries and reportages, working all over the world and directed 7 of them. In 2022 he produced with the students of the Liceo Artistico Depero in Rovereto (Trento) 2 short fiction films.

Fatemeh Javahersaz

Fatemeh Javahersaz is an Iranian content acquisition specialist, producer of some short documentary films, and researcher. She graduated with a Doctorate of Business Administration course. Currently, she is working in Iran Television, IRIB, since the last 25 years ago, and is the head of Ifilm English Channel, Market manager of Fajr International Film Festival since 2018, head of international section of Havva film festival, and the marketing advisor for some VOD platforms. Her first short documentary film has been awarded by Lift-off film in England.

Jyotika Jyoti

Jyotika Paul Jyoti is a Bangladeshi actor. She holds a Master's degree in English literature. She has dedicated her career to the art of acting, captivating audiences with her exceptional performances and deep connection to the craft for the past 18th years. Currently, she serves as the Director of the Research and Publication Department at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (National Academy of Fine and Performing Arts). Her journey in the film industry began with the release of her debut film, "Ayna," by Kabori Sarwar. Then followed

many more successful films in her career. Through international recognition of some of her films, she obtained much appreciation and fame in the industry. Besides Bangladesh, Jyoti has also worked in Indian cinema.

Noriko Yuasa

Noriko Yuasa is a visionary director and project planner with a passion for storytelling. A graduate of Tokyo Metropolitan University with a BA in Architecture, Noriko made her mark with the theatrical feature film "Udagawacho de Matteteyo (Wait in Udagawacho)", which premiered nationwide at Shibuya HUMAX cinemas. Her creative prowess extends to short films like "Looking for My Sunflowers," but it was with "Girl, Wavering" that she garnered acclaim, clinching 17 awards in film festivals across Japan and abroad. Embracing a "parallel career" in TV dramas and films, she aspires to elevate her craft globally. Her film project was awarded the Grand Prix at the "MPA/DHU / TIFFCOM Pitching Contest" during the Tokyo International Film Festival 2018. Also, her new film "Performing KAORU's Funeral" was selected at the "2020 Tokyo Gap Finance Market/TIFFCOM held in Japan. "Performing KAORU's Funeral" was completed in 2023 and is currently being rolled out internationally.

Mervat Omar

Mervat Omar is a film critic and journalist in Akhbar El Youm Newspaper. Artistic Manager of Alexandria Mediterranean Countries Film Festival from 2012. Diploma of the Higher Institute of Technical Criticism 2017. Member of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Association of

writers and Critics of cinema. Member of the Board of Directors of the House of Cinema and one of its Founders. Member of the Egyptian Critics Association. Member of Egyptian Journalists Syndicate. Member of the Union of Arab Journalists. Released a book titled Appointment with Cinema 2017. Jury For short competition in Muscat International film festival 2018. Jury for script writers' competition in Travellers Society 2017. Speaking at Egyptian cinema symposium honoring at Zurich Arab Film Festival 2018. Tribute from Oyoon for creativity women Bagdad 2017.

Women Filmmaker Section

Anuradha Kodagoda

Anuradha Kodagoda is a journalist, film critic, and writer from Sri Lanka. Currently she is serving as Deputy Features Editor at the Sunday Observer and she has earned recognition for her noteworthy contributions to the global film festival circuit. As a member of the International Cinephile Society, Anuradha also serves as a Voter for the ICS Awards in 2023. Beyond her editorial roles, she has ventured into film production, overseeing several short films and a web series. Notably, "Devi" stands out as her maiden directorial short film. Anuradha is currently immersed in a research thesis titled "Beyond Mere Victimization: Exploring Agency and Alternative Representations of Female Subjectivity in Sri Lankan Cinema,". She is exploring the anthropological dimensions of Euro-Centric approaches to Southeast Asian Cinema, with a specific focus on the prevalence of anthropological perspectives among Sri Lankan filmmakers.

Filipa Cardoso

Filipa Cardoso was born in Lisbon in 1971. Travelling the world as a professional dancer, she discovers a passion for photography and cinema. Her first films explore the stage and backstage of theatre and dance. She is working on all stages of production (direction, photography and editing). She co-directed a documentary on Satyajit Ray seen through the lens of his obsessive photographer. Recently, she directed 22 short films on the Tibetan monastery of Gyuto and did the editing of 'I AM CHANCE', which was nominated in the category 'best documentary' during last year's MAGRITTE ceremony (Belgian film awards).

Katerina Khramova

Katerina Khramova is a Los Angeles-based Film and Theatre Actress, and an award-winning dancer. She honed her acting skills at the renowned "Cours Florent" in Paris. There, her love for storytelling blossomed on the theatrical stage before she began her cinematic journey. Katerina firmly believes that getting to know and embrace the world is essential to mastering the art of acting. During her life-changing five-month stay in Asia, she served at an orphanage in Vietnam, where she empowered young children. On her return to the United States, Katerina brings a profound cultural awareness and mindfulness, infusing her acting projects with the potential to inspire personal and societal change.

Laura Francesca Aimone

Laura Aimone graduated in foreign languages and studied film history at the University of Copenhagen and at Mount Holyoke College (USA). She has been



Closing Ceremony of 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival

working for international Film Festivals since 2004 (Biennale of Venice, Berlinale, Giffoni, Edinburgh Film Festival, Ajyal Film Festival Qatar, Film Festival&Awards Macao, Red Sea Film Festival Saudi Arabia). 6 years ago, she founded “Shocking Pink Endorphins, films about women and sports” in Venice, Italy and has been the artistic director since. She was part of Festival juries in Italy, Switzerland, UK, Slovakia, U.S., Tasmania. In 2019 she wrote and directed The Carnival of Life.

Shomi Kaiser

Shomi Kaiser is a renowned Bangladeshi actor, who has performed in several TV dramas and films. She is also a film producer and entrepreneur. Shomi majored in Marketing from University of Dhaka. She is a prominent figure in the cultural, political, and business sectors in Bangla-

desh. She is one of the Directors of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) and the President of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB). Shomi is the Managing Director of Dhanshiri Communication Limited and Dhanshiri Digital Limited. Shomi has played the key role as the President of Bangladesh E-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) in formulating Digital Commerce Policy of Bangladesh.

FIPRESCI Jury: Bangladesh Panorama Film Section

Mofidul Hoque

Mofidul Hoque, author and cultural activist, has written books on history, liberation war, arts, and genocide studies. He is a recipient of Bangla Academy Literary

Prize and the national award Ekushey Padak. He has been actively engaged with the cultural movement of the country since his university days. He is a theatre and film-critic and was the co-editor of the English edition of the biannual journal "The World of Theatre", flagship publication of ITI. He was a member of the FIPRESCI Jury Board at the Kerala International Film Festival, India, Fribourg International Film Festival, Switzerland, Resistance International Film Festival, Iran and Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh.

Seok Yong Chang

Chang Seok Yong (Changpau) is Chairman of the Committee of Korean Arts Critics. He was a former chairman of the Korean Film Critics Society and FIPRESCI Korea. Mr. Chang taught cultural criticism at Dongguk-Seokyeong University Graduate School. He is a cultural expert at daily Global Economic. He was a Fipresci Jury of Premio Grolle d' Oro at Saint Vincent in Italy in the year of 1995, 15th Dhaka International Film Festival 2017. He has written and published many books on cinema.

Jason Tan Liwag

Jason Tan Liwag is a scientist, actor, writer, and film programmer from the Philippines. He is an alumnus of film criticism programs in Manila, Rotterdam, Udine, and Yamagata, and has served as a selection committee member for Gawad Alternatibo, QCinema, and the Encounters Film Festival UK. He is the country's first member of FIPRESCI, is a two-time international voter for the Golden Globe Awards, and has served as jury for several local and international film festivals, including the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival and the San Diego Asian Film

Festival. In 2023, he created and headed the first QCinema Critics Lab and co-programmed the QC-SEA short film competition. Outside of the arts, he is part-time faculty at the Department of Biology, Ateneo de Manila University.

Daily Bulletin

In addition to the publication of an informative brochure on the listed film of the festival, a bulletin with daily news was published during the festival. Here the introductions, interviews, reports and columns of local and foreign representatives, including filmmakers, producers, and actors, are published. Mashurul Amin Milon was in charge of the bulletin resources.

Aims and objectives of the organizers

Since 1992, the Rainbow Film Society has been organizing regular film festivals. This society was established in 1977. Rainbow Film Society is a non-profit social and cultural organization. Through the normal activities of the organization and film festivals, and by screening advanced films and gathering internationally renowned films, the filmmakers, producers, distributors, exhibitors and crews associated with the film industry of Bangladesh are interested in healthy cine-culture in Bangladesh is one of the essential goals.

Bidhan Rebeiro

He is the editor of Cinema Dorshon, He graduated in computer science and has completed his Masters from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University.

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