



Press Release

18 May 2019: India Pavilion, Cannes Film Festival (Day 4)

Legendary Actor, Producer Dr. Mohan Agashe unveiled the trailer of his films Kaasav (Turtle) and Dithee (Seeing) on 18th May at the India Pavilion at ongoing Cannes Film Festival.

While Kaasav is a National Award winning film directed by Sumitra Bhave–Sunil Sukthanka starring Iravati Harshe and Alok Rajwade is about depression, film Dithee directed by Sumitra Bhave starring Dilip Prabhavalkar, Kishore Kadam, Girish Kulkarni and Shashank Shende is about life and death. Film Dithee is being screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

Post the trailer launch, an MOU was signed between Producers Guild of India and European Films Commission Network to enhance their relationship for mutual benefit of the film production industries between India and European countries.

An interesting conversation with filmmakers Mr. Madhur Bhandarkar and Rahul Rawail followed with moderator Mr. Kulmeet Makkar from Producers Guild of India. Mr. Bhandarkar and Mr. Rawail are at Cannes as part of the official delegation to represent India.

Mr. Rawail spoke about the content that regional language films are producing. “Regional language films coming from India are at par with any other countries in terms of content as well as technical aspects”. Mr. Rawail said.

“I really appreciate the efforts of the Ministry of I & B to promote Indian content on global map.” Said Bhandarkar

Post the conversation, Actress Tannishtha Chatterjee, Producer Bobby Bedi and filmmaker Rahul Rawail made an announcement of a series on Phoolan Devi on eve of 25 years of film Bandit Queen.

In the evening, a panel with Indian actresses Huma Qureshi, Diana Penty, American actress Judi Beecher and Australian filmmaker and actress Saara Lamberg was moderated by Actress and Kathak Dancer Prachee Shah

The panel discussed the role of women in films across the world and various issues concerning women in cinema globally.

When asked about how she sees women centric films in India over the years Huma said, “For me the word, women centric films itself is a problem. Why do we need to identify a

genre that is about women. Its almost like special needs. Honestly, a film is juts about the story and not about gender.”

“In a regular film, what women are supposed to do is quite limited. Its mostly this damsel in distress who is waiting to be rescued. It’s high time we (women) rescue ourselves.” Huma added.

Talking about other challenges, Judi Beecher said, “There is always disparity with regards to money and roles for women. Finally we are coming around but I agree with Huma that why there has to be difference between a film made by a man or a woman.”

Agreeing with what Huma and Judi said, Saara added, “It is stupid decision commercially to not have woman in films because women make up for a lot of audience.”

On asked what advice would they give to the women wanting to make their career in films, Saara said, “I would advice women to not get bothered about letting down or upsetting others. We as woman are often brought up to please everyone around us. What I would like to suggest other women that if you have daughters, please let them know they are worthy. Empower them, don’t press them in a closet. If that girl decides that she can, then she really can.”

Agreeing with what Saara, Diana Penty added, “It’s a really tough industry so you got to really think hard if you need to enter the industry but if you decide to enter, then you cannot give up. Remember no matter how hard it gets, you need to have perseverance; you need to believe in yourself. When you are going through dry spells, keep honing skills...join a workshop, create your own content, meet people, read scripts because it is good to know what people are writing, Just do not give up.

“I want to see films with women having superpowers without a cape.” concluded Huma Qureshi.

The day ended with Rima Das taking to a packed crowd about her film Bulbul Can Sing.