



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

Festival Diary

ISSUE NO. 1

8th January, 2021

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

CELEBRATING 26TH KIFF
8-15 JANUARY 2021



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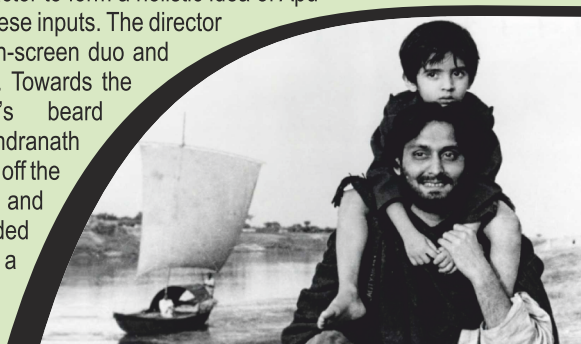
WEAR MASK | CARRY SANITISER | MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE

Inaugural Film **Apur Sansar**

In 2020, we lost a gem from the world of cinema - actor, thinker, artist, poet, possibly everything that a creative mind could be - Soumitra Chatterjee. For the 26th edition of KIFF, the actor's debut film 'Apur Sansar', directed by Satyajit Ray, will be screened as the inaugural film today, at Rabindra Sadan, after the Opening Ceremony.

'Apur Sansar' (1959) was the final film of the Apu Trilogy, the prequels being 'Pather Panchali' (1955) and 'Aparajito' (1956). Ray's 'Apur Sansar' actually came into being when the director met a young man before the making of 'Aparajito' (1956) who had come to audition for the film. But Ray found him too matured for the role. Eventually, he envisioned the character of older Apurba in 'Apur Sansar' keeping Soumitra Chatterjee in mind. On the sets of 'Jalsaghar' (1958), Ray took Soumitra Chatterjee to actor Chhabi Biswas and said, "Chhabi Da, this is the Apu of my film Apur Sansar". Although taken aback Chatterjee was awestruck. Thus began the journey of Soumitra Chatterjee as an actor. 'Apur Sansar' also happened to be Sharmila Tagore's debut film. Tagore was in her early teens yet she had a deep insight into Aparna's character and the concept of marriage. Soumitra Chatterjee, on the other hand, maintained a diary during the making of the film. For the unaccounted times when Apu does not appear in the script, the actor used to sketch the whereabouts of the character and noted his thoughts and actions. This helped the actor to form a holistic idea of Apu and Ray never discouraged these inputs. The director brought out the best in the on-screen duo and nurtured them as performers. Towards the end of the film, Chatterjee's beard reminded Ray of young Rabindranath Tagore. 'Apur Sansar' sparked off the terrific duo of Satyajit Ray and Soumitra Chatterjee who ended up working together on a plethora of iconic films.

- Zoya Khan



EXHIBITIONS

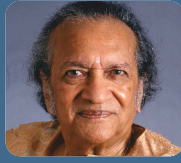
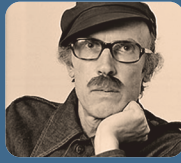
The life of Soumitra Chattopadhyay, a personality close to the Bengali cine-audience will be celebrated through a detailed exhibition at the Nandan foyer as part of the festival. All aspects of his multi-faceted career are being projected through the display. Many well known artists, poets and his family have contributed through write-ups and resource material.

Federico Fellini, the Italian film director and screenwriter, recognised as a maestro all over the world is also being feted through an exhibition put together in association with The Fellini Foundation for Cinema (Sion). He completes his centenary in 2020.

Eric Rohmer, possibly the last of the post-WW2 French New Wave directors also completes his centenary and KIFF pays tribute to this prolific director, critic, journalist, novelist and screenwriter through an exhibition.

Three other Centurions related to films are also being commemorated through an exhibition at the Gaganendra Pradarshanshala. The sitar-maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, who gave music to the Apu Trilogy; Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, the voice that held Indians enthralled through four decades; and Bhanu Bandopadhyay, the Bengali comic-actor who was a star in his own right.

- Somak Simlai



26th KIFF POTPOURRI OF FILMS, TRIBUTES AND CELEBRATION

This year, the 26th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) brings to you a bouquet of 82 feature films and 50 short and documentary films from 45 countries to be screened at 8 festival venues.

The categories in the Competition Section are as follows: International Competition named "Innovation in Moving Images" featuring 9 films.

Competition in Indian Language Films comprising 10 films. Asian Select named Network for Promotion of Asian Cinema or NETPAC featuring 6 films.

Competition in Short Film comprising 20 films.

Competition in Documentary Film featuring 10 films.

Apart from this there are 8 Bengali Feature Films under Bengali Panorama section, 16 films under Contemporary World Cinema section and 3 films under Special Screening section.

2020 took away several luminaries of the cinematic world. KIFF pays its humble tribute to them in the Special Tribute section. In this star-studded gallery we have legendary Soumitra Chattopadhyay, veteran Argentine director Fernando Solanas,

internationally celebrated and controversial South Korean film director Kim Ki-Duk, Bollywood's "chronicler of simple romances" Basu Chatterjee, Rishi Kapoor regarded as one of the most romantic actors in the history of Indian cinema, icon and inimitable Irrfan Khan, celebrated Bengali actor Tapas Pal, renowned Indian dancer and choreographer Amala Shankar and acclaimed Bengali actor Santu Mukhopadhyay.

In Centenary Tribute, KIFF celebrates the life of Italian film director and screenwriter Federico Fellini, visionary French film director, critic, screenwriter journalist, novelist and teacher Eric Rohmer, Bharat Ratna awardee Indian sitar virtuoso and composer Ravi Shankar who gave music to four of Satyajit Ray's classics - 'Pather Panchali', 'Aparajito', 'Apu Sansar' and 'Paras Pathar', eminent Indian singer and music director Hemanta Mukhopadhyay who had also produced several films and legendary Bengali actor and stand up comedian Bhanu Bandopadhyay.

In the light of National Youth Day Celebration on January 12, KIFF will screen 4 films on Swami Vivekananda.

- Seamonti Chaudhuri

Screening Venues Eight (8)

Name of Theatre	Nearest Metro Station/Bus Stop	Occupancy
Nandan I	Rabindra Sadan Metro/ Exide Crossing Bus Stop	463
Nandan II	Rabindra Sadan Metro/ Exide Crossing Bus Stop	79
Nandan III	Rabindra Sadan Metro/ Exide Crossing Bus Stop	50
Rabindra Sadan	Rabindra Sadan Metro/ Exide Crossing Bus Stop	506
Sisir Mancha	Rabindra Sadan Metro/ Exide Crossing Bus Stop	143
Rabindra Okakura Bhavan	Shobha Bazar Metro/City Centre 1 Bus Stop	129
Chalachitra Satabarsha Bhavan	Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Metro/ M.R. Bangur Hospital Bus Stop	72
Kolkata Information Centre	Rabindra Sadan Metro/ Exide Crossing Bus Stop	33

Delegates & Press Registration Entry System in Cinema Hall

- Delegate Fee waived by the State Government this year.
- Applications through online [www.kiff.in] (for Press and Delegates), to be collected from KIC.
- All the Delegate cards, Press cards and Guests cards will have unique QR Code printed on them.
- Contactless entry in venues through online booking system "Book My Show" - Available in Play Store (Android) / AppStore (IOS).
- Booking through online system only.
- One person can book one seat for each show.
- Online seat booking will start from 10 am, two days before the scheduled date of viewing of films.
- The M-ticket scanning will be done at the entry point of each auditorium before each show.
- All the Delegates, Press and Guests have to sit only at earmarked seats to avoid physical contact.
- In case of non-smart phone holder, necessary support for booking will be made through help desk at each venue.

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