



Delhi Metropolitan Education

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#Cinema2020

Cinema 'n Covid-19 impact

**Deliberations on cinema and production upped the ante on the third day of
CIFI2020**

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NOIDA: World's First 7-day Hybrid International Film Festival - CIFI 2020 by educational institutions, paved way for three comprehensive Panel Discussions on cinema and filmmaking along with non-stop film screening during the day on December 17. This festival is being organised by Delhi Metropolitan Education (DME), Noida, India in association with Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia.

Panel Discussion on Women in Indian Cinema

The third day of the film festival started with a Panel Discussion on '*Women in Indian Cinema*'. The session was moderated by Dr Gauri D Chakraborty, Joint Acting Head, Amity School of Communication, Amity University, Noida and hosted by Ms Sukriti Arora, Assistant Professor, DME Media School.

The panelists for the session, Prof. Vinita Dhondiyal Bhatnagar, Professor, Department of Humanities, UIT – RGPV, Ms Priyanka Singh, Cinematographer and filmmaker and Dr Kulveen Trehan, Assistant Professor, University School of Mass Communication, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, talked about women representation in context of Indian cinema.

Prof. Vinita Bhatnagar, while speaking on women representation in Indian cinema, added, "I am looking forward to important women characters, not just films about women."

Ms Priyanka Singh mentioned the need of talks regarding disparity between sexes in Indian cinema industry. She said, "Any problems that need to be solved, needs to be blown out of

proportion so that people take notice". She also called for greater recognition for women filmmakers.

Talking about women being part of filmmaking, Dr Chakraborty commented, "There might be a thinking that certain roles do not fit women which is not true. Great cinema can be produced with women in the process of creation."

Dr Kulveen Trehan talked about feminism and its impact on the idea of masculinity. She said, "These are interesting times. There are films which promotes stereotypical masculinity and also those where the real issues of men are highlighted. There is diversity in masculinity."

Dr Ambrish Saxena, Festival Director and Dean DME Media School, added his take on representation of women in cinema and in society. He said, "If there is larger number of women professional in every field, many issues persisting in society will be solved."

Panel Discussion on Documentary Production during COVID-19

The session was followed by the second Panel Discussion of the day on the topic '*Documentary production during COVID- 19: Challenges and opportunities*'. It was an interactive session with student panelists from Deakin University. The session was moderated by Dr Vikrant Kishore, Festival Director and Course Director-Film, Television & Animation, School of Communication and Creative Arts, Deakin University, Melbourne, and hosted by Izna Amir, student of DME Media School.

The panelists for the session were Andy Porter, Tim Roberts, Jiapei Wu, Sam Sungmin Lee, Sarah Thomas, Ved Sawney and Olia Kobzar (Students from Deakin University). They shared their experience of producing documentary films during the pandemic and the challenges they faced.

Talking about the challenges she faced in filmmaking due to the pandemic, Jiapei said, "COVID-19 limited production and restricted creative workflow. Even though there were challenges, we forced ourselves to be more creative."

Ved explained how the pandemic brought out his creative side. He said, "Making a documentary during the pandemic helped in bringing out the communication and social skills."

Dr Kishore appreciated the efforts put in by the students “It is good to see students working hard and giving their best during the pandemic”, he added. Talking about students pushing boundaries, he suggested, “Do not put you in barriers, and don’t be afraid to reach out for support.”

Dr Ambrish Saxena, Dean, DME Media School, appreciated the zeal and spirit of the students in making films despite pandemic and the consequent restrictions. Dr Susmita Bala, Head, DME Media School, also talked about the commitment of students which, she said is commendable.

Panel Discussion on Children Cinema

The third and final Panel Discussion of the day was moderated by Mr Praveen Nagda, Festival Director, KidzCINEMA2020, and hosted by Ms Krishna Pandey, Assistant Professor, DME Media School. The session saw discussion on the topic ‘What India and the world can learn from and contribute to each other in children’s cinema?’.

The panelists of the final session were Dr Madhu Chopra, Co-Founder of Purple Pebble Pictures, India, Mr Vassilis C Karamitsanis, President, ASIFA HELLAS - Hellenic Animation Association and Animasyros International Animation Festival, Greece, MsFirdozeBulbulia, Festival Director, Nelson Mandela Film Festival, South Africa, Ms Pamela Bisson, Founder of Le Machin Club, Canada and Ms Deepa Kiran, Founder of Story Arts Foundation, India.

Numerous films which are part of CIFFI 2020 were streamed online at its official website throughout the day.

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Contact Person

Mohd Kamil

Assistant Professor

DME Media School

+91-9026058885