

# CINE CENTRAL, CALCUTTA

2 CHOWRINGHEE ROAD, KOLKATA – 700 013

## GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Report on the activities of Cine Central, Calcutta during the period between 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, placed at the Biennial General Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 at 6.00 p.m .held at Paschimbanga Bangla Academy Auditorium, 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.

I take the pleasure to draw your attention that very shortly Cine Central, Calcutta will be completing 45 years' of its glorious contribution to the film society movement. From Road to Life, our first film in 1965, to just-concluded 10th International Children's Film Festival, we have traveled quite a long, arduous journey. When we look back in the past we find that we have achieved remarkable success in bringing world cinema to this city. But a doubt persist, perhaps we could not succeed in making the film appreciation movement really a mass movement. Had it been so the film society would not have been in deep crises as it is today.

You are aware that for the last couple of years in our report we have dealt at length the various changes that have affected the film society movement in our country. Allow me quote from a earlier report, "On the one hand, there is dwindling number of members; on the other hand, 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. So where does film society stand? **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 our Society in whatever way you can. If you have some spare time, please do visit our office - your active participation may be of use to the society.

Friends, now we submit a report on our yearly activities. In this context, we would like to mention that from this year we have adopted April to March Financial Year as the reporting period of our yearly activities. In consequence of which this year our report will include the activities related to the period beginning from August of last year and ending in March of this year. But before we continue we think 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**

During the period under review we had suffered a great loss with the passing away of the towering leader of **Indian Politics Shri Jyoti Basu**.

It is worth recalling that the year when he became the Chief Minister he attended our two important functions. In June 1977, we organized 12 day long festival of Cuban Films along with an exhibition on Cuba at Calcutta Information Centre, Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal inaugurated the programme.

In October 1977, Joyti Basu inaugurated our GDR Film Festival.

In February 1982, we organized International Children's Film Festival and Fair at Calcutta Maidan which was also inaugurated by Jyoti Basu.

In his demise we have lost one of our well wishers. Cine Central Calcutta pays respectful homage to this great leader.

We condole the death of Arun Pramanik Ex-liaison secretary of FFSI (ER), Dilip Sircar of New Theatre's, Nilkantha Sengupta actor & Director of Bengali Theater, Shyamananda Jalan father figure of Hindi theatre in Bengal, Tapen Chattopadhyay, versatile actor, popularly known as 'Goopy Gayen'. In addition to the above we also mourn the recent demise of Shyamal Gupta, famous lyricist of Bengali Songs, Dulal Dutta, renowned Film Editor, Jagdish Chokhani of Navina Cinema & Bharat Lakshmi Studio, Dr. Saroj Gupta of Thkurpukur Cancer Centre & Welfare Home and many others.

## **INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF NEW CINEMA**

International Forum of New Cinema was held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 at Basusree Cinema.

The International Forum of New Cinema has over the years contributed a great deal towards the cause of good Cinema by bringing outstanding films from all over the World and has become a very important milestone in the Cultural Calendar of our City.

In the last edition of our 'International Forum of New Cinema' held within the framework of 'Kolkata Film Festival' altogether 49 Films from 26 countries were shown.

The major highlights of the Festival were Panorama of World Cinema, Retrospective of renowned Japanese director Mikio Naruse. This is first time retrospective of Mikio Naruse has been held in this city. Other highlights of the Festival were Spotlight on New Turkish Cinema, French Cinema and Focus on Hungarian and Chinese Cinema. Another interesting package was Panorama of Czech comedy films. There

were eight films included in this section.

2009 marks the 50years of some great Classic Films of the World. To commemorate this golden Jubilee, we presented six unforgettable films, which ushered in new era in the history of cinema.

In the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> November the festival was formally inaugurated by renowned national award winning actor Sri Soumitra Chatteropadhyaya. Eminent director Sri Mrinal Sen, Sri Nilanjan Chattopadhyaya, Director Kolkata Film Festival, Shri Sudhir Nandgankar, General Secretary of Federation of Film Societies of India, Sri Ramendu Chattopadhyay, Chairman Tower Group and Our president Hon'ble Justice Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen and Vice-president Dr. Biswajiban Majumder were also present at the inaugural ceremony.

Ms. Nabila Ibrahim Salama Farhana, Consul General, Consulate of Egypt, Mumbai and Dr. Imre Lazar, Director, Hungarian Cultural Centre, New Delhi attended the Festival as our honoured guests.

Mr. Amit Rai, Director of the film "Road to Sangam" also attended the Festival.

## **GENERAL FILM-SHOWS AND FUNCTIONS**

During the period under review our performance in holding general Film Shows other than our 'International Forum of New Cinema' was quite impressive. We screened. 58 feature films from 13 different countries.

We organized Mongolian Film Session, first time in Kolkata at Nandan-II in December, 2009.

H.E. Mr. Voroshilov Enkhbold, Ambassador of Mongolia inaugurated the Film Session. Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharjee, Mayor of Kolkata, Sri G. G. Dalmia, Hony. Consul of Mongolia in Kolkata and Hon'ble Justice Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen also grace the occasion.

In March, 2010 we screened four major films of great Japanese film Director Akira Kurosawa to pay tribute on the occasion of his Birth Centenary.

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## **BOOK FAIR**

In January-February, 2010 we participated in the 'Kolkata Book Fair' at Milan Mela, where we sold DVD/CD of classic cinema with assistance of Angel Video apart from Books and Magazines of cinema. Our pavilion was visited by quite a large number of people. This year we witnessed long queue of people waiting patiently to enter into our pavilion.

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## **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.

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## **AMERICAN CENTRE**

We organized Woody Allen Film Festival in collaboration with U. S. Consulate General, Kolkata and ICCR Tagore Centre from January 11th to 15th, 2010 at ICCR Satyajit Ray Auditorium.

In addition to the above, American Centre invited our members to five Film programmes held at their auditorium. We appreciate their collaboration.

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## **UNICEF**

UNICEF has extended their help and cooperation 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 and stronger. We express our heartiest thanks to the State Representative and officials of UNICEF, West Bengal.

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## **LIBRARY**

During this period we procured few books and some film journals. We are providing facilities to the interested members and researchers for the use of the library.

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## **NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE**

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

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## **SATYAJIT RAY FILM & TELEVISION INSTITUTE**

We are having excellent cooperation and collaboration with SRFTI. They invite our members for film programmes held at their auditorium and we have been given space for maintaining our archive of quite a large number of celluloid films donated to us by different embassies, high commissions and international film institutes. We expect more cooperation and help from SRFTI in the days to come.

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## **CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY CINE CARNIVAL**

We organised a Cine Carnival of world classics in collaboration with The Calcutta University, the department of Journalism & Mass Communication and American Centre. The programme included interactive session and seminar in addition to the screening of films.

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## **FFSI & OTHER FILM SOCIETIES**

We are maintaining good relations with FFSI. During this period Cine Central, Calcutta and FFSI Jointly organized Malaysian Film Festival at Nandan.

We hope, FFSI will take more initiative to strengthen Film Society movement. We are having good relations with all film societies in India and whenever possible we extend our help and co-operation to the society of this region and other regions too.

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## **ROOPKALA KENDRO**

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

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## **CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE**

We are having good relations with Calcutta University Institute for last few years. CUI

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Auditorium is one of the notable venues for our International Children's Film Festival and screening of some great works of some eminent contemporary film-makers.

## **TOWER GROUP**

We shall be failing in our duty if we do not mention the support we have received from the renowned business house Tower Group. Our sincere thanks to Shri Ramendu Chattopadhyay, Chairman & Managing Director.

## **ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

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

Our Film Bulletin is registered under postal department. Due to which we were getting financial concession to send in our bulletins to our members. But recently postal department intimated us that Cine Central, Calcutta shall have to obtain RNI (Registered Newspaper of India) number to get the financial benefit of postal registration. We have moved the authority to get RNI number. Hope the matter will be solved in a shortwhile. Members are requested to visit our website and keep contact with Cine Central, Calcutta by phone or personally in the first week of every month till the matter is solved.

We are requesting all the members to record their mobile number, e-mail with our office. We are planning to intimate about show dates and venues by SMS/e-mail.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Lastly, we extend our sincerest 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 and Mumbai. 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 Kendra Kolkata, All India Radio, all Electronic Channels and all Newspapers.

Our sincere thanks also to Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata Police, Agricultural Income Tax Authority, Kolkata Chalacitra Utsav, Peerless Inn, Karukrit, Calcutta University Institute, Tapan Sinha Foundation, Alliance Francaise du Bengale, American Centre, Max Mueller Bhavan, Gorky Sadan, Paschimbanga Bangla Academy, Roopkala Kendra, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Bidhan Nagar Municipality, Rishra Municipality, Hotel Lindsay, Peerless General Finance & Investment Co. Ltd. West Bengal Human Rights Commission, Angel Video, Tapan Theatre, Sujata Sadan, Montu Bose, Basusree Cinema, Bengal Association, New Delhi, Amaresh Ganguly, John Mantosh, Dover Lane Music Conference, Arabinda Roy, P C Sircar-Magician, Tower Group, Publishers & Booksellers Guild, Nilmoni Dhar, Mackintosh Burn, Mr. U. Radhakrishnan, Dr Sinjini Bandyopadhyay of Calcutta University, Shri Bikash Mukherjee of Emta Group of Companies and Dr. Reba Som, Director, ICCR, Kolkata.

Lastly our heartiest thanks to all our patrons, sponsors, well-wishers and members for their help, co-operation and unstinted support.

With personal regards and best wishes,

**Sadhan Chakraborty**  
*General Secretary*