

CINE CENTRAL, CALCUTTA

2 CHOWRINGHEE ROAD, KOLKATA – 700 013

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Annual Report of Cine Central, Calcutta for the period 1st April, 2011 to 31st March 2012, placed at the Biennial General Meeting on 28th August, 2012 at 6.30 p.m. at Paschimbanga Bangla Academy, 1/1 AJC Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020.

Dear Members,

On behalf of our Hon'ble President and Members of the Executive Committee, I heartily welcome you to this Biennial General Meeting.

It is a matter of pride that your society will be completing 47 years' of its glorious contribution in the film society movement.

It has become a cliché when every year we say that film society movement is in deep crisis. The fact remains that when film industry is flourishing, the film appreciation movement is floundering. Perhaps not moving with the changing times has put the film society in a difficult spot. We feel this is high time to change direction of the film society movement. Need of the hour is to arrange seminar and interactive session for young audience with the film makers. It is also necessary to hold technical as well as aesthetic workshop to help the film loving people to understand the craft of film making, which will help them to differentiate between good film and pop culture cinema.

At the cost of repeating allow me to quote from an earlier report, "On one hand, there is dwindling number of members; on the other, there is acute dearth of new film prints. The advancement and spread of technology - TV, Video, and Internet—has enabled the viewers to see films in the comfort of their drawing rooms. **But there is no substitute of viewing a cinema with hundred of spectators and sharing the same emotions at the same time. We believe that as long as Film as a medium exists, Film Society will continue to play an important role**".

In our march towards **50th Anniversary** we need your active help and support. We need both manpower support and financial help. We would request you to please come forward to help the Society in whatever way you can. If you have some

spare time, please do visit our office - your active participation will surely be useful to the society.

Now I present the report on the yearly activities. But before we continue further, it is necessary to pay homage to the departed souls of those who rendered their lives for the betterment of our society as a whole.

IN MEMORIAM

We deeply mourn the death of all Film personalities and Film Society activists who passed away in the year just gone by.

In this period we lost one of the pioneers of film society movement Chidananda Dasgupta, who was closely associated with our society. We pay our respectful homage. We also lost Ashoke Roy Majumder, who passed away on 4th September, 2011. Ashoke was a member of the Executive Committee and a dedicated Film Society activist.

We condole the death of two renowned Hindi Film actor Dev Anand and Shammi Kapoor. We also lost Director Gautam Gupta, actor N Vishwanathan, Bhivu Bhattacharjee, Art director Samir Chanda and Still photographer Goutam Rajadhyaksha.

We also deeply mourn the death of young film maker of Bangladesh Tareque Masood, who died in a road accident on 13th August, 2011. We organised a condolence meeting on 26th August, 2011.

We pay homage to the legendary Greek Film Director Theo Angelopolous and Brazilian Director Oscar Maron Filo, who died in Goa at the IFFI 2011.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

This year 11th International Children's Film Festival was successfully organized in multiple venues, from 17th June to 31st August 2011 in collaboration with Nandan (West Bengal Film Centre), Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (Govt. of India) and UNICEF.

The Festival was inaugurated by His Excellency Sri M. K. Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal on 17th June 2011 at Purbashree Auditorium, EZCC, Salt Lake, Kolkata.

Ms. Koel Mallick, eminent actress and Celebrity Advocate for the Girl Child, UNICEF, West Bengal was present as a Special Guest.

Ms. Lori Calvo, State Representative UNICEF and Sri Anup Matilal, Director, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Govt. of India spoke on the occasion. Our president Hon'ble Justice Sri Shyamal Kumar Sen graced the occasion with his presence. Despite inclement weather the gathering was impressive.

In the three month long festival, 40 films from Czech Republic, France, China, Germany, USA, India, Japan, Russia, Bangladesh, Iran, Italy, Israel, Netherlands, Poland and many others countries were shown. Five short films made by a group of six underprivileged children and youths of Sanlap with the active cooperation of UNICEF were also shown. The festival films were screened at Purbashree Auditorium (EZCC) and other venues in Kolkata. The festival films were also screened in many Districts with the help of NGOs and Municipalities. About 70,000 children participated in the festival, which was free of charge.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF NEW CINEMA

Our most important programme International Forum of New Cinema was held from 11th to 17th November, 2011, at Metro Cinema. Like in the past, this week-long Film Festival in this year also gave the cine lovers glimpses of current film trends of many important film producing countries.

Being Silver Jubilee year, the inaugural ceremony, held on Friday, 11 November 2011 at Metro Cinema, was befitting to the occasion. It was gala, glittering and packed assemble of discerning viewers. One has to look 25 years back to feel the immense pride, the sense of achievement, euphoria and happiness of that evening. The stage was shining with august presence of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Sri M.K. Narayanan, the doyen of Indian Cinema Sri Mrinal Sen, legendary film actor Sri Soumitra Chatterjee, veteran film actress Smt. Sabitri Chatterjee, popular & powerful Hero and Chairman of Kolkata Film Festival Sri Ranjit Mallick, our President Justice Sri Shyamal Kumar Sen, Director of KFF Sri Yadav Mondal, and our vice-president Dr. Biswajiban Majumdar.

Smt. Sabitri Chatterjee, while accepting Satyajit Ray Life Time Achievement Award, said that she would

ever cherish this memorable award as she never acted in any films of Ray.

A set of six picture postcards, compiled by our founder member and renowned philatelic expert Sri Dipok Dey, titled 'Memorable Melodies' was released at the inaugural function as a tribute to the legendary film actor Ashok Kumar on the occasion of his Birth Centenary.

After the function Mrs. Catherine Masud, Producer and wife of Tarique Masud, director of the film presented the inaugural film "Runway".

The entire programme of **International Forum of New Cinema** was divided into different segments to accommodate 48 Films. In **Panorama of World Cinema**, we screened contemporary films from Europe, Latin America and Asia. In the **Focus Section** a package of five Dutch films was presented. In the **Spotlight Section**, films from France, Cuba and Hungary were shown. A package of Korean and Mexico films were screened in the **Glimpses Section**. In our **Retrospective Section** five films each of renowned Czech Director Jan Nemeč and veteran Taiwan Film maker Hsiao-Hsien-Hou were screened. In the **Homage Section** we presented Two films of Michael Cacoyannis, the renowned Greek film director who died in July, 2011. Five Contemporary films was shown in the programme **New Turkish Cinema**. On last day 17th November, 2011 a closing ceremony was held in which Sri Sunil Gangopadhyay, noted writer and president Sahitya Academy was the Chief Guest.

We are grateful to the Govt. of West Bengal and Kolkata Chalachitra Utsav Committee for providing us financial grant and other infrastructural facilities to make the festival a success.

GENERAL FILM-SHOWS AND FUNCTIONS

Film shows continues to be our regular event. This year we have screened 40 films. I would now like to mention some important programmes.

To commemorate the 60 years of making of the famous French classic film "The River" by Jean Renoir, we arranged a photographic exhibition at Nandan from 11th to 20th April, 2011. The veteran cinematographer and one of the unit members of the film Shri Ramananda Sengupta inaugurated the exhibition. Mr. Alexandre Martinez, Director Alliance Francaise du Bengale was the guest in chief. The entire collection was from Shri Arun Kumar Roy who also spoke on the occasion.

A documentary film festival under the title 'Portraits of Paris' was organised in Nandan in association with Alliance Francaise du Bengale on 26th and 27th May, 2011. We celebrated the 80th Birth Anniversary of legendary film director Jean Luc Godard with the screening of three films in May and June, 2011.

To express our solidarity with the Tohoku earthquake which shook Japan in March 2011 we organised a special programme with two Japanese films.

To mark the 150th Anniversary of great poet Rabindranath Tagore we hold a special programme on 20th December, 2011. A documentary film "Images Unbound – Life and time of Tagore" made by young film maker Mujibor Rahman was screened.

To pay tribute to the legendary ever young actor-director Dev Anand we organised a special programme on 20th January, 2012 at Nandan, where 'C I D' was shown.

Sikkim — the long missing documentary of Satyajit Ray was released to the public by Sri Sandip Ray at a colorful function at Nandan on 19th January, 2012. We collaborated with Angel Video to arrange this programme.

On February this year we presented a session of five films in which renowned actor, singer and director Kishore Kumar was in the lead role. Shri Amit Kumar, son of Kishore Kumar inaugurated the programme and well known film director Shri Sandip Ray was the chief guest.

EUROPEAN UNION FILM FESTIVAL

This year the European Union Film Festival showcased a package of 19 films from 19 countries. The festival was inaugurated by Prof. Piotr Klodkowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland on 11th April, 2011 at Nandan. An exhibition of Polish School Posters dedicated to film, theatre and opera was also arranged at the venue. I am happy to state that European Union has made Cine Central, Calcutta the lead organiser of the festival in this city.

In January this year we have had the privilege to host a special programme "Celebrating European Culture with Children and Youth", under the title European Union Sanskriti Festival in which 12 films from 12 E U countries were screened. Ms. Sara Aulin, First Secretary (Economic, Commercial and Cultural Affairs), Embassy of Sweeden in New Delhi inaugurated the festival on 5th January 2012. Eminent film director Shri Sandip Ray, Shri Ranajit Nobis, Hony. Consul, Embassy of Sweden in

Kolkata, Shri Yadav Mondal, CEO Nandan also spoke on the occasion.

ALOK CHANDRA CHANDRA MEMORIAL LECTURE

7th Alok Chandra Chandra Memorial Lecture was delivered by Sri Sanjay Mukhopadhyay, Professor of Film studies, Jadavpur University on 20th July, 2011 at Nandan-III. This year the theme of the talk was "Bangalir Adhunikata : Bangla Chhayachabi".

BOOK FAIR

This year also we set up a very attractive stall at Kolkata Book Fair, which attracted a large number of visitors. There was huge rush of the film enthusiasts in our stall to have rare DVD or Film Books. Like in the past we arranged to sale DVD/ CD of classic Cinema in collaboration with Angel Video.

PUBLICATION

In the Book Fair we published a monograph on Satyajit Ray. We also published a illustrated script on Bengali Film "Moner Manush—Chitranatya Ityadi" edited by Nirmal Dhar. This book was released by Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt. Mamata Banerjee at Writers' Building.

LIBRARY

During this period we procured four new books and some film journals. Our effort to reorganise the library could not be succeeded as we failed to get the services of a librarian.

FILM MAKING

We are happy to inform you that we have undertaken a programme to produce documentary/short film in digital format. The first such film produce by Cine Central, Calcutta titled "Tunes of Tagore" was funded by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. In this 35 mins. film, directed by Bappa Sen, the influence of classical music on Tagore Song has been highlighted.

NANDAN

We are getting excellent co-operation and support from Nandan (West Bengal Film Centre). Our heartiest thanks to Nandan authority for their help and cooperation. We organized several programmes with Nandan during this period.

UNICEF

Like in past UNICEF has extended help in organizing International Children's Film Festival. Cine Central, Calcutta has been declared as one of UNICEF's official partner in the cultural activities. We hope in future our cooperation will be more extensive. We express heartiest thanks to the State Representative and officials of UNICEF, West Bengal.

AMERICAN CENTER

American Center invited our members to many Film programmes held at their auditorium. We appreciate their collaboration.

NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE

We are getting all cooperation from NFAI as in the past. We acknowledge their help and support in film appreciation movement.

SATYAJIT RAY FILM & TELEVISION INSTITUTE

We are having excellent cooperation and collaboration with SRFTI. In the last International Forum of New Cinema, a package of Ten films were screened at the institute. It is worth mentioning that we have been given storage space for maintaining a large number of celluloid films donated to us by different Embassies, High Commissions and International Film Institutes. We expect more cooperation and collaboration from SRFTI in the days to come.

ROOPKALA KENDRA

Roopkala Kendra always invites our members to their festival and special programme whenever organized. We appreciate their gesture towards our society.

FFSI & OTHER FILM SOCIETIES

We are maintaining good relations with FFSI. We hope, FFSI will take more initiative to strengthen Film Society movement. We are having cordial relations with all film societies in India and whenever possible we extend our help and co-operation to other film societies.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

During the period under review, we had four meetings of the executive committee to discuss programmes as well as organizational matters.

You are aware that we could not despatch Monthly

Film Bulletin regularly. After prolong effort we could obtain in the month of March, 2012 RNI (Registered Newspaper of India) Number to get the postal registration. We hope now you will receive the Bulletin regularly.

Members are requested to visit our website and keep contact with our office by phone or personally in the first week of every month for programme information. You are also requested to record mobile and e-mail number with our office. We will also intimate show details through SMS & e-mail.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lastly, we extend our sincere thanks to the Film Institutions and agencies of different countries, authorities of different International Film Festivals, Diplomatic Missions of different countries in India and all Consulates of different countries in Kolkata. We also convey our sincere thanks to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Government of West Bengal (Department of Information & Cultural Affairs and Finance), UNICEF, National Film Development Corporation, Doordarshan, All India Radio, all Electronic Channels and all Newspapers.

Our sincere thanks also to Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata Police, Agricultural Income Tax Authority, Kolkata Chalachitra Utsav, Peerless Inn, Kalpataru (Uttam Mancha), Karukrit, Kolkata University Institute, Tapan Sinha Foundation, Alliance Francaise du Bengale—Culture, American Center, Kolkata Max Mueller Bhavan, Kolkata Gorky Sadan, Paschimbanga Bangla Academy, Roopkala Kendra, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Bidhan Nagar Municipality, Hotel Lindsay, Peerless General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd. West Bengal Human Rights Commission, Angel Video, Tapan Theatre, Sujata Sadan, Bengal Association, New Delhi, John Mantosh, Dover Lane Music Conference, Arabinda Roy, P C Sircar-Magician, Tower Group, Publishers & Booksellers Guild, Nilmoni Dhar, Mackintosh Burn, Mr. U. Radhakrishnan, Emta Group of Companies, Bengal Phototype, Soumitra Chatterjee, Mrinal Sen, Nirmal Dhar, Dipok Dey.

Lastly our heartiest thanks to all our patrons, sponsors, all Print & Electronic Media, Corporate Houses, well-wishers and members for their help, co-operation and unstinted support.

With personal regards and best wishes,

Sadhan Chakraborty

General Secretary
