



Kolkata International Film Festival
(Accredited by FIAPF)
8-15 January 2021

Festival Diary

ISSUE NO. 9

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CINEMA WINS AGAINST ALL ODDS



The evening had finally arrived to say adieu to the Kolkata International Film Festival in its 26th edition, but not before it sparkled and glowed one last time with the galaxy of dignitaries on stage. The Chief guest of the evening Janab Firhad Hakim graced the occasion with Member of Parliament and renowned actor Nusrat Jahan, film makers Goutam Ghose, Srijit Mukherjee, Haranath Chakraborty, Arindam Sil and Sudeshna Roy. Santanu Basu, the I&CA Secretary and also the Director General of the Festival was present along with Nairanjana Bhattacharya, Director, Films. The Chairman of the festival Raj Chakraborty and the Director of the Festival and the CEO of Nandan Mitra Chatterjee was present at the helm of things. It was for the first time that the closing ceremony was being held in the open air Ektara Mancha, and the public had free access to witness the event. And they turned up enthusiastically in

large numbers. The evening started with Harekrishna Haldar and troupe's Srihol performance which set the tone for the rest of the evening.

This was followed by the award ceremony compered by actor Saheb Chatterjee. The members of the jury had judged all the films online due to the Covid situation. With the announcement of each award, the winners spoke live virtually from different corners of the world. In the end Raj Chakraborty thanked the Chief Minister for her support and encouragement, as well as everyone in the KIFF team for making the festival happen successfully in these challenging times, and so did Mr Mitra Chatterjee and Nairanjana Bhattacharya.

The festival had truly beaten the virus through innovation, enterprise, creative thinking and technology. Cinema in its 24 or 25 frames triumphed and so did the cine-lovers of Kolkata.



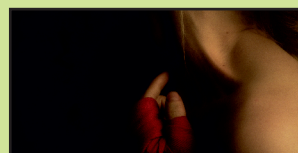
AND THE PRIZE GOES TO...



BEST FILM
(Innovations in Moving Images)
GOLDEN ROYAL BENGAL TIGER
(Rs. 51,00,000)
BANDER BAND
Iran / 2020
DIR: MANIJEH HEKMAT



BEST DIRECTOR
(Innovations in Moving Images)
GOLDEN ROYAL BENGAL TIGER
(Rs. 21,00,000)
SHAMBALA
Kyrgyzstan / 2020
DIR: ARTYKPAI SUIUNDUKOV



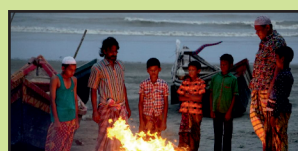
SPECIAL JURY MENTION
(Innovations in Moving Images)
CERTIFICATE ONLY
BLINDFOLD
Ukraine / 2020
DIR: TARAS DRON



BEST FILM
Indian Languages
Hiralal Sen Memorial Award
(Rs. 7,00,000)
FALSE EYE
(KOLLA NOTTAM)
Malayalam / 2019
DIR: RAHUL RIJI NAIR



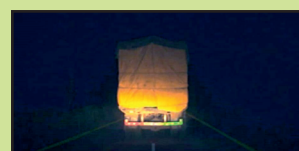
BEST DIRECTOR
Indian Languages
Hiralal Sen Memorial Award
(Rs. 5,00,000)
GOD ON THE BALCONY
(BALCONITE BHOGOBAN)
Assamese / 2020
DIR: BISWAJIT BHORA



BEST FILM
(Asian Select: NETPAC)
CERTIFICATE
THE SALT IN THE WATER
(NONAJOLER KABBO)
Bangladesh / 2020
DIR: REZWAN SHAHRIAR SUMIT



BEST SHORT
National Competition
GOLDEN ROYAL BENGAL TIGER
(Rs. 5,00,000)
DUSK
2020
DIR: UJJWAL PAL



BEST DOC
National Competition
GOLDEN ROYAL BENGAL TIGER
(Rs. 3,00,000)
HIGHWAYS OF LIFE
2019
DIR.: AMAR MAIBAM



MOMENTS IN TIME



ON THE 'HIGHWAY'

Director and cinematographer Amar Maibam and co-cinematographer Vivek Paul elaborated on how destiny and love for cinema united them to create an intriguing documentary *Highways of Life*, showcasing a detailed picture of the lives of Manipur's highway truckers plying their trade as far as the Myanmar border. They spoke of the challenges of filming on highways and shared interesting snippets from their shoot.



REALITY AND INNOCENCE



Director Bishikh Talukar introduced his film *Titli* which explores the story of how television and reality shows snatch away a child's innocence. This film was one of Soumitra Chatterjee's last

works. Soumitra Chatterjee had lauded the concept as he felt if made well the film could go places.

AN IDEAL LIFE

On Friday, director Raju Debnath spoke to the press about their film *Beautiful Life's* making and ideation. Debnath thanked actor Rituparna Sengupta for not only acting in the film but also for her contribution in its making. The film revolves around aspects of human interactions to achieve an ideal life. Cinematographer Shantanu De mentioned how his perspective about the film's visuals normally matched with Debnath's which helped him to navigate the film's course. Music director Shantanu Basu, background score director Subhayu, executive producer Praditpta Sengupta and actor Debosmita Banerjee were also present.

