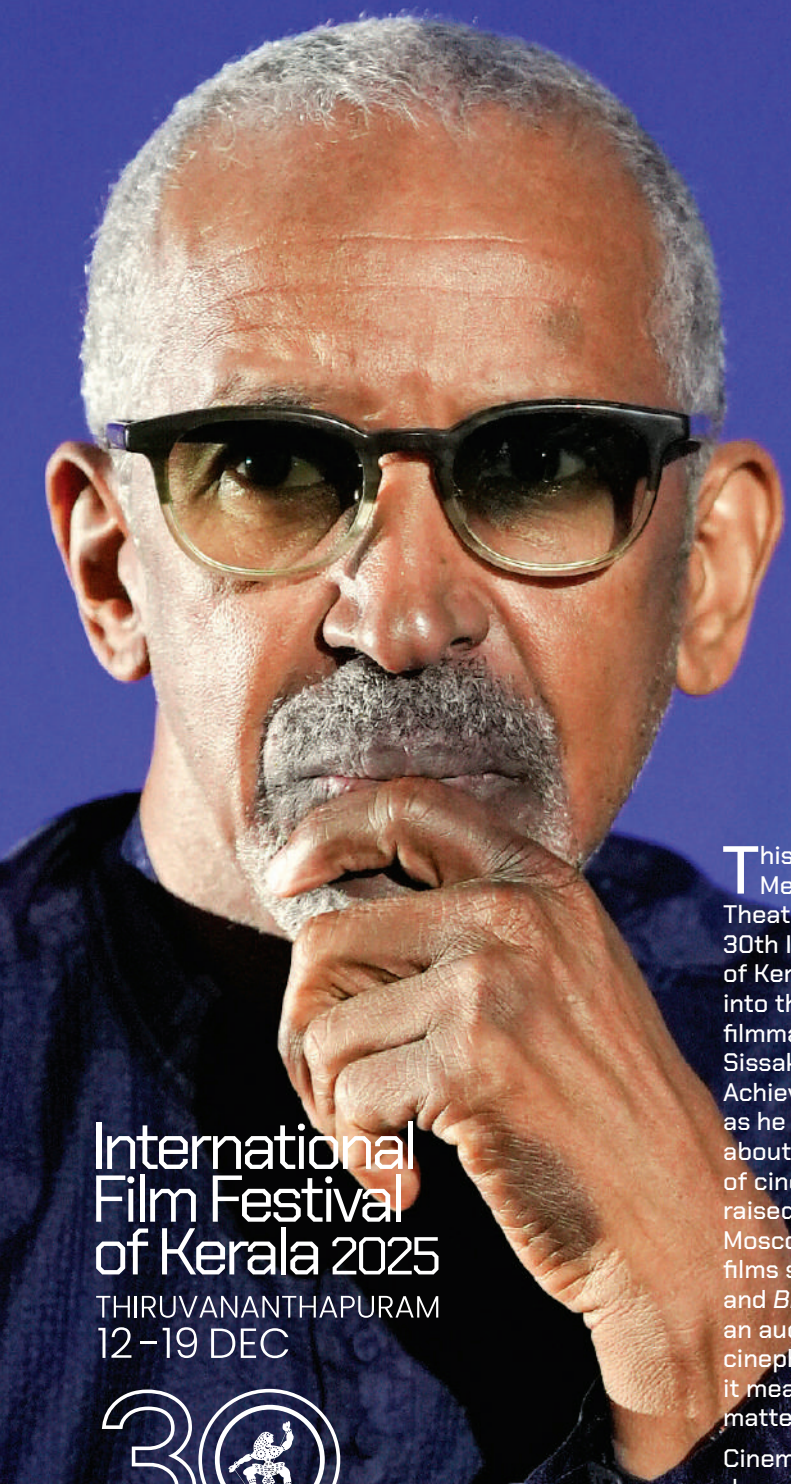


Creation Demands Belief in the Power of Cinema

Abderrahmane Sissako

This year's G. Aravindan Memorial Lecture at Nila Theatre on the fourth day of the 30th International Film Festival of Kerala offered a rare glimpse into the mind of revered African filmmaker Abderrahmane Sissako, the festival's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, as he spoke with piercing clarity about the purpose and power of cinema. Born in Mauritania, raised in Mali and educated in Moscow, Sissako, known for films such as *Timbuktu, Bamako* and *Black Tea*, stood before an audience of filmmakers and cinephiles and redefined what it means to make films that matter.

Cinema, he said, is not a decorative art. It is a language of sound, silence, rhythm and emotion that communicates what words often cannot. For him, cinema is a way of speaking to the world, not about himself but about lives that too often go unseen. He spoke of loss with profound simplicity, revealing how his own brother's disappearance stayed with him, fueling a commitment to make films rooted in the everyday realities of people "who nobody cared about". To Sissako, love is the real force behind cinema.

He described his creative process not as meticulous planning but as conviction. The making of Bamako was not just political because it challenged global institutions; it was an act of belief that art and images can confront power in ways discourse alone cannot. He refused the notion of a "masterclass", stressing that respect for the audience is everything. Filmmakers have no authority over viewers; they must earn that attention and trust.

He reminded the audience that a filmmaker's voice, even when political, is rooted in life around them, in humanism and in connection. He laughed that one's position as a filmmaker might not be "important", yet his own work has resonated globally because it houses conviction and courage.

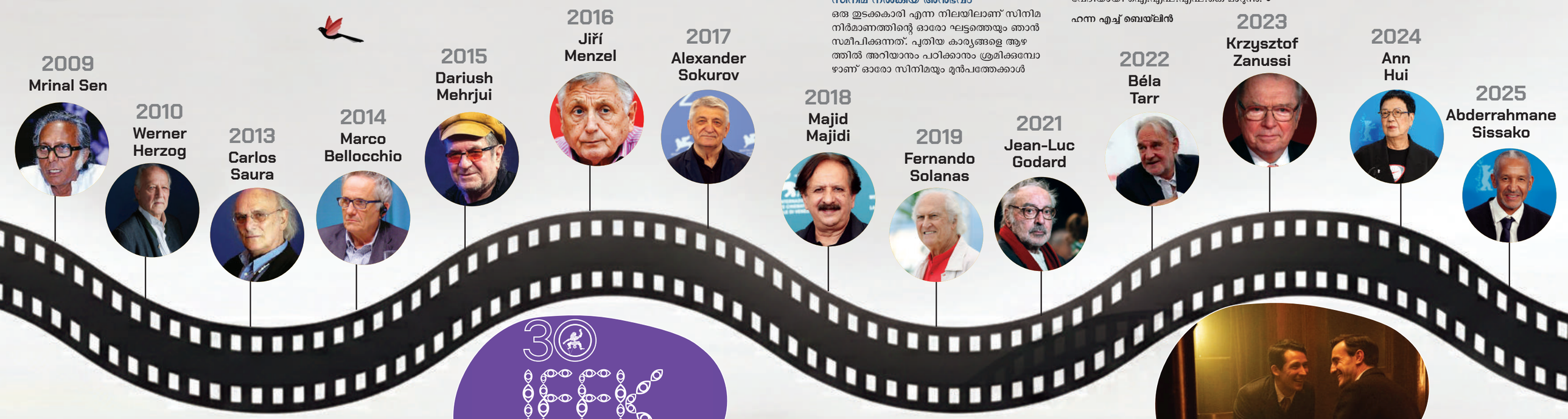
Sissako's lecture was an invitation to care, to look beyond surface narratives and to let cinema be a space where empathy and truth coexist. Chilean filmmaker Nayra Ilic Garcia, director of Cuerpo Celeste, was also present at the lecture. •

International Film Festival of Kerala 2025
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
12-19 DEC
30
IFFK
Organised by **Kerala State Chalachitra Academy** on behalf of Department of Cultural Affairs,
Official Daily Bulletin
Day 5 | Dec 16 | Tuesday

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS AT IFFK

FRAMES FROM THE PAST

Mrinal Sen receiving the First Lifetime Achievement Award



ജീവിതം തിരികെ തന്ന ഫ്രെയിമുകൾ

തനിഷ്ഠ ചാറ്റർജി

സിനിമ സുഖപ്പെടുത്തിയ ജീവിതം

ഫുൾ പ്ലേറ്റ് എന്ന സിനിമയുടെ പോസ്റ്റ് പ്രൊഡക്ഷൻ ഘട്ടത്തിലായിരുന്നു എന്റെ കീമോ ചെയ്തിരുന്നത്. എഡിറ്റിങ് പൂർത്തിയായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും മറ്റു പണികൾ ബാക്കിയായിരുന്നു. സംഗീതം ആസ്വദിക്കുകയും ചിത്രത്തിന്റെ സാങ്കേതിക തലങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് ആലോചിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്ന ആ സമയം, എന്റെ ജീവിതം ഇതാ അവസാനിക്കാൻ പോകുകയാണ് എന്ന തോന്നൽ തെല്ലും വന്നില്ല. മറിച്ച് അവ വീണ്ടും എഴുതാനുള്ള പ്രചോദനം നൽകി.

സിനിമ നൽകിയ അനുഭവം

ഒരു തുടക്കക്കാരി എന്ന നിലയിലാണ് സിനിമ നിർമാണത്തിന്റെ ഓരോ ഘട്ടത്തെയും ഞാൻ സമീപിക്കുന്നത്. പുതിയ കാര്യങ്ങളെ ആഴത്തിൽ അറിയാനും പഠിക്കാനും ശ്രമിക്കുമ്പോഴാണ് ഓരോ സിനിമയും മുൻപത്തേക്കാൾ മെച്ചപ്പെടുന്നത്. സംവിധായകയിലുപരി ഞാൻ ഒരു അഭിനേത്രിയുമാണ്. അഭിനയയാത്രയിൽ ഞാൻ പിന്തുടരുന്ന അതേ സമീപനമാണ് സംവിധാനത്തിലും ഉപയോഗിച്ചത്. ചിത്രത്തിലെ കഥാപാത്രത്തിന്റെ ആത്മാവിനൊത്ത് തന്നെയാണ് തിരക്കഥ എഴുതിയത്.

ഐ.എഫ്.എഫ്.കെ എന്ന ജനകീയമേള

സജീവ ജനപങ്കാളിത്തമാണ് ഐ.എഫ്.എഫ്.കെയെ വ്യത്യസ്തമാക്കുന്നത്. മേള ജനം ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് തന്നെ സംവിധായകർക്ക് തങ്ങളുടെ സിനിമകൾ ലോകത്തോട് കാണിക്കുന്നതിനായുള്ള സുപ്രധാന വേദിയായി ഐ.എഫ്.എഫ്.കെ മാറുന്നു. •

ഹന്ന എച്ച് ബെയ്ലിൻ

The 30th International Film Festival of Kerala welcomed film enthusiasts from around the world with a captivating design, highlighting boundaries and the eyes that exist within them. This year, the branding and design of the festival is conceptualised by Push360, which has a record of promoting Kerala brands to national and international prominence.

According to V A Sreekumar, the CMD of Push360 and renowned filmmaker, “We live in separate worlds and cinema has the power to dissolve such divisions. Through cinema, we get to discover and know each other. Cinema reminds us that what we get to see is what we get to know, experience and become. This is not just the exhibition of 30 years of world cinema, but the celebration of 30 years of the world discovering itself. It’s 30 years of us seeing, knowing and becoming each other”.

The colours of love, friendship, and inclusion are an invitation to peace. When purple and yellow fill the atmosphere of this festival, joy and closeness increase between people. Happiness is a defence against hate. The design, delivering the core concept of brotherhood beyond borders and inclusion. •

30 eyes for the 30th IFFK

സംഗീതത്തിന്റെ ദൃശ്യാവിഷ്കാരം

സംഗീതത്തിന് രൂപമുണ്ടോ എന്നത് ഫിലോസഫിക്കലായ ഒരു ചോദ്യമാണ്. ഒലിവർ ഹെർമനസ് എന്ന സംവിധായകൻ തന്റെ ‘ദ ഹിസ്റ്ററി ഓഫ് സൗണ്ട്’ എന്ന സിനിമയിൽ സംഗീതത്തിലൂടെ, പലതരം ശബ്ദവീചികളിലൂടെ മനുഷ്യർ പരസ്പരം സംവദിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന വൈകാരികതകളെ എങ്ങനെ ലോകം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു എന്ന് ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നു. രേഖപ്പെടുത്തൽ (Documentation) എന്ന ചരിത്രപരമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തെ ഹൃദയസ്പർശിയായ ഒരു ചലച്ചിത്രാനുഭവമാക്കി ഈ സിനിമ മാറ്റുന്നുണ്ട്. ഒരു പിരീഡ് റൊമാന്റിക് ഡ്രാമയായ സിനിമ ഡേവിഡ്, ലയണൽ എന്നീ രണ്ട് മനുഷ്യരുടെ പ്രണയത്തിന്റെയും അവർക്കിടയിലെ സംഗീതത്തിന്റെയും ഇഴയടുപ്പത്തിന്റെയും കഥ പറയുന്നു. ഒന്നാം ലോകമഹായുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ ആരംഭിച്ച് 1980കൾ വരെ നീളുന്ന ഒരു വലിയ കാലഘട്ടത്തെ സിനിമ ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നു. സ്വവർഗപ്രണയം എന്നത് സമൂഹത്തിൽ സദാചാര ടാബൂ ആയിരുന്ന ഒരു കാലത്ത് രണ്ട് പുരുഷന്മാർ തങ്ങൾക്കിടയിലുള്ള തീവ്രമായ പ്രണയം കണ്ടെത്തുന്നതും പിന്നീടുള്ള അവരുടെ ജീവിതവും സിനിമ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

ഒന്നാം ലോകമഹായുദ്ധത്തിൽ നിർബന്ധിത സൈനിക സേവനത്തിനു പോയശേഷം മടങ്ങിയെത്തിയ ഡേവിഡ് ലിയോണലുമായി ചേർന്ന് ഒരു സംഗീത ശേഖരണ പദ്ധതി തയ്യാറാക്കാനുള്ള യാത്രയിൽ പങ്കാളിയാവുന്നു. അമേരിക്കയിലെ നാടോടി ഗാനങ്ങൾ റെക്കോർഡ് ചെയ്ത് രേഖകളാക്കി സൂക്ഷിക്കുക എന്നതാണ് ഈ പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം. ഒന്നാം ലോകമഹായുദ്ധത്തിനുശേഷം ഉണ്ടായ ഓഡിയോ പാഠങ്ങളുടെ ശേഖരണമെന്ന ചരിത്രപരമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനെ ഡേവിഡ്, ലിയോണൽ എന്നിവരുടെ പ്രണയത്തിലേക്ക് ചേർത്ത് നിർത്തുന്നു സംവിധായകൻ. ബാലഡുകളുടെ ഈണത്തിലൂടെ സംഗീതസാന്ദ്രമായ ഒരു പ്രണയകഥയെ സിനിമ പ്രേക്ഷകരിലേക്ക് എത്തിക്കുന്നു. സംഗീതത്തിന്റെ ദൃശ്യഭാഷയിലൂടെ പ്രണയം, ഏകാന്തത, വിരഹം, നഷ്ടപ്പെടൽ എന്നിങ്ങനെ പലതരം അനുഭവങ്ങളെ സിനിമ ആഖ്യാനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. പോൾ മെസ്കൽ, ജോഷ് കോണർ എന്നീ അഭിനേതാക്കളുടെ പ്രകടനവും സിനിമയുടെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ മികവുകളിൽ ഒന്നാണ്. സംഗീതത്തിന്റെയും ശബ്ദങ്ങളുടെയും ദൃശ്യാവിഷ്കാര സാധ്യതകളെയാണ് ‘ദ ഹിസ്റ്ററി ഓഫ് സൗണ്ട്’ പ്രേക്ഷകരിലേക്ക് എത്തിക്കുന്നത്. •

സജിത്ത് എം. എസ്

Meet the Director

Films Are Not Made in Comfort, They Are Made in Commitment

The Meet the Director session on the fourth day unfolded as a quiet cartography of how cinema is made in the gaps, between certainty and risk, funding and faith, intention and arrival. Moderated by Balu Kiriyath, the discussion brought together filmmakers whose journeys revealed that films are rarely born in ideal conditions, but in borrowed spaces, delayed timelines and persistent uncertainty.

Sheshippu, directed by Sreejith S. Kumar and featuring Gritto Vincent, took shape during the isolation of the COVID years, without producers or institutional backing, with locations and cast drawn from acquaintances. The surprise, Sreejith admitted, was not the making of the film but its arrival at the festival.

Unnikrishnan's *Life of a Phallus* (*Thanthaperu*) was shaped over five years of near-solitary effort. Working with the Chola Nayakar community, he faced resistance from both circumstance and subject, including language barriers, reluctance to be filmed, and the slow erasure of a native tongue.

Elsewhere, *Shadow Box* by Saumyananda Sahi emerged from years of personal development, cast with non-actors and supported by an informal collective of nearly twenty friends who stepped in as producers. Ishaan Ghose's *Mirage*, shot on a Sony FX3 and self-edited, was made alongside other work, slowly finding its way through the independent circuit. Even films that received production backing, such as Rajesh Madhavan's debut *Girl and The Fools Parade (Pennum Porattum)*, carried the weight of logistical and creative constraints. What bound these films together was not triumph over adversity, but an ingenuity that allowed them to exist at all.

Filmmakers Mini I. G. and Ravi Shankar Kaushik were also present on the panel. •

Today's Programme

Tagore Premises
11.00 am - 12.00 pm
Meet the Director

Hotel Horizon
11.00 am - 12.00 pm
Her Frame, Her Story: Women Rewriting Cinema
Panelists: Anuparna Roy
Kelly Fyffe-Marshall, I.G Mini
Nayra Ilic Garcia

Nila Theatre
2.30 pm - 3.30 pm
In Conversation with
Ángela Molina

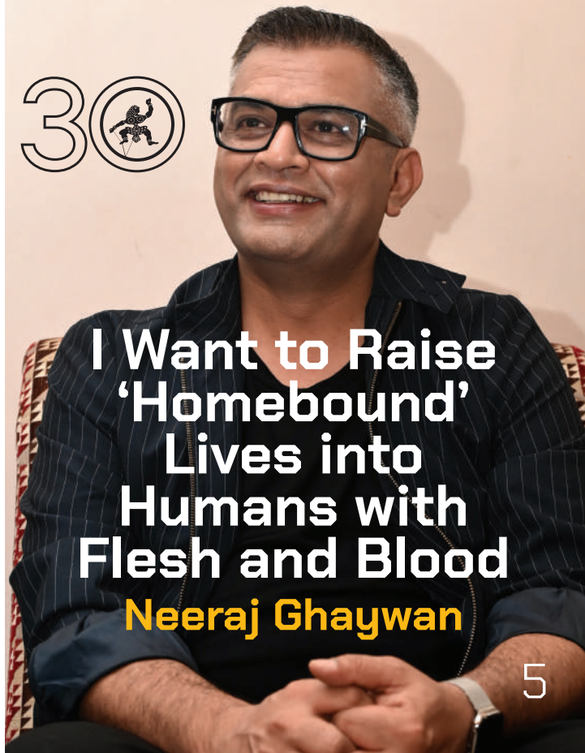
Tagore Premises
5.00 pm - 6.00 pm
Open Forum
Subject: Freedom of Film Festivals
Eminent filmmakers, critics and other personalities will participate

Manaveeyam Veedhi
7.00 pm
Cultural Programme
Manasamaina - Tribute to Vayalar and Salil Chowdhary

AI may change criticism, but censorship threatens cinema itself - Seminar

The seminar on 'Film Criticism in the Age of AI', sparked a layered discussion on technology, criticism, and creative freedom, blending reflection with resistance. The session also saw filmmaker T. V. Chandran honoured with the FIPRESCI India Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by director Gautam Ghose. In his keynote address, Ghose traced cinema's evolution from silent to sound, black and white to colour, and analogue to digital, placing artificial intelligence within this continuum and emphasising that innovation has always reshaped artistic practice. Critics such as Premendra Mazumder joined filmmaker Kamal in criticising the increasing control exercised over cinema's autonomy. Chandran stressed that while AI itself is not alarming, unaccountable applications of technology are, and that contextualising cinema remains the critic's essential task. The panel agreed that AI in criticism and filmmaking is unavoidable yet manageable, affirming that cinema's revolutionary language, its textures of memory and community, cannot be replaced by algorithms alone. •

T.V Chandran receiving the FIPRESCI India Lifetime Achievement Award from Goutam Ghose. G.P Ramachandran, Madhu Janardanan, Lathika Padgaokar, Kamal, V.K Joseph, Premendra Mazumder, Sreedevi P. Aravind, Aparijita Pujari, Jithin K.C



I Want to Raise 'Homebound' Lives into Humans with Flesh and Blood

Neeraj Ghaywan

Director Neeraj Ghaywan's Hindi movie *Homebound* weaves the theme of empathy and connection as a form of powerful resistance that reaches out to all those whom institutions deny visibility. They struggle to be heard, to be identified, and to hold on to their humanity.

Ghaywan wanted to raise the marginalised—those he featured in his film—from mere statistics into humans with flesh and blood. "I wanted to add colours and stories to their lives," Ghaywan says. "Stories of their obsession with biryanis, the way their rooms are arranged, and the friends they keep. I wanted to understand what pulls them towards the cities and what, just as powerfully, draws them back home?" He believes that *Homebound* touches humanity so deeply that the audience carries it back into their own lives. This universality of the theme, he believes, is the reason why legends such as Martin Scorsese, whom his team used to refer to as 'Bade Papa,' invested time in a narrative so locally rooted.

Recalling the film's reception at Cannes, he shared how the audience, with no connection to Indian social realities, was deeply affected by the film. Speaking about his experience of attending IFFK, Ghaywan shared how delighted he was to see people watching films with so much excitement, which he hasn't witnessed anywhere else. In his words, "IFFK is a true filmmakers' festival, representing cinema it its most alive state." •

Navneeth

DAY 5

16-TUESDAY DEC

KAIRALI	**If on a Winter's Night/Khidki Gaav** India/Malayalam, Hindi 99/2025 Dir: Sanju Surendran 9:00 AM (IC)	**Yen and Ai-Lee /Xiao Yan Yu Wu Ai-Lee** Taiwan/Mandarin Chinese, Hakka Chinese 107/2024 Dir: Tom Shu-yu Lin 11:30 AM (IC)	**Hearth And Home /Alaav** India/Hindi 121/2024 Dir: Prabhash Chandra 3:00 PM (ICN)	**The banquet of primal love/ Aadi snehathinte virunnu mesha** India/Malayalam 74/2025 Dir: Mini I G 6:00 PM (MCT)	**Young Mothers /Jeunes mères Young Mothers/ Jeunes mères** Belgium, France/French 106/2025 Dir: Luc & Jean-Pierre Dardenne 8:30 PM (FFV)
SREE	**Father Mother Sister Brother** USA, Ireland, France, Italy, Japan/English 110/2025 Dir: Jim Jarmusch 9:00 AM (FFV)	**Broken Voices /SBORMISTR** Czech Republic, Slovakia/Czech 106/2025 Dir: Ondřej Provaznik 12:00 PM (WC)	**The Coffin /Shavapetti** India/Malayalam 102/2025 Dir: Rinoshun K 3:15 PM (MCT)	Screening Cancelled	**When Morning Comes** Canada, Jamaica /English 87/2022 Dir: Kelly Fyffe-Marshall 8:30 PM (SC)
NILA	Screening Cancelled	**Iron Island** Iran/Persian 86/2005 Dir: Mohammad Rasoulof 11:30 AM (JF)	In Conversation with Ángela Molina 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Screening Cancelled	**Our Father /Oče naš** Serbia, Italy, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro,Bosnia and Herzegovina /Serbian 89/2025 Dir: Goran Stanković 8:45 PM (WC)
KALABHAVAN	**Fragments from the East/Doğudan Fragmanlar** Turkey/Turkish 131/2025 Dir: Erkan Yazıcı 9:15 AM (WC)	**The Settlement** Egypt, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Qatar/Arabic 93/2025 Dir: Mohamed Rashad 12:00 PM (IC)	**EBB** India/Malayalam 75/2024 Dir: Jeo Baby 3:15 PM (MCT)	**Theatre** India,Canada/Tamil, Malayalam 94/2025 Dir: Nishanth KAUDINDI 6:15 PM (ICN)	**Amrum** Germany/German 93/2025 Dir: Fatih Akin 8:30 PM (WC)
TAGORE	**Life of a Phallus /തന്നെക്കുറിച്ച്** India/Malayalam 117/2025 Dir: Unnikrishnan Avala 9:00 AM (IC)	**Shadowbox /Baksho Bondi** India, France/Bengali 94/2025 Dir: Tanushree Das, Saumyananda Sahi 11:30 AM (IC)	**Kissing bug/ Vinchuca** Argentina,Brazil /Spanish 96/2024 Dir: Luis Zorraquin 3:15 PM (IC)	**It Was Just an Accident** Iran/Persian 104/2025 Dir: Jafar Panahi 6:00 PM (FFV)	**The Stranger /L'Étranger** France/French 120/2025 Dir: François Ozon 8:30 PM (WC)
NISHAGANDHI	No Screening	No Screening	Screening Cancelled	**Bugonia** Ireland, South Korea, USA/English 118/2025 Dir: Yorgos Lanthimos 9:00 PM (FFV)	**The Book of Sijjin and Illiyyin/Kitab Sijjin & Illiyyin** Indonesia/ Sundanese, Indonesian 98/2025 Dir: Hadrah Daeng Ratu 12:00 PM (MS)
ARIESPLEX- 1	Screening Cancelled	**Kontinental 25** Romania,Brazil, Switzerland,UK, Luxembourg/Romanian, Hungarian,German 109/2025 Dir: Radu Jude 12:00 PM (WC)	**What Does that Nature Say to You** South Korea/Korean 109/2025 Dir: Hong Sang-soo 3:00 PM (WC)	**Die My Love** United States/English 119/2025 Dir: Lynne Ramsay 6:00 PM (WC)	**The Chronology of Water** France, Latvia, UK, USA/English 128/2025 Dir: Kristen Stewart 8:30 PM (FF)
ARIESPLEX- 4	**Letter to an Angel /Surat untuk Bidadari** Indonesia/Indonesian, Sumbanese 118/1994 Dir: Garin Nugroho 9:45 AM (CFF)	**They Will Be Dust /Polvo serán** /Italy,Spain,Switzerland/Spanish,English 106/2024 Dir: Carlos Marques-Marcet 12:15 PM (JF)	Screening Cancelled	**Ottal** India/Malayalam 81/2014 Dir: Jayaraj 6:00 PM (SCF)	**Glorious Ashes /Tro tàn rực rỡ** Vietnam,Singapore, France/Vietnamese 117/2022 Dir: Bùi Thạc Chuyên 8:15 PM (CF)
ARIESPLEX- 6	**The Love That Remains/Ástin sem eftir er** Iceland, Denmark,France, Finland,Sweden /Icelandic/ 109/2025 Dir: Hlynur Pálmason 9:30 AM (WC)	**Cotton Queen** Sudan/Arabic 94/2025 Dir: Suzannah Mirghani 11:45 AM (WC)	Screening Cancelled	**Where the Wind Comes From** Tunisia,France,Qatar /Arabic 100/2025 Dir: Amel Guellaty 6:15 PM (WC)	**The Turin Horse /A torinói ló** Hungary/Hungarian 156 /2011 Dir: Béla Tarr, Ágnes Hranitzky 8:30 PM (PLF)
NEW - 1	**Girl and the fools parade/Pennum Porattum** India/Malayalam 121/2025 Dir: RAJESH MADHAVAN 9:15 AM (MCT)	**Full Plate** India/Hindi 109/2025 Dir: Tannishtha Chatterjee 11:45 AM (ICN)	**Mirage/Morichika** India/Bengali 133/2025 Dir: Ishaan Ghose 3:15 PM (ICN)	**Don't Tell Mother /Ammang Haelbeda** India, Australia/Kannada 88/2025 Dir: Anoop Lokkur 6:30 PM (ICN)	**Calle Málaga** Morocco, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium/Spanish, Arabica 116/2025 Dir: Maryam Touzani 8:30 PM (WC)
NEW - 2	**Fists in the Pocket /I pugni in tasca** Italy/Italian 109/1965 Dir: Marco Bellocchio 9:30 AM (PLF)	**White Snail** Austria,Germany /Russian,Belarusian, English, Mandarin,Chinese 115/2025 Dir: Elsa Kremser Levin Peter 11:30 AM (WC)	**Romería** Spain/Spanish 111/2025 Dir: Carla Simón 3:00 PM (WC)	**Life on Earth /La Vie sur Terre** Mali, Mauritania, France/French,Bambara 61/1998 Dir: Abderrahmane Sissako 6:00 PM (LTA)	**Dreams (Sex Love) /Drømmer** Norway/Norwegian 110 /2024 Dir: Dag Johan Haugerud 8:15 PM (FF)
NEW - 3	Screening Cancelled	**Silent Friend /Stille Freundin** Germany,France, Hungary,China/German, Hungarian,French 145/2025 Dir: Ildikó Enyedi 11:45 AM (WC)	**Franz** Germany, Czech Republic/German 127/2025 Dir: Agnieszka Holland 3:15 PM (WC)	Screening Cancelled	**All the President's Men** USA/English 138/1976 Dir: Alan J.Pakula 8:00 PM (HOM)
AJANTHA	Screening Cancelled	**Cinema Jazireh** Türkiye, Iran/Dari, Afghan Persian 124/2025 Dir: Gözde Kural 12:30 PM (IC)	**Cuerpo Celeste** Chile,Italy/Spanish 97/2025 Dir: Nayra Ilic Garcia 3:15 PM (IC)	**Cactus Pears /Sabar Bonda** India/Marathi 117/2025 Dir: Rohan Parashuram Kanawade 6:00 PM (KS)	**A River Called Titash/Titash Ekti Nadir Naam** India, Bangladesh /Bengali 159/1973 Dir: Ritwik Ghatak 8:30 PM (RGR)
SREE PADMANABHA	**Alpha** France/French 128/2025 Dir: Julia Ducournau 9:30 AM (WC)	**The History of Sound** USA/English 127/2025 Dir: Oliver Hermanus 11:45 AM (WC)	**Papa Buka** Papua New Guinea, India /Tok Pisin,Hindi, English,Bengali 100/2025 Dir: Bijukumar Damodaran 3:00 PM (WC)	**Kok Kok Kokoook** India/Assamese 62/2025 Dir: Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap 6:15 PM (KS)	**No Other Choice** South Korea/Korean 139 /2025 Dir: Park Chan-wook 8:30 PM (FFV)
KRIPA - 1	**All The Living /സമസ്ത ജീവനും** India/Malayalam 91/2025 Dir: SHERRY Govindan 9:15 AM (MCT)	**THE REMNANT /SHESHIPPU** India/Malayalam 84/2025 Dir: SREEJITH S KUMAR, GRITTO VINCENT 11:15 AM (MCT)	**Palestine 36 /** Palestine, United Kingdom France, Denmark, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan /Arabic, English 120 /2025 Dir: Annemarie Jacir 2:30 AM (PF)	**Shape of Momo** India,South Korea /Nepali/Sikkimese dialects 114/2025 Dir: Tribeny Rai 6:00 PM (KS)	**The Little Sister /La Petite Dernière** France, Germany /French 106/2025 Dir: Hafsia Herzi 8:30 PM (WC)

MEET THE DIRECTOR
11:00 AM-12:00 NOON
@ Tagore Premises

OPEN FORUM
05:00-06:00 PM
@ Tagore Premises

ഉച്ചയ്ക്കുശേഷം

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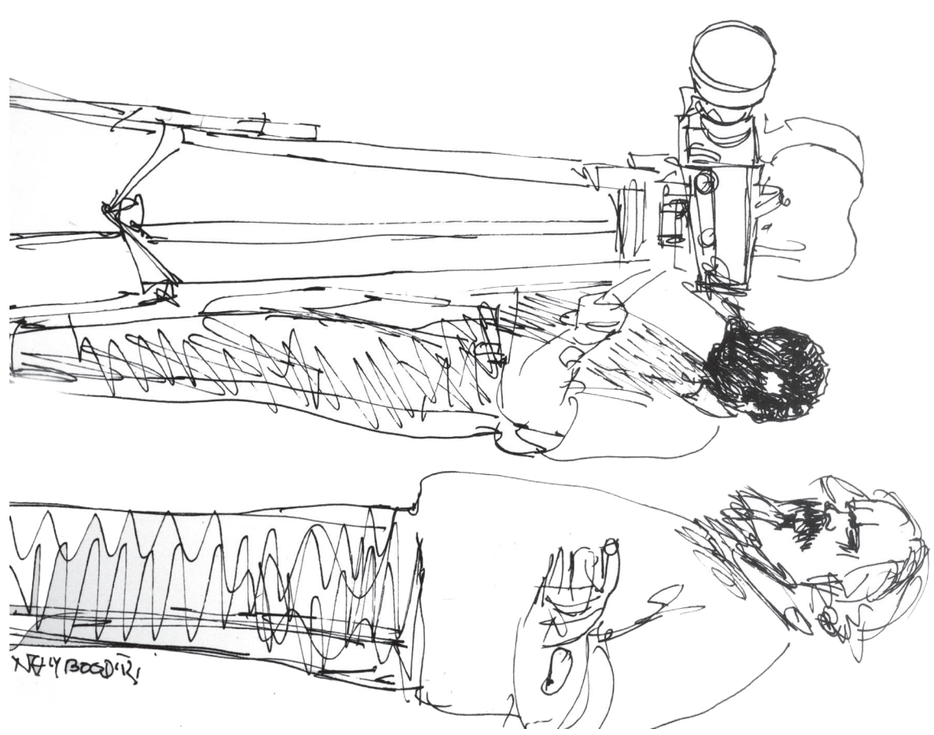

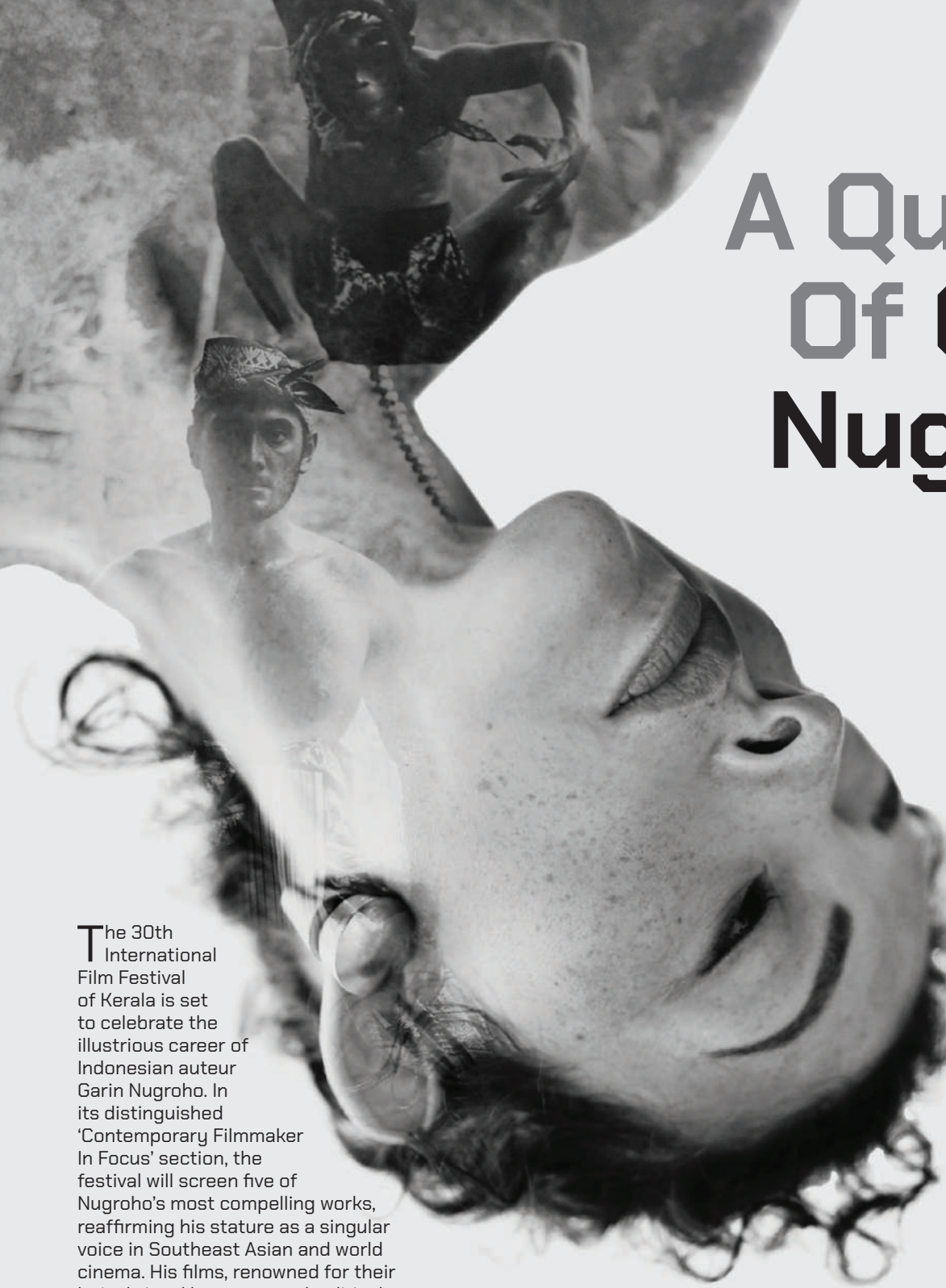

A Quintet Of Garin Nugroho

Sruthi A. Sreekumar

The 30th International Film Festival of Kerala is set to celebrate the illustrious career of Indonesian auteur Garin Nugroho. In its distinguished 'Contemporary Filmmaker In Focus' section, the festival will screen five of Nugroho's most compelling works, reaffirming his stature as a singular voice in Southeast Asian and world cinema. His films, renowned for their lyrical visual language and political acuity, have long captivated audiences at major festivals including Cannes, Venice, Berlin and Locarno.

The curated selection spans three decades of the director's creative evolution. *Bird Man Tale*, a coming-of-age drama, follows fifteen-year-old Arnold as he pursues the girl he longs to kiss while navigating the turbulent sociopolitical landscape of Papua and its fervent calls for independence. With delicate nuance, the film intertwines personal desire with the tensions of a region seeking self-determination.

A Poet: Unconcealed Poetry, recipient of the FIPRESCI Award at the 2001 Singapore International Film Festival and the Silver Leopard at Locarno, offers a stark and haunting meditation on political repression. Filmed entirely in black and white and confined to two prison cells, it chronicles the ordeal of poet Ibrahim Kadir, who is incarcerated under suspicion of communist affiliations. Through his story, Nugroho illuminates the brutal realities endured by Indonesia's political prisoners.

The festival will also screen *Samsara* (2024), a silent love story set in 1930s Bali. The narrative follows the tragic path of a destitute young man who turns to a forbidden ritual to attain wealth and earn the approval of the affluent parents of the woman he loves. Visually rich and thematically layered, the film juxtaposes spiritual yearning with the corrosive power of social ambition.

In *Whispers In The Dabbas*, the director turns his lens towards the moral compromises embedded within a corrupted justice system. The film portrays a lawyer struggling to reconcile his ethical convictions with a legal order beholden to the wealthy and influential, offering a sombre commentary on institutional decay.

Rounding out the retrospective is *Letter to an Angel* (1994), a poignant tale of a young boy named Lewa, who believes in an angel safeguarding the Earth. Beyond its narrative charm, the film carries historical significance as the first feature to be shot on Sumba Island, capturing the region's landscapes with rare poetic sensitivity. •

Festival Director **Dr. Resul Pookutty**, Chairperson, KSCA **Cuckoo Parameswaran,** Vice Chairperson, KSCA Executive Director and Chief Editor **C Ajoy**, Secretary, KSCA Treasurer **Sreelal R** Deputy Director (Finance) **Sajith CC** Deputy Director (Festival) **H Shaji** Deputy Director (Programmes) **Dr. N P Sajeesh** Executive Editor **Rahul S** Associate Editors **Sruthi A Sreekumar, Anugraha Shaji, Sreaya Sreekumar, Dr. Nowfal N, Kaikasi V S** Chief Sub Editors **Nakshathra Manoj, Samra Fuad, Jayakumar, Gopika A.S, Veena U, Dhanya Maria Babu, Arundhathy KS, Vivek Kovalam** Photography **Ratheesh Raveendran** Design and Layout **Sivaprasad B**
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