

**November 17, 2018 (ICAN 2)**

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**Media academicians from India and Australia discuss cinema at DME**

ICAN<sup>2</sup> 2018-Indian Cinema & Alternate Networks organized by Delhi Metropolitan Education (DME) Media School in collaboration with Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia was formally opened on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the Nelson Mandela Auditorium.

The event commenced with the screening of a curtain raiser film to highlight the conference. Prof. (Dr.) Susmita Bala, Conference Convener, ICAN<sup>2</sup> addressed and welcomed the dignitaries, presenters, media persons, faculty members and students with sheer gratitude.

Chief Guest Mr. Vivek Vaswani, a celebrated film actor, producer and director enlightened the gathering about the huge gap between cinema as a subject and cinema as a profession. While differentiating Hollywood and Bollywood, he explained that the source of funds determine the kind of cinema which is produced.

Dr. Vikrant Kishore, course director- film, TV and animation, Deakin University and also the conference convener, ICAN<sup>2</sup> emphasized on the Indian Cinema and its distinguished narrative style. Dr. Sean Redmond, Professor, Deakin University expressed his fondness for Indian Cinema especially for the movie 'Raja Hindustani'.

Dr. John Cumming, Associate Convener, ICAN<sup>2</sup> acknowledged the efforts and zeal of students and faculty members. He underlined the importance of such conferences for networking and encouraged on the focus given to women participation in the industry.

Prof. (Dr.) Ambrish Saxena, Conference Advisor, ICAN<sup>2</sup> conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the Deakin University for their requisite support for the conference. Dr. Ravikant Swami, Director, DME discussed the relevance of the term ICAN and its meaning.

Ms. Devina Gupta, reporter from BBC news, laid emphasis on how social media plays a key part in getting the stories by the means of her presentation. The event was followed by a documentary on #MeToo made by the DME students. Lastly, Dr. Parul Mehra, Head second shift, DMS presented her vote of thanks.

**DISCUSSION ON PERSONAL ALTERNATIVE FILMMAKING SETS THE STAGE FOR WORKSHOPS**

Film making like any other art is a very profound means of human communication which depicts true stories and emotions.

To discuss various aspects of cinema in regards with personal alternative film-making, the first workshop of ICAN<sup>2</sup> was jointly organized by DME Media School and School of Creative Arts and Communication, Deakin University on the topic Personal Alternative Filmmaking.

The workshop was conducted by Dr. John Cumming, Senior Faculty- Film, Television and Animation School of Communications and Creative Arts, Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University. He is also an independent film maker and has served as President of the Australian Screen Production Education and Research Association.

Dr. Cumming started the workshop by involving participants in various task. Participants were asked to go through a brain storming exercise of expressing their viewpoint on why people make films.

He asked them to interact with each other, sharing their experiences about the act of kindness they have witnessed in life. He further asked them to discuss the injustices prevailing in the society.

During his course of discussion he also laid emphasis on issues like professional-model narrative films, documentary filmmaking and experimental film making.

In this workshop, various films were screened to the audience, to give a detailed overview of filmmaking. The movie titled- Simple Chair produced by James Terry and Emily Love made by Deakin University were showcased in the workshop.

Further Dr. Cumming discussed various social issues like injustice faced by humans and portrayal of such issues in cinema.

While discussing films in terms of production value, Dr Cumming elaborated personal approach, structural approach and dialectal approach.

Dr Cumming also discussed various cinematic approaches like Structural approach and Dialectical approach through films produced by Deakin University.

At last the session was open for the audience to present their views on personal alternative filmmaking.

### **Technical Session 1: Women Centric Films in Bollywood**

The first technical session of ICAN<sup>2</sup> kick started with discussion on the Women Centric Films in Bollywood. The session was chaired by Mr. Nimish Kapoor, Scientist 'E' and Head, Science Films Division Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and was co-chaired by Dr. Saad Ullah Khan, Assistant Professor, School of Media and Communication, Manipal University, Jaipur.

Papers on different themes were presented in the conference. Some of them were 'Bhartiya Cinema Mei Mahilaye Aur Unka Chitran', Liberated women of Bollywood: An analysis of

Coming of Age women-centric films, Content Evolution & Criticism: A study based on women centric films of Bollywood, Condoning the Cinematic Gaze: Addressing the fountainhead of sexism and gender related transgressions, Has Hindi Cinema Come of Age? Representation of Women Centric Issues in Contemporary Times and Woman and burden of post-coloniality: The courtesan film genre (1960-1990).

The best paper presenter award was shared by Ms. Jenitta Sabu and Dr. Kanwaljit Singh.

## **Technical Session 2: Indian Society and Women in Bollywood**

Technical session 2 commenced on the theme Indian Society and Women in Bollywood. It was chaired by Dr. Shahid Rasool, senior academician, researcher and director, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi.

Malvika Singh, Research Scholar, Amity University, Noida presented a paper titled, Bollywood and social transformation: A thematic analysis of Padman.

Vishal Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, CTIHS, Punjab presented the second research paper on Hybrid generic movies breaking stereotypes: Special focus to PK, Toilet: Ek Prem Katha and Padman.

Dr. Manasvini M. Yogi, OSD, DSJ, Delhi University, Delhi presented her paper on Role of Father in Hindi Cinema: Exploring power relations in Indian society through cinematic lens of Bollywood. She bagged the best presenter award for the session.

## **Technical Session 3: Indian Cinema in Digital Age**

The third technical session titled 'Indian Cinema in Digital Age' was chaired by Dr. Asad Nizam, Filmmaker and Deputy Director, Electronic Media Production Centre, IGNOU. The session was co-chaired by Mr. Vishal Sahai, Senior Faculty and Programme Coordinator, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, New Delhi.

The first paper was presented by Himanshu Singh, Research Scholar, National Archives of India. The topic of his paper was Indian Cinema in the Age of Internet. Ramendra Nath Verma, PhD Research Scholar, Sharda University, Greater Noida, presented his paper on 'Indian cinema in the Age of Internet'. The third paper was presented by Yogita Swami, Research Scholar, Manipal University. The title of her paper was 'Changing trend of Indian cinema revisit'.

The best paper presenter was awarded to Ramendra Nath Verma,

#### **Technical session 4: Cinema and Alternative Platforms**

The fourth technical session was based on the theme Cinema and Alternative Platforms. The Chairperson for this technical session was Dr. OP Dewal, Senior broadcaster and Associate Professor, IGNOU, New Delhi and was co-chaired by Mr. Vijay Sharma, Former Journalist and Senior Faculty, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, IMS Noida.

The first paper was presented by Dr. Sharmila Kayal, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Adamas University, Kolkata, West Bengal on the title - Streaming platforms as Stand-alone platforms- A Cable TV Alternative: Analytical study about paradigm shift of gratification in special reference to Kolkata, West Bengal

It was followed by a paper presentation on the topic- Film analysis through a web of networks: A paradigm shift on writings about regional films by Manish Prakash, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and New Media, Central University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir.

The third paper was presented by Dr. Poonam Gaur, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and New Media Studies, IGNOU on Impact of Mobile Technology on consumption of Hindi cinema in rural areas.

While Divyani Redhu, Research Scholar, University School of Mass Communication, GGSIPU, New Delhi presented a paper on Alternate film streaming platforms and youth preferences in Delhi-NCR: An Analysis, Mr. Kamal Pant, Assistant Professor (Visiting), ZIMA, Noida, Uttar Pradesh expressed his opinion through a paper titled 'Bollywood Ka Bhartiya Samaj Par Asar'.

The sixth paper was presented by Ms. Sudarshana Bishnoi, Researcher Scholar, Department of English, Govt. Dungar College Bikaner, Rajasthan on topic Treatment of Sex and Sexuality in Deepa Mehat's Fire. The session ended on a paper presentation by Ms. Ruma Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication on Bollywood in Australia: Analysis of Genre Having Maximum Impact.

Dr. Poonam Gaur and Ms. Divyani Redhu bagged the best paper presenter award.

#### **Plenary Session 1: Representation of women in Indian Cinema**

*"Female characters have always struggled very hard in the industry. It was always the hero who was focused upon."*

These were the words of Ms. Shubhra Gupta, who enlightened the audience with her

contemplative thoughts and facts on the topic 'Representation of Women in Indian Cinema' at ICAN<sup>2</sup> 2018 plenary session. The session was held on November 17, 2018 at Nelson Mandela Auditorium.

The discussion came in action with Ms. Bano's bold and beautiful poem '*Mother India*', in which she wrote about many prominent female characters, and the impact they have left in the society. Shubhra Gupta described cinema as the youngest art form in the planet and explained how it evolved from still photography to cinematography. She expressed her concern by saying that the number of movies showcasing women empowerment is very limited. Ms. Gauri Chakraborty agreed to the statement by adding that cinema is just a 'tip of the iceberg, and it has taken much time to reach the point'.

On the other hand, Dr. Namrata showed an optimistic view in the discussion by saying, 'the status of women in the society is reflected in cinemas'. Her vibrant thought about the raising empowerment brought some cheers to the audience. The question of self-sacrificing portrait of a woman was also raised on the desk along with some contradictory movie examples like Pink, Piku, Queen etc. The informative discussion came to an end with the question answer round.

## **Plenary Session 2**

### **Global Scenario and changing face of Indian Cinema**

Indian cinema has come a long way in the last two centuries. All in all, it has been a long story of nearly nine decades and so we have experienced a vast change in it. The changing face of Indian Cinema is now visible on global level.

For discussing this topic, a plenary session was conducted in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium of Delhi Metropolitan Education (DME). Mr. Vivek Vaswani, eminent actor, producer and director, Dr. Vikrant Kishore, Course Director, Film Television and Animation, Deakin University and Mr. Ashok Purang, actor, producer, graced the session with their presence. It was moderated by Ms. Nancy Kohli, Anchor, Doordarshan News.

Mr. Vivek started the session with his opinion about the evolution of Indian Cinema. While talking about his experience of shooting '*Raju Bann Gaya Gentelman*', Mr. Vaswani informed that technology was very different during the time of its shoot. "Now the technology has changed drastically", he said.

Dr. Vikrant agreed to his point and continued by drawing attention towards the soft culture power brought by Indian Cinema. Mr. Ashok shared his personal experience of film making where he emphasized on his film that did not do well in Indian cinema but did great in South Korea, California and many other countries.

The session continued with the Question Answer segment where many questions were raised and the experts answered enthusiastically. The session ended on a knowledgeable note.

## **DME pays tribute to Indian Cinema through cultural performances in ICAN<sup>2</sup>**

The second day of ICAN<sup>2</sup> galvanized with the entreating dance and music performances. The Nelson Mandela Auditorium of DME was thrilled with blare of applause and enthusiasm in the presence of Ms. Kiran Sahni, Mr. Aman Sahni, Prof. (Dr.) Ambrish Saxena, Prof. (Dr.) Susmita Bala, Dr. Vikrant Kishore and Dr. John Cumming, Mr Vivek Vaswani and Dr. Sean Redmond.

Students of DME Media School showcased their talent in singing, dance and drama. It was inaugurated by a gracious Saraswati Vandana followed by a folk dance performance by Fitoor, Dance society of DME.

The highlight of the event was a musical performance- giving tribute to 60 years of Indian cinema by Alankar DME music society. A Kathak performance given by a first year student took all hearts away.

DME theater society 'Tabeer' presented a play based on one of Manto's story 'License' which was further named "Aaina". The performance of the students earned huge applaudes.

The event ended with a classical performance by Ms. Anupama Kadpal (Classical Vocalist), Mr. Ashique Upadhyay (Harmonium Player) and Mr. Manish Rawat (Tabla Player).