

NFAI Press Conference

- PIFF Interactions with Samar Nakhate at NFAI on Monday, January 13, 2020

1) Movie- Bonsai

Sameer Asha Patil, Director and Gaurav Ponshe and Sanjay Shankar, Producers

The director, Sameer Asha Patil's journey has been from a village to big city like Mumbai, which according to him was a significant transition.

"This story was born from my own experiences. It is difficult for a villager who has lived among nature, following rural customs to adjust in a sprawling city, which is made of artificial and technical things. We have created a different kind of bonsai society, which is artificial with our own roots making our lives colorless and dull. I have made the movie black and white and have kept the ending colored as I wanted to convey that when love blooms, the results can still be colorful," said Patil.

The movie is about an old man who has spent his whole life in a small village and later moves to the city at his son's insistence even though he dislikes the idea. When he lands into the city, he finds no connection with the artificiality and complexities of modern life and misses his village but finds solace in his granddaughter. He decides to flee from the city before the bull festival, but his granddaughter prevents him from doing that. He finds himself in dilemma of the love towards his village and his granddaughter and tries to adjust to this new life in the city, where he doesn't belong.

"Cinema can't change perception of the society, but it can lift one's thought. We have to understand that if we want a secured future, we have to free our thinking," said Patil.

2) Movie- Y

Dr. Ajit Wadikar, Director, Nandu Madhav, Actor, Swapneel Sojwal, Screenplay writer and Rakesh Bhilare, Cinematographer.

The film Y highlights the bane of female feticide plaguing the society. Connecting four different storylines, this is a film about social issues that includes a couple who decides to do something barbaric in the 9th month of their pregnancy. A husband who cons his wife. A medical professional who shuns his ethics and a woman who solely fights against all evils, mentalities and the system and eventually turns into a torchbearer.

"The hospital is the focal point of the film that goes through many levels. In one of the stories, we have highlighted demand for female feticide, and in the other we talk

about an organization that seeks to stop this evil. Though the stories are fictional, they numb you at one level and coerce you to think,” said Dr. Ajit Wadikar, Director. “Even though such films are often limited to the festivals, the concept re-emerges and reaches out to the community and inspires the audience,” said Actor, Nandu Madhav.

3) Movie- Tujhya Aaila / Up your Mother’s

Sujay Dahake, Director, Megha Pramanik, Producer

For Sujoy Dahake, it was a random and offbeat incident that triggered him to make this film.

“While directing the movie Shaala, I had abused a co-worker for not performing his duty. We met again after 7 years and when he recalled the incident, I was taken aback and wondered how an insult can carry so much weight. It was then I decided that I must talk about verbal violence through a film and accordingly the idea to make ‘Tujhya Aaila’ was born,” said Dahake.

The film revolves around a 12-year-old urban boy who gets admitted in a rural school after his family moves to a village following his father’s transfer. Unknown to the rural culture, the boy is surprised when he is exposed to the culture of verbal abuse prevalent among his fellow-students. While he works hard to adapt and blend in, the events around him make him question the very practice of verbal abuse that exists in society.

“The film deals with contrasting ideas, caste, culture and corporal punishment. It has a layer of violence, but it mainly talks with feminism. Why does verbal abuses refer only to females and not men and why abusing someone always matter? The gravity of verbal violence can be dangerous,” Sujoy added.