



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

# Festival Diary

ISSUE NO. 2

9<sup>th</sup> January, 2021



## The Magic of Cinema is Back!

The inaugural ceremony of the 26th edition of Kolkata International Film Festival opened virtually with the Chief Minister of West Bengal welcoming everyone from Nabanna Sabhaghar to the first physical International Film Festival in India post Covid situation. June Maliah and Parambrata Chatterjee, the moderators of the evening, welcomed the dignitaries from the film world who had turned up for the inauguration ceremony braving the pandemic in their fineries. For that star-lit moment people seemed to have overcome their fears and agony of the dreaded virus, and were flying on the magic broom once more to a future full of hope and new beginnings in cinema following Covid norms.

Raj Chakraborty, Chairman of KIFF announced "We have done this during such testing times." He thanked the Chief Minister for her support, enthusiasm and optimism which made the holding of the Festival possible even during these gloomy times. "Even if the scale might seem slightly small compared to the previous years, the spirit and significance remains the same." Chakraborty urged the attendees to "bring back the habit of watching films in movie halls."

The festival logo for the 26th year was launched along with glimpses of films under the centenary category and a special screening in fond remembrance of the works of Soumitra Chatterjee.

Actor Shah Rukh Khan, the brand ambassador of West Bengal, present virtually, delivered a speech with his usual warmth. "2020 has been the worst of years and what I have learnt is that in this whole wide world nothing matters more than your family. Kolkata is my family. Bengal is my family. This country is my family. We have the talent and opportunity that many people do not have. Let's spread that positivity and love through entertainment."

Mamata Banerjee released the brochure of the festival and expressed her gratitude to everyone who made this festival possible. She lamented the loss of the stars who have left us last year. She particularly lamented the demise of the legendary actor Soumitra Chatterjee, whose daughter Poulomi was amongst those present. When the tribute to Chatterjee was played out she was visibly moved and had tears in her eyes.

The Director General of the 26th edition of KIFF, Santanu Basu said "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". He mentioned how the preparations began with a lot of trepidation and went onto thank the Chief Minister for her infectious charm without which the celebration of films in its full grandeur would not be possible.

- Sukanya Deb





## UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Satyajit Ray Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Anubhav Sinha, today at Sisir Mancha at 3:30pm. Mr. Sinha will be speaking on the topic "Social Responsibilities in Mainstream Indian Cinema".

## OF LOVE & LOSS : 2021 YEARNING FOR APUR SANSAR

“ Apur Sansar being the inaugural film of the 26th edition of KIFF, especially after the demise of the prolific Soumitra Chatterjee - triggered a spectrum of emotions in the hearts of those in the audience:

- This is my first time in the Kolkata International Film Festival and I'm delighted to be here. I am a huge Soumitra Chatterjee, as well as Feluda fan and watching him on screen in his debut today was extremely overwhelming. - **Srestha Paul**
- Soumitra Chatterjee's portrayal of the love and pain in Apu touches the heartstrings. The scenes with young Aparna filled my heart. Apur Sansar as a film goes beyond its text because of the electricity the actors share, an electricity that mingles with the audience's pulse. - **Dhritiman Ganguly**
- With the eyes of a wanderer and ever enchanting smile, Soumitra Chatterjee brought a distinctive shade to the character of Apu which we all can relate to when in distress or in pain. We find Apu within ourselves, lost yet not broken, devastated yet not disillusioned. - **Sudeep Das**
- The film eloquently narrates the facets of friendship. - **Abhishek Chakraborty**
- Apur Sansar' intimately deals with Ray's understanding of the intricacies of human nature, which is universal. - **Somraj Banerjee**
- He made Apu in Apur Sansar a hero, but not of a novel, a saga or a film, but a hero that we all have inside us. - **Srutayu Bhattacharya**



## EXHIBITIONS INAUGURATION

- **Journey of a Legend** - An exhibition on the life and works of Soumitra Chatterjee will be inaugurated by director Goutam Ghose along with Prosenjit Chatterjee at 2:00pm. The exhibition will be displayed at Nandan Foyer.
- **Remembering the Maestros** - The centenary exhibition on the life and works of Pandit Ravi Shankar, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay & Bhanu Bandopadhyay will be inaugurated by actor Prosenjit Chatterjee at 2:30pm at Gaganendra Pradarshanshala.
- **Fantastic Fellini** - The exhibition on Federico Fellini's journey as a filmmaker and screenwriter will be inaugurated by the Gianluca Rubagotti, Ph.D, Consulate General of Italy in Kolkata.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Online booking for cinemas for the 26th Kolkata International Film festival through **BookMyShow** will be honoured till 10th January, 2021 and seats will be reserved accordingly (as booking two days in advance has been specified). Viewers will be able to avail of their booking till the 10th. Unreserved seats that have not been booked online, will be available to press, delegate and guest card holders by virtue of their cards (only if seats have not been booked. This is up to 10.01.2021).

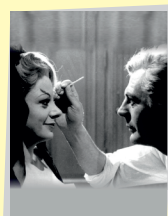
From 11th January till end of the festival no online ticket booking will be required. Delegate, press and guest cards will be honoured for entry into shows provided Covid norms and physical distancing is adhered to at the entry queue.

-KIFF committee



Topic : Soumitra Chattopadhyay : Journey of a Legend  
Venue : Ektara Mancha  
Time : 5pm.  
Moderator : Sumon Ghosh  
Speakers : Goutam Ghose, Rituparna Sengupta, Sohini Sengupta, Poulami Bose, Sougata Chatterjee, Sudipta Chakraborty, Paoli Dam,

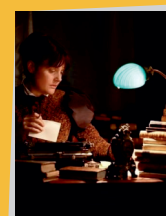
## Editor's Pick



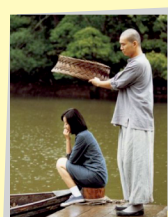
**8½**  
1963 | Black & White | 138 mins  
Director : Federico Fellini  
Country : Italy  
Nandan I



**In Between Dying**  
2020 | Colour | 88 mins  
Director : Hilal Baydarov  
Country : Azerbaijan  
Chalachchitra Satabarsha Bhavan



**Miss Marx**  
2020 | Colour | 107 mins  
Director : Susanna Nicchiarelli  
Country : Italy  
Chalachchitra Satabarsha Bhavan



**Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...And Spring**  
2003 | Colour | 103 mins  
Director : Kim Ki-Duk  
Country : South Korea  
Nandan I



**Karbala Katha**  
2020 | Colour | 39 mins  
Director : Sourav Sarangi  
Country : India  
Nandan III



**Mulk**  
2018 | Colour | 140 mins  
Director : Anubhav Sinha  
Country : India  
Rabindra Sadan

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