



# HYDERABAD FILM CLUB NEWS LETTER

APRIL 2013

Editor : Bh.S.S. Prakash Reddy

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Rs. 2

AHA!



## BANGLADESH FILM FESTIVAL

April 21-25, 2013

at Sri Sarathi Studios Preview Theatre

MEHERJAAN



THE FLUTE



BEYOND THE CIRCLE



TRANSFORMATION



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The Secretary,  
**HYDERABAD FILM CLUB**  
C/o. Sri Sarathi Studios Pvt. Ltd.,  
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HYDERABAD-500 073  
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**PROGRAMME**

**BANGLADESH FILM FESTIVAL**

*in collaboration with*

**Federation of Film Societies of India**

at Sri Sarathi Studios Preview Theatre, Ameerpet

21-04-2013, Sunday	6.00 p.m. :	1. THE FLUTE (2007) 2. BEYOND THE CIRCLE (2009)
22-04-2013, Monday	6.00 p.m. :	1. TRANSFORMATION (2008) 2. SPARTACUS-71 (2009)
23-04-2013, Tuesday	6.30 p.m. :	AHA! (2007)
24-04-2013, Wednesday	6.30 p.m. :	MONPURA (2009)
25-04-2013, Thursday	6.30 p.m. :	MEHERJAAN (2007)

**HYDERABAD FILM CLUB**

C/o. Sri Sarathi Studios Pvt. Ltd., 8-3-321, Ameerpet, Srinagar Colony P.O. HYDERABAD-073. Cell : 09391020243

**RENEWAL & ENROLMENT NOTICE - 2013**

	SINGLE	COUPLE
Renewal Fee	Rs. 600	Rs. 700
Fresh Enrolment (Inclusive of Admission Fee)	Rs. 750	Rs. 850
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	Rs. 4,000	

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IS DONE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS :

1. Old Identity Card should be surrendered along with Photograph. (If Photograph is in multilated condition, a fresh Photograph should be given).
2. Renewal form should be filled up if there is any change in address.
3. Members desirous of renewing their membership by post must do so by remitting the prescribed amount by Crossed DEMAND DRAFT drawn in favour of HYDERABAD FILM CLUB to the above address along with the present membership card indicating change of address if any.
4. Existing single members desirous of taking couple membership in 2013 should give fresh application along with 2 passport size JOINT PHOTOGRAPHS. An admission fee of Rs. 100/- will be collected for the spouse of the member.
5. Fresh enrolment will be done on production of 2 passport size photographs (single / joint) along with application and prescribed fee.

**NO HALF - YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FOR FIRST HALF (JANUARY TO JUNE)  
RENEWAL & ENROLMENT IS DONE ONLY ON SCREENING DAYS AT THE VENUE**



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## CINEMA OF BANGLADESH

The Bangladeshi film industry has been based in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, since 1956. As of 2004, it produced approximately 100 movies a year, with an average movie budget of about 20,000,000 Bangladeshi taka. The film industry is known as Dhallywood, a portmanteau of the words Dhaka and Hollywood.

On April 24, 1898, the Bengali weekly Dhaka Prakash reported that films were shown in Dhaka by the Bradford Bioscope Company, at the Crown Theatre, in Patuatuli, near Sadarghat. The show included news items and other short features. The first permanent cinema in Dhaka, named Picture House, began operation during 1913–1914. This cinema was renamed to New Picture House and then again to Shabistan. By 1947 there were around 80 cinemas in what is now Bangladesh.

The first Bengali organization for producing and exhibiting films was the Royal Bioscope Company, established in 1890s in Calcutta by Hiralal Sen. Although feature films were made in Bengali as early as 1919 (Bilwa Mangal), most production was done in Calcutta. The Nawab family of Dhaka produced Sukumari (1928–1929) and The Last Kiss (1931).

After the partition of India in 1947, the first film made in East Pakistan was a newsreel about the visit of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, produced in 1948 by the radio broadcaster Nazir Ahmed. The first full-length feature film with sound made in East Pakistan was Mukh O Mukhosh, which was produced by Abdul Jabbar Khan and released on August 3, 1956. Editing, printing and



all other film processing for this movie was done in Lahore, Pakistan.

The East Bengal Provincial Assembly established the East Pakistan Film Development Corporation (EPFDC) on April 3, 1957. The first film produced by this organization was Asiya (The Life of a Village Girl, 1960), directed by Fateh Lohani. During the late 1960s, between 20 and 35 films were produced each year. Production quantity continued to increase after Bangladesh gained its independence on December 16, 1971; in 1979, for example, 51 films were released, and in the 1990s over 90 films per year were released. One of the first films produced in Bangladesh after independence was Titash Ekti Nadir Naam (A River Called Titas) in 1973 by acclaimed director Ritwik Ghatak, whose stature in Bengali cinema is comparable to that of Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen.

Although the majority of the films made in Bangladesh are strictly commercial in nature, a handful of directors from Bangladesh have attained critical acclamation for their outstanding work. Zahir Raihan, Khan Ataur Rahman, Salahuddin, Alamgir Kabir, Amjad Hussain, Swapan Ahmed, Moshiiuddin Shaker, Sheikh Niyamat Ali, Mostofa sarwar farooki, Humayun Ahmed, Morshedul Islam, Tanvir Mokammel, Tareque Masud, Salauddin Lavlu are among those prominent directors. Bangladesh has been officially submitting nominations for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film from 2003. Masud's Matir Moina (The Clay Bird) was the first film to be submitted, and won a number of other international awards from



the Edinburgh, Palm Springs, Montreal, Marrakech, Cairo and Cannes Film Festivals. Another internationally acclaimed filmmaker from Bangladesh is Morshedul Islam, who won major awards at the International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg and other international film festivals.

At the “Bangladesh Film Festival-2013, Kolkata, India” jointly organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Public Relations, Government of India, in collaboration with the state Government of West Bengal and Bangladesh High Commission, New Delhi have selected the following seven feature films from last 5 years by a preview committee for screening in the festival: LalTip (The Red Point) by Swapan Ahmed, Dubshatar (In Too Deep) by Nurul Alam Atik, Third Person Singular Number by Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, Chandragrohon (The Shadow of Life) by Murad Parvej, Guerrilla by Nasiruddin Ahmed, Bacchu Monpura by Giasuddin Salim Durotto (The Alienation) by Morshedul Islam. In 2012 Humayun

Ahmed film Ghetuputra Kamola was selected as the Bangladeshi entry for 85th Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, but it did not make the final shortlist.



Recently, the Bangladeshi film industry has faced increased competition from foreign films, satellite TV, home video, and other sources. Viewership of Bangladeshi films has dropped, and the industry has been criticized for producing low-quality films whose only appeal is that of sex, violence or melodrama.

## SYNOPSIS

### MEHERJAAN

(Bangladesh/2007/Color/119 mins.)

Director : Rubaiyat Hossain  
Writer : Rubaiyat Hossain



**Meherjan** has a fabulous cast consisting of Indian and Bangladeshi actresses and actors, including **Jaya Bachchan, Victor Banerjee,** Humayun Faridi, Sharmili Ahmed, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Monira Mithu, Azad Abul Kalam Pavel, Shatabdi Wadud, Omar Rahim, Shaina Amin, Reetu A Sattar, Rifat Chowdhury, Iqbal Sultan and others.

In 1971, during Bangladesh's war of independence, Meher falls in love with a soldier from the enemy side. When her love is discovered, she is shamed and silenced by her family and society. Today 38 years after the war, Meher has a visitor she cannot turn down. Sarah—a 'war-child,' Meher's cousin Neela's daughter, who was given away for adoption has come back to piece together her past. Together, these two women must re-tell history through their stories in order to cut through the stigmas and walk into light.

#### Festivals & Awards

Meherjaan has been participated in many film festivals including Kolkata Film Festival, Festival International de Films de Fribourg, Festival de Cine de Bogotá, London Asian Film Festival, Osian's Cinefan Festival of Asian & Arab Cinema, Jaipur International Film Festival, Cyprus International Film Festival, Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, Belize International Film Festival, Portobello Film Festival, Baghdad International Film Festival, Indian Film Festival The Hague, Arizona International Film Festival, Kenya International Film Festival, Festival Internacional De Cine Independiente y Video Oaxaca, Ladakh International Film Festival, Seattle South Asian

Film Festival, International Film Festival Antigua barbuda, Bahamas International Film Festival and others.

Meherjaan wins a handful of awards at International film festivals and competitions including Best Critic Award (Jaipur Int. Film Festival), Jury Award and Audience Award for Best Feature Film (Northampton Int. Film Festival),<sup>1</sup> Best Feature Film (Abuja Int. Film Festival), Leigh Whipper Gold Award and Best Film Award (Philadelphia Int. Film Festival), Orson Wells Award (Tiburon Int. Film Festival), Grand Bonehead Award-Best Foreign Language Film and Best Soundtrack (Bare Bones Int. Film Festival), GAIA Award-Best Foreign Film and ATLANTIS Award-Best Soundtrack (Moondance Film Festival),<sup>1</sup> Best Cinematography (Hoboken Int. Film Festival), Best Foreign Film-Runner up (AOF Int. Film Festival), Best Outstanding Debut Film and Best Female Director (NJ Independent South Asian Cinefest), Best International Feature Film and Special Jury Award (IFF for Peace, Inspiration, and Equality), River Admiration Award-Outstanding Feature(East) and Best Actress-Jaya Bachchan (Silent River Film Festival), Best Foreign Film (River's Edge film festival),<sup>1</sup> Grand Jury Prize-Best Film (International Bridge Fest), Best Foreign Film and Best Script-Honorable Mention (Cleveland Indie Gathering), Honorable Mention (New Jersey Int. Film Festival) and others.

## AHA!

(Bangladesh/2007/128 mins.)

Story, Screenplay, Lyric & Direction: Enamul Karim Nirjhar  
 Cinematography : Saiful Islam Badal  
 Music : Anup Mukhopadhyay  
 Cast : Tariq Anam Khan, Sathi Yasmin, Humayun Faridi, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Ferdous

Mr. Mallik, a total introvert, lives alone in the derelict of a mansion that his ancestors built in Dhaka. Multistoried apartment buildings surround his ancestral home, and real estate developer Rafique is persistently persuading him to demolish the property to build one there, too. He offers him 10 flats out of the 35 he plans to make, apart from the cash. It's a lucrative deal for the lonely owner of a run-down property he can't maintain anymore.

Things take a sudden twist when Ruba, his only child, returns from the US to live with her father. At the very same time, Soleman, a repentant murderer serving Mr. Mallik, gets into trouble with the local toughs while defending his master's property. Ruba finds a



suitor in her Australian born cousin Asif and a friend in Kislul, a middle-aged neighbor who wears seven differently colored briefs around the week. The local toughs find an easy prey in Rafique and an adversary in Rafique's ally Kanchan, the local gang lord.

The story progresses through a complex array of people and their intentions, where Ruba seeks a man who doesn't play a man, Kislul walks in the clouds of love for the Ruba and the city, and Rafique tries to keep a balance between the toughs and his profits. It takes more sudden turns with stunning revelations about Ruba, Soleman, and Asif.

The biggest twist comes with the final torment of Mr. Mallik and Soleman, two persons faced with their greatest fears. And, the film ends with the equation of sins and redemption revealed through the relation between people and architecture presented in a whole new perspective.

### Festivals Participation:

- 25<sup>th</sup> Filmfest Muenchen, Germany (Official Selection: New Asian Cinema Section)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival
- 31<sup>st</sup> Cairo International Film Festival, Egypt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bursa Silkroad Inter International Film Festival, Turkey
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dubai International Film Festival
- 6<sup>th</sup> Pune International Film Festival
- A10th Osian's-Cinefan International Film Festival, New Delhi
- South Asian Film Festival, Goa - 2008
- 10<sup>th</sup> Rainbow International Film Festival, London - 2009

### Awards Achievements:

Best Film Director Award- National Film Award 2007  
**(Enamul Karim Nirjhar)**  
 Best Singer (Female) National Film Award 2007  
**(Fahmida Nobi)**

## BEYOND THE CIRCLE

(*Britter Baiyrey*)

(Bangladesh/2009/Color/87mins.)

Director : Golam Rabbany Biplob  
 Writer : Golam Rabbany Biplob  
 Cast : Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Firoj Khan Dollar,  
 Azharul Islam Khan



Two years ago, Festival audiences discovered a lovely surprise in *On the Wings of Dreams*. In this gentle, humane fable, director Golam Rabbany Biplob showed the richness of village life in Bangladesh, even as he explored the modern tensions that threaten it. In his follow-up feature *Beyond the Circle*, Biplob finds a moral tale in the pressing and inevitable shift now facing his society: the move from the village to the city. Haripada is a musician in the rural north. He is Hindu but has adopted a Muslim boy, Moqbul, into his family. His only brush with urban life came when a reporter once interviewed him about his music. When that interview is eventually published, the journalist, Selim, returns and invites Haripada to come to Dhaka. A capital city of over twelve million, Dhaka swallows men like Haripada by the minute. Initially eager to see city life, the old man and his adopted son are immediately swept up in commerce.

A music company considers Haripada's talent with the traditional flute a precious commodity. Deploying an army of publicists, managers, sponsors and marketers, they set about exploiting his rustic authenticity. Each time Haripada tries to flee to his village, they find one more way to pull him back. The corruption of a village innocent by the wicked city is the stuff of folk tales, old novels and Frank Capra movies. Like Capra's heroes, Haripada may be naive but he is not stupid. Beset by the many demands of bustling Dhaka, he's forced to find a path back to his music. And the tunes are sublime. Drawing from age-old Bangladeshi folk traditions, *Beyond the Circle* introduces beautiful new melodies that float through and above the percussive push of the city.

**Golam Rabbany Biplob** was born in Naogaon, Bangladesh, and studied Bengali language and literature, philosophy and English. He is the secretary general of the International Federation of Film Societies and the founding director of the International Film Festival Bangladesh. His first feature film, *On the Wings of Dreams* (2007), won the best new Asian director award at the 2007 Shanghai International Film Festival.

## TRANSFORMATION

(*Rupantor*)

(Bangladesh/2008/Color/86 mins.)

Director : Abu Sayeed  
 Writer : Abu Sayeed  
 Cast : Ferdous Ahmed, Jayanto Chattopadhyay,  
 Sakiba



The story of Eklavya is the subject of Sayeed's latest film 'Rupantor' (Transformation) in which he seeks to show metamorphosis of political and military power through the centuries.

Through contemporary characters, *Rupantor* delves into a story from the epic. In the film, Arif, a young filmmaker, is set to make a movie on the story of Ekalavya and his guru dakshina to Dronacharya. Shaila is Arif's assistant.

According to Mahabharata, Dronacharya wanted Ekalavya's right thumb for his "guru dakshina", which ended the possibility of the latter becoming a formidable archer.

While shooting the film, Arif comes into contact with Santhals who tell him that the thumb is not necessary to be able to shoot an arrow. It is the index and middle fingers that are used in archery.

Then, why did Dronacharya ask Eklavya to sacrifice his thumb? Arif and Shaila become perplexed and go deep into the story and reach a new reality.

## NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEARS 2013-2015

Hyderabad Film Club in its General Body Meeting held on 16-03-2013 elected the following Members for the years 2013-2015:

PRESIDENT	..	<b>Allani Sreedhar</b> , Film-maker and Managing Director, Filmedia Productions Pvt. Ltd.,
VICE-PRESIDENTS..		1. <b>K. L. Prasad</b> , Film-writer 2. <b>M.V. Raghu</b> , Film Director & Cameraman
SECRETARY	..	<b>Bh. S.S. Prakash Reddy</b>
JOINT SECRETARY..		<b>Syam G.K.</b> , Programme Executive, Doordarshan
TREASURER	..	<b>C. S. Ravi Kumar</b>
MEMBERS	..	1. <b>Gangadhar Panday</b> , Babul Films 2. <b>V.V. Raju</b> , Film-maker 3. <b>R.K. Akna Goud</b> , Film-maker 4. <b>V.V. Maheshwar Rao</b> 5. <b>Dany Kumar Azad</b>

### MONPURA

(Bangladesh/2009/Color/136 mins.)

Director : Selim Gias Uddin  
Writer : Selim Gias Uddin  
Cast : Chanchal Chowdhury, Farhana Mili, Fazlur  
Rahman Babu, Mamunur Rashid

A housemaid is killed by a local landlord's son. His servant takes the blame for the murder, to save the landlord's mentally ill son and is marooned in an island named Monpura. There the servant comes across a fisherman's daughter.

Monpura made a huge media hype before its release. "A heart breaking story," as called by popular actor and director Afjal Hossain, its unusual songs and rural setting set the background of an artistic romance film. Monpura, unlike many other popular Bangla films, uses the rural settings of Bangladesh, something Selim says audiences have a strong attachment to.

But the picturisation, the setting of the island named *Monpura* is what has made the movie unique. Moreover, it is not only a love story; there is a hidden satire in it.

#### National Film Awards

- ☞ Winner Best Film: Anjan Chowdhury Pintu
- ☞ Winner Best Actor: Chanchal Chowdhury (Shared with Ferdous for *Gongajatra*)
- ☞ Winner Best Villain Character: Mamunur Rashid
- ☞ Winner Best Screenplay: Giasuddin Selim
- ☞ Winner Best Singer: Chondona Mazumder and Kazi Krishnokoli Islam

### THE FLUTE

(*Banshi*)

(Bangladesh/2007/Color/72 mins.)

Director : Abu Sayeed  
Writer : Abu Sayeed  
Cast : Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Amirul Huq  
Chowdhury, K.S. Firoz

This film is about the dream and imagination of a would-be filmmaker. The story depicts how he, with his innocent look, views the rural Bangladesh society and how that innocence gets shattered. This protagonist, Arif, a young man with dreams of making films, goes to a village far from the capital city Dhaka to visit a fair. A fellow passenger, Shaila whom he didn't know teams up with him. The two of them are impressed by the rural scenes and are excited by the prospect of enjoying rural culture. But at one stage, they find in fear that two influential families of the village can even pick up a fight over a trivial matter. A stir is seated in the village which embarrasses, the urban visitors, Arif and Shaila. Things do not go well with Arif's dream. He rather finds resemblance of the incident with the incident and the stories told by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet four hundred years ago and by Tolstoy a hundred and fifty four years ago in his "Little girls are wiser than men" The resemblance surprises and frustrates Arif. But he also finds a way out in a dream incident. His fantasy and reality come together. He too becomes a character in the imaginary sequence that ends the film. Is it a 'film within film'? Why don't the real people act like this? The film ends with both hope and despair. It leaves questions but keeps the answers open-ended.

**ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT**

Mr. Allani Sreedhar - a prolific writer, passionate film maker and a self made producer and director, has vast experience spanning decades in the film industry. His achievements have been recognized by the critics and have been bestowed with many awards. Film making has always been a passion with him - be it telling a story of saint or depicting the strife and struggles of a tribal person in an oppressive period in India.

He has worked as a freelance cartoonist and written a number of short stories like "Campus-Campus", "Young India", etc., been a script writer for many serials on TV and has lent his experience and shaped some futuristic policies as General Secretary of Secunderabad Film Society.

Mr. Allani Sreedhar has made many feature films like "Raghuluthunna Bharatam" in telugu starring ANR, Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao, Jagapathi Babu; "Preme - Naa \_ Pranam" in telugu starring Vanisri, Nasar, Varun Raj; "Buddha" in hindi and telugu. "Utsaham" in telegu, etc.



His feature film "Tuhi Meri Ganga" in hindi won the Best Feature Film Award by the Critics Jury in the International Film Festival in USA. He has been conferred the "Nandi Award" by Government of Andhra Pradesh, Best Director for his film "Komaram Bheem" in telugu. (Hyderabad Film Club screened this film twice to the members.) This is in addition to the Best Sensational Movie Director conferred by Superhit Film Awards for the same film.

Hos creatove abilities are also seen in many commercial advertisements (more than 150 in number) that he has done, like the one for Agrigold, RS Brothers, Oracid, Ocean Park, Vijaya Dairy, APSFT, etc.

Mr. Sreedhar has also been adjudged as the Best TV Director for his weekly serial "Sai Saranam" in telugu that was telecasted on Gemini TV. His short film "Manakatha" was conferred the Nandi Award of Government of Andhra Pradesh under the second best telefilm category and "Buddha" in Best Production category.

**FILMOGRAPHY****Feature Films: In Telugu**

- \* Komaram Bheem
- \* Raghuluthunna Bharatham
- \* Preme-Naa-Pranam
- \* Uthsaham
- \* Jai Sri Balaaji
- \* Gautama Buddha
- \* Hanuman Chalisa
- \* Hosteldays
- \* Chilkuru Balaji
- \* A multi lingual feature film is currently under production.

**Feature Films: In Hindi**

- \* Tuhi Meri Ganga
- \* Tathagatha Buddha
- \* Goswami Tulasidas

**For Television: In Telugu**

- \* Srovaaro Teerthalu on SVBC

- \* Sri Pothuluri Veerbrahmendra Swamy on ETV
- \* Sai Saranam on Gemini TV
- \* Aadi Prasakthi on Gemini TV
- \* Maha Ganapathi on Gemeni
- \* Lata,a Raju Kathalu
- \* Manakatha
- \* Pragathi on DD
- \* Intinta Santhosham on DD
- \* Aakupacha Chandamama on DD
- \* Dr. Indira on DD
- \* Mee Shreyobhilashi - under production and many more.

**For Television: In Hindi**

- \* Kaviparampara
- \* Swami Ramanand Theertha
- \* Anokha Bandhan
- \* Jai Shri Ganesh
- \* Sach Honge Sapne and many more.

**Hyderabad Film Club is planning to organise number of programmes in future under the leadership of Sri Allani Sreedhar.**