

NFAI Press Conference

- PIFF Interactions with Samar Nakhate at NFAI on Sunday, January 12, 2020

1) Movie- Widow of Silence

Praveen Morchhale, Director, Screenwriter, Producer

“A news report about the conditions of half-widows in Kashmir propelled me to make this film. I went to Kashmir to interview these women and during an interaction one of them told me that ‘nobody considered them alive’. So accordingly, I did a research on the subject and formed the stories of these women into one story,” said Praveen Morchhale, Director.

The Urdu-language drama set in conflict-ridden Kashmir, highlights the state of Aasia, a half-widow whose husband is taken by Indian police and is presumed dead. However, without a death certificate she can neither remarry nor settle her dire financial situation. A corrupt government clerk offers her the documents she needs, in return for agreement to sell her small plot of land to a buyer of his choosing, plus a commission and sex.

“I wanted to tell a story of distraught families, where the people who suffer the most are woman and children and had no intention of turning it into a political one. Most of the characters in my film are non-actors who belong to the conflict-zone in Kashmir,” added Morchhale.

2) Movie: A Night A Day

Prathap Joseph T., Director

The film- A Night A Day / Oru Rathri Oru Pakal deals with the subject of ‘honour crimes’ and natural disasters in the state of Kerala.

“I like the cinematic way of looking at things. Kerala had been affected with lots of calamities including incidents involving honour killings, floods and a drought. I wanted to connect everything with the hierarchal social minds and make a film. The title of the film implies something known and something unknown. We’ve had 5 screenings in Kerala and have received good response from the youth,” said Prathap Joseph T., Director of the film.

The story is about a pair of lovers get into a house that was deserted in flood. The woman has left her home because the news of the affair led into a conflict at home, while the man is not in a condition to start a life with her. Slowly they move toward the reeds on the river where the affects of nature and human drives face each other.

3) **Nirvana Inn**

Vijay Jayapal, Director.

“I wanted to make a genre film which dealt with psychological horror. I was inspired to make this film after reading a newspaper article about the Germanwings Flight 9525 crash, which a suicidal co-pilot had deliberately flown into the French Alps, killing everyone on board. Furthermore, during a family trip in Kerala, I had heard strange growls from the roof on a resort we were staying in, which further triggered the idea,” said Vijay Jayapal, Director.

Shot in Manali and Majuli, Nirvana Inn deals with guilt, fear, and reincarnation. The film is about a boatman who capsizes his boat, killing all his passengers, but survives himself. Wracked with guilt, he flees and becomes the caretaker of a Himalayan resort and is shocked to see his victims checking in. The film’s title has a representational connection to its story, with the inn becoming a ground for the boatman’s redemption.

“The title- Nirvana Inn refers to the cycle of birth and death and reincarnation. It is a non-linear film and experienced actors like Adil Hussain brought a lot to the table and made it dramatic,” said Jayapal.