

9th BENGALURU INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL – BIFFES 9

Bengaluru International Film Festival from its humble beginning in 2006 has now grown into a major cultural event of the city and an important film festival of the country. The 9th edition is by far the biggest with as many as **250 films screened across 15 theatres in two cities, Bengaluru & Mysuru**, surpassing other festivals in India in terms of quality, quantity, public & Industry participation, Filmmakers' enthusiasm and academic activities.

There were more than 125 guests from abroad and India. There were film makers, Critics, film festival organizers and programmers/curators. Large number of Kannada film Directors, Artists and film makers participated. **19 guests from abroad included representatives from Egypt, Ghana, Italy, Russia, Israel, UK, Poland, Sri Lanka, China, Kyrgyzstan, and Canada.** Representatives of Overseas Consulates and cultural centres in Bengaluru also attended the festival. Celebrities from outside who attended the festival are:

Hala Khalil, Filmmaker, Egypt, Africa

Priscilla Anany, Filmmaker, Ghana, Africa

Mahesh Aney, Cinematographer, Mumbai

Suryaprakash A, Chairman, Prasara Bharathi, New Delhi

Shravana Kumar, CEO, Children's Film Society of India, Mumbai

Suhasini Manirathnam, Chennai

Vetrimaaran, Filmmaker, Chennai

Jacek Fuksiewicz, Film Critic, Board member, Polish Film Institute, Poland

Dan Wolman, Filmmaker, Israel

Arun Khopkar, Author-Filmmaker, Mumbai

Bhupender Khainitola, Director, FTII, Pune

Lechi Massimo, Film Critic, Italy

Brinda Muralidhar, Filmmaker, Canada

The festival hosted various forums for academic interactions like seminars, Workshops, Master classes etc., for the benefit of film professionals, discerning audiences and students on different aspects of cinema. The subjects of discussions were Cinematography, Future of Children Cinema, Gender Sensitivity, Documentary Film making, Script to Film, Film Criticism and promotion of Asian regional cinema in various film festivals.

Total number of delegates were 7200 in Bengaluru and nearly about 1000 in Mysuru and attendance was an average of over 90%. All the prime time shows were full to the brim and many had to be turned away for lack of seats. It was indeed an overwhelming participation by the cineastes. The revenue from delegate fees has gone up by 25% over last year's figure and has crossed 19 lakh as compared to the previous edition's collection of around 15 lakh.

The different sections at the festival were:

1. **Cinema of the World**
2. **Asian Cinema Competition**
3. **Chitrabharati (Indian Cinema) Competition**
4. **Kannada cinema Competition**
5. **Kannada Cinema – Popular Entertainment**
6. **Retrospectives –Zoltan Fabri-Hungary, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Bengal-India) and Harini (Kannada-India)**
7. **Country Focus – Luxembourg, Egypt and Vietnam**
8. **Grand Classics- French Cult Comedies**
9. **Homages – Andrzej Wajda-Poland, Abbas Kiarostami-Iran, Paul Cox-Australia, J. Rivette & Raoul Cottard-France J. Jayalalitha, M. Balamuralikrishna, Om Puri, Sanket Kashi, Srihari Khoday & Dr. Ashok Pai**
10. **Centenary Tribute – B.S. Ranga, G.V. Iyer, Kemparaj Urs, M.K. Indira**
11. **FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) award winners**
12. **Network for promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) award winners**
13. **Special Themes: Women Power**
14. **Documentary films – Retrospective of Haskell Wexler, USA**
15. **Bio Pics**
16. **Unsung Incredible India-Films from less known languages & Dialects**
17. **Dr. Ambedkar-125 years remembrances**
18. **Dr. Srinath, 50 years in Kannada Cinema**

Like in the previous editions Competitive sections for Asian, Indian and Kannada Cinema were also held with handsome Cash prizes.

The following films won the prizes:

ASIAN CINEMA (NETPAC Jury):

BEST ASIAN FILM: A Father's Will (Kyrgyzstan) Directed by Bakyt Mukul & Dastan Zhapar Uulu
KANNADA FILM: Uppina Kagada Directed by B. Suresha

CHITRABHARATHI - INDIAN FILMS COMPETITION

BEST FILM : Harikatha Prasanga - Kannada, Directed by: Ananya Kasaravalli
SPECIAL JURY AWARD: Lathe Joshi – Marathi, Directed by : Mangesh Joshi
SPECIAL JURY MENTION: Kaadu Pookkunna Neram –Malayalam Directed by: Dr. Bijukumar D
FIPRESCI – INDIA
CRITICS JURY AWARD: Loktak Lairembee – Manipur Directed by: Haobam Paban Kumar

KANNADA CINEMA COMPETITION

BEST FILM :	Rama Rama Re	Director: D. Satyaprakash
SECOND BEST FILM:	Pallata	Director: Raghu. S.P
THIRD BEST FILM:	Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu	Director: Hemanth M. Rao

KANNADA CINEMA – POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT

MOST POPULAR FILM:	Kotigobba 2	Director: K. S. Ravikumar
II MOST POPULAR FILM:	Jaggudada	Director: Raghavendra Hegde
III MOST POPULAR FILM:	Dodmane Hudga	Director: Soori

Almost all the feedbacks from the participants have been positive.

All in all, the event was a very successful one.