

IFFK marks our solidarity with Palestine

Pinarayi Vijayan

here is no doubt that there are film festivals across the world that are bigger than our IFFK in size, history and participation. But when it comes to the political essence of the selected films, our IFFK is undoubtedly a worthy rival to any international festival. The Palestinian solidarity films that will be screened as part of this year's festival is an apt example of this", remarked the Chief Minister at the inauguration of the 28th IFFK at the Nishagandhi auditorium.

"We are also telling the world of our solidarity with the Palestinian people through this festival. Only a few festivals can claim such a characteristic", he added.

"As part of this IFFK, this year's Spirit of Cinema Award has been presented to Kenyan director Wanuri Kahiu. Kenya's history is rich with many struggles in anti-occupation history, such as the Mau Mau Rebellion. Although the occupying forces have left Kenya, remnants of colonialism still remain in the land. As part of that, we know that artists were hunted down and artistic performances were subjected to censorship in the

country. Wanuri Kahiu is a socially committed artist who defies such taboos and objections. Her film *Rafiki* even led to lawsuits for freedom of expression in Kenya. By honouring such artists, this film festival and our country is voicing our strong stand with them", he concluded.

"The female focus films selected for this festival are an inspiration for aspiring female filmmakers and women across the world", added Saji Cherian, Minister for Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs.





We live in a world dominated by commercialised artforms. The art of cinema is often times lost amidst filmmaking for the sake of making films. IFFK stands apart here in its selection, collection and execution of a handful of politically and culturally prominent films every year. The 28th edition of the IFFK was inaugurated at the Nishagandhi auditorium by the Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan. Three time National Award winner for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor, Nana Patekar was the chief guest at the

event

Mayor Arya Rajendran presented the Spirit of Cinema Award to Kenyan director Wanuri Kahiu. Festival Curator Golda Sellam introduced the various packages of the 28th IFFK. VK Prasanth MLA, District Panchayat President Adv. D Suresh Kumar, International Competition Section Jury Chairperson and Portuguese Director Rita Azevedo Gomes, Latin American Package Curator Fernando Brunner, Sound Designer and Director Resul Pookutty, KSCA Chairman Ranjith, Cultural Workers

Welfare Board Chairman Madhupal, Culture Department Secretary Mini Antony IAS, Film Chamber President BR Jacob, KSCA Vice Chairman Prem Kumar and Secretary C. Ajoy were present at the occassion.

The festival catalogue was released by VK Prasanth MLA by handing over to Madhupal. The Daily Bulletin was released by Adv. D. Suresh Kumar to N. Maya IFS. The festival edition of the Chalachitra Academy magazine, Chalachitra Sameeksha, was launched by Resul Pookutty. The event was followed by the screening of the opening film. Goodbye Julia.



Curator, 28th IFFK

of the IFFK, a festival that has been a significant part of the global festival scenario. As we go forward on this journey together, I am thrilled to bring an uplift to the festival, introducing new facets that celebrate diversity and creativity which it already had. One of the highlights of this year's festival is the curated package on Anti War films, 'Decolonising the Mind'. In the wake of recent events in Gaza and the Israel-Palestine conflict, it is crucial that we engage in meaningful conversations through this platform to reflect, empathize, and contemplate the consequences of war on humanity. Additionally, I am very proud

to present 'The Female Gaze,' a curated selection of films by wonderful women filmmakers. This package is a statement of the power of storytelling from diverse perspectives, offering a unique vision that enriches our understanding of the world.

Film, as an art form, could transcend boundaries, unite cultures, and spark conversations that are often difficult to initiate. It is my sincere hope that the films that we present in this edition will not only entertain but also inspire dialogue and reflection.

As we celebrate cinema in all its forms, I'm also joining you to celebrate the spirit of Kerala, a place that resonates with warmth, hospitality, and a deep appreciation for the arts. The International Film Festival of Kerala is more than just a cinematic event; it is a celebration of culture, diversity, and the collective effort

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the visionary organisers the Kerala State Government and Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, the filmmakers who are with us and those who couldn't join as well, and most importantly, the incredible audience in Kerala that makes this festival possible. Together, let us make this 28th edition of the IFFK a truly memorable and enriching experience for all.

VK Prasanth MLA releasing the Festival Handbook to Madhupal

Cinema is the language of love. It is And for all other stories that has faced Malayalam film yet.", said Nana Pate

the language of love. It is the language of light. Stories were created before us and as filmmakers it is our joy is to express the stories that comes from the divine and by expressing those stories, we are connected to a universal audience to a universal library of human experience and because of this, there can never be a film that is banned; there can never be a film that is censored because the story comes before the filmmaker, it is the story of human experience and existence. And so even if my film Rafiqi may be in exile now, I know that one day it will come home to Kenya.

And for all other stories that has faced difficulty in expressing themselves, I have hope that filmmakers in this country and beyond will have the courage to find a way to express the divinity of the story, to be a vessel of hope and kindness. And I truly hope that I could come back to Kerala again and again to share more films and stories with this amazing audience and for all of that I say.", expressed Wanuri Kahiu, the recipient of the Spirit of Cinema award. I've been a part of film industry for the past 50 years but it is my greatest sorrow that I haven't had the chance to act in a

Malayalam film yet.", said Nana Patekar while speaking at the inauguration of the 28th IFFK that took place at the Nishagandhi auditorium.

"Kerala has been a place that I've been dreaming to visit for the past 10 years, so it is indeed a dream come true moment for me to be here, because I believe that this is a place that is truly special and beautiful in the world. Thank you for creating a space for us where we could bring out films to vision for the audience.", said Rita Gomez, International Jury Chairperson at the 28th IFFK

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

11.00 AM
TAGORE PREMISES
MRINAL SEN -EXHIBITION
INAUGURATION
Adoor Gopalakrishnan

2:30 PM NILA IN CONVERSATION Rita Gomez

5:00 PM
TAGORE THEATRE PREMISES
OPEN FORUM
FESTIVAL IN TIMES OF RACISM,
GENOCIDE AND WAR
Welcome: Hena Devdas RC, Secretary
FFSI Keralam
Presidential Speech: Shaji N Karun,
Vice-President FFSI
Inauguration: Wanuri Kahiu
Felicitation: C. Ajoy,
Secretary, KSCA



Mayor Arya Rajendran presenting the Spirit of Cinema Award to Kenyan director Wanuri Kahiu



KSCA Chairman Ranjith presenting the token of love to actor Nana Patekar



Adv. D. Sureshkumar releasing the Festival Bulletin by handing over the first copy to N. Maya IFS



Resul Pookutty releasing the festival issue of **Chalachitra Sameeksha Magazine** to Premkumar

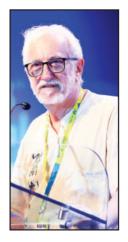


Snapshots from Inauguration













രാജ്യാന്തരമേളയിൽ കേരള ഫിലിം മാർക്കറ്റുമായി കെ.എസ്.എഫ്.ഡി.സി

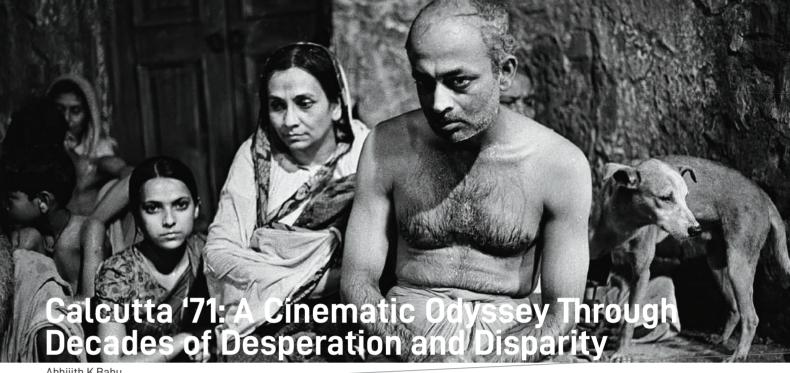
00 ജ്യാന്തരമേളയോടനബന്ധിച്ച് സംസ്ഥാന ചലച്ചിത്ര വികസന കോ ർപ്രവേൻ (കെ.എസ്.എഫ്.ഡി.സി) കേരള ഫിലിം മാർക്കറ്റ് സംഘടിപ്പിക്കും. മലയാള സിനിമാ വ്യവസായ മേഖലയെ ശക്തിപ്പെടു ത്തന്നതിനാണ് ഡിസംബർ 11 മുതൽ 13 വരെ തിരുവനന്തപുരം മസ്ക്കറ്റ് ഹോട്ടലിൽ ഫിലിം മാർക്കറ്റ് സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. നവാഗത സംവിധായകരുൾപ്പെടെയുള്ളവർക്ക് അവരുടെ സ്പഷ്ടികളെ രാജ്യാന്തര സംവിധായകർക്കം

പ്രൊഡക്ഷൻ ഹൗസുകൾക്കും പരിചയപ്പെടുത്തു ന്നതിനം നിർമാതാക്കൾക്ക് രാജ്യാന്തര വിത രണക്കാരേയും ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ കൃറേറ്റർമാരേയും കണ്ടെത്തന്നതിനമാണ് ഫിലീം മാർക്കറ്റിലൂടെ ലക്ഷ്യമിട്ടന്നത്.

ചലച്ചിത്ര മേഖലയിലെ നൂതന സാങ്കേതിക ഉപകരണങ്ങളം സേവനങ്ങളം പരിചയപെ ടുത്തന്ന ഫിലിം എക്സ്പോ, സംവിധായക

ർക്ക് തങ്ങളടെ സിനിമകളെ കൃറേറ്റർമാർക്കാം നിർമ്മാതാക്കൾക്കം മൻപിൽ അവതരിപി ക്കുന്ന മാർക്കറ് സ്ക്രീൻ, ദശ്യമാധ്യമങ്ങ ൾക്ക് സാങ്കേതിക മികവോടെ അഭിമുഖം എടുക്കാനാവശ്യമായ താൽകാലിക സ്റ്റഡിയോ സംവിധാനം, എന്നിവയും മേളയുടെ പ്രധാന വേദിയായ ടാഗോർ തിയേററിൽ ചലചിത വികസന കോർപറേഷൻ ഒരുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ■





In a cinematic triumph that transcends both formal brilliance and searing sociopolitical commentary, Calcutta '71 emerges as a poignant snapshot of a city marred by hunger, injustice, poverty, and excess. Mrinal Sen's visionary creation serves as a visceral portrayal of class conflict and political unrest, weaving a narrative that remains as relevant today as it did half a century ago.

The film commences with a continuation of Sen's previous work, Interview, where

Ranjit Mallick faces trial for an attack on a mannequin. The segment sets the stage for the film's subsequent four tales, each a reflection of the city's malady born out of exploitation and prolonged malnourishment.

Sen masterfully captures the nuances of the emotional turmoil in the first tale. compelling viewers to empathize with the plight of the characters. The second tale follows an outsider returning to Kolkata from Delhi. Through poignant conversations, the narrative reveals the extent of misery,

emphasizing the callousness of those who choose to turn a blind eye to the suffering of their kin.

Sen skillfully intertwines dark humor and pathos in the third tale set in 1953, highlighting the stark contrast between lofty ideals and the exploitative reality faced by the characters. The concluding segment, set in 1971, shifts to the present day, bringing together the threads of the preceding tales in a portrayal of Bengali aristocrats. Sen concludes Calcutta '71 with a moving epilogue, a cryptic yet impactful reflection on the death of consciousness in the era.

Snapshots from Inauguration 4











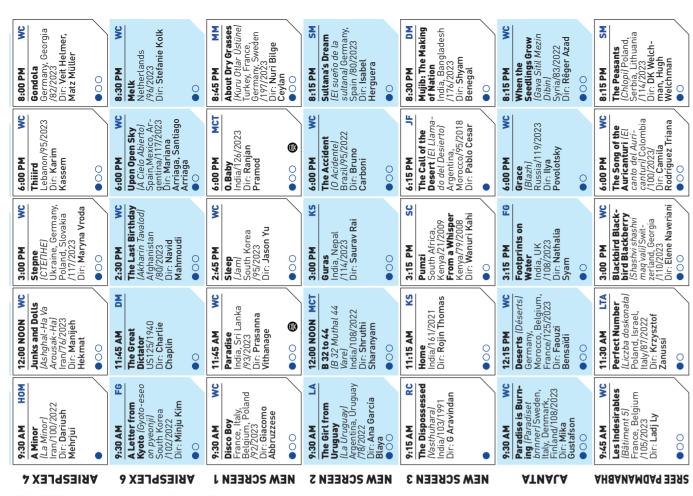




കാനം രാജേന്ദ്രന് ആദരാഞ്ജലികൾ

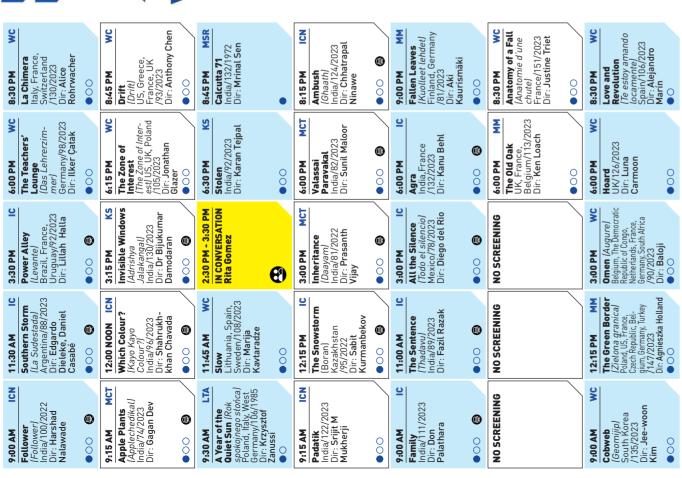
കേരള രാജ്യാന്തര ചലച്ചിത്ര മേളയുടെ രക്ഷാധികാരി കാനം രാജേന്ദ്രന് ആദരാഞ്ജ ലികൾ. അദ്ദേഹത്തോട്ടുള്ള ആദരസൂചകമായി മാനവീയം വീഥിയിൽ ഇന്ന് വൈകിട്ട് നടത്താ നിരുന്ന 'അഭയ ഹിരൺമയി അൺപ്ലഗ്ഡ് എന്ന സംഗീത പരിപാടി മറ്റൊരു ദിവസത്തേ ക്കു മാറ്റിവെച്ച. ■







IFFK SCHEDULE - DAY 2





Krzysztof Zanussi is a name that rings cinematic bells all around the world. Shaped both by the experience of the Second World War and by the intellectual environment from which he emerged, he began making amateur films and showing them at universities and film clubs. Gradually, he made 11 films, for which he won several awards, especially abroad. He made his debut in the world of professional film in 1969 with the drama *The Structure* of the Crystal, for which he wrote his own screenplay.

Zanussi's works applied the scientific knowledge he had accumulated during his long years of studies and quickly gained a

reputation in Polish cinema as an extremely talented and respected filmmaker. By the end of the 80s, he had become the third most acclaimed Polish director after Kieslowski and Wajda. The director became one of the leaders who headed the creative groups of Polish cinema and actively supported the Solidarity movement. In the 80s, after the declaration of martial law and the temporary consolidation of communist power, he continued to work with certain limitations. Among the most important films of the 80s is Year of the Calm Sun, A Love Story of a Polish Refugee from the East and An American Soldier. His later works include Touch of the Hand (1982) and

Life as a Fatal Sexually Transmitted Disease (2000).

As a director, Zanussi has worked on more than 70 films for cinema and television, and has written screenplays for 59 so far. He is one of the most important contemporary European directors. He has won a number of film awards, including three nominations for the Palme d'Or at Cannes (For Family Life, Spiral and Constant). For the Year of the Calm Sun, he received the Golden Lion in Venice. Together with Andrzej Wajda, he won the New York Film Critics' Special Award for artistic mastery and independent spirit in the early 80s. Sruthi A Sreekumar

