



Delhi Metropolitan Education

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#Cinema2020

Cinema 'n Covid-19 impact

CIFFI2020 continues with filmmaking discussions and animation master class on its second day

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Noida: Day 2 of World's First 7-Day Hybrid International Film Festival of India by educational institutions – CIFFI 2020, organised by Delhi Metropolitan Education (DME), Noida, India in association with Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, witnessed two Panel Discussions and a Master Class on December 16.

Panel Discussion on women filmmakers

First Panel Discussion of the day 'Streaming stories: Women filmmakers online' was moderated by Dr Sian Mitchell from the School of Communication and Creative Arts, Deakin University and hosted by Ms Mudita Raj, Academic Associate, DME Media School.

Panellists for the session, Ms Leanne Tonkes, noted producer from Australia, Ms Mitu Bhowmick Lange, film festival director, producer and distributor, Melbourne, and Ms Leena Yadav, Director of films like Parched and Rajma Chawal discussed their work experience in online spaces while underlining the importance of online platforms for women filmmakers. The panel delved into the opportunities and challenges for women filmmakers with the increase of online film festivals and digital streaming services in 2020.

Dr Mitchell emphasised on the role of online media as a platform of content generation and dissemination. She said, "Apart from the pandemic, this year has a lot more discussion on many pertinent issues."

Regarding her perspective on the future, Ms Yadav said, "It's going to be a hybrid world. The pandemic has made people experience streaming platforms."

Talking about combatting misogynistic representation in cinema, Ms Bhowmick claimed, “With a more aware audience, such content will be rejected. Streaming platforms already have a strong code regarding inappropriate content.” Referring to attempts being made for putting OTT platforms being under I&B Ministry, she added, “In the age of Internet, it is better to use the technology and the resources for free expression rather than censoring the content.”

Dr Ambrish Saxena, Festival Director and Dean, DME Media School, encouraged the students to make the most out of such informative sessions. “It is a great opportunity to listen to filmmakers, particularly women filmmakers who have created their own space with offbeat content” he said.

Adding his note on the session, Dr Vikrant Kishore, Festival Director and Course Director- Film, Television & Animation, School of Communication and Creative Arts, Deakin University, Melbourne remarked, “I am happy to see such women heavyweights making a difference in cinema, and paving way for others to make a mark.”

Dr Susmita Bala, Festival Associate Director and Head, DME Media School concluded the sessions with her remarks, “It was enriching and enlightening to listen to such brilliant women filmmakers.”

Master class on ‘Animation in Style’

The panel discussion was followed by a master class on ‘Animation in Style’ by Expert Dr Ashish Kulkarni, Chairman of FICCI for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics. The session also had three promising Indian animation directors – Mr Suresh Eriyat, Mr Vikram Veturi and Mr Vaibhav Kumaresh. The session was hosted by Mr Sachin Nair and Mr Ritwik Ghosh, Assistant Professors at DME Media School.

Talking about animated films’ power of reaching audiences, Dr Kulkarni said, “Animation films are more neutral. They can be translated into many languages and cultures.”

Mr Veturi shared his experience of designing characters for animated films. “There is a relatability factor. We have to adjust the animation to Indian context and standards,”he said. He also explained his working on the animated series - ‘Little Singham’ and ‘Golmaal Jr.’.

Mr Kumaresh showed some of his sketches to the audience and mentioned how the practice of sketching has helped him significantly. “Observing people helps seeing the world in your

own way,” he said. He also presented a few examples of animated short clips of his work ‘Lamput’.

Mr Eriyat expressed his ideas about the importance of drawing by stating, “It is a prerequisite. It plays an important role in animation”. He further displayed a compilation of his animations over the years. Expanding on his work, he mentioned, “The look of the films depends on the brief given. The story is the key to the film.”

Panel discussion with Australian students

The final session of the day was panel discussion on ‘Fiction Filmmaking during COVID- 19: Challenges and opportunities’, which was an interactive session with students of Deakin University. Dr Martin Potter from the School of Communications and Creative Arts, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, moderated the discussion. Ms Kritika Sati, Assistant Professor, DME Media School was the faculty coordinator and host for the session.

Student panellists from Deakin University - Gaden Sousa, Danae Grief, Vinodh Perera, Hannah Foster and Param Walia - shared their experience of filmmaking during the Corona lockdown.

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