

NFAI Press Conference

- PIFF Interactions with Samar Nakhate at NFAI on Wednesday, January 15, 2020

1) Movie- Liza's Tale

Valeriy Kalmykov, Producer and Irina Glushkova, Translator

The movie by Ukrainian writer, screenwriter and director, Alexander Zhovna deals with a couple suffering from Down syndrome. Known as 'sunny kids', they do not feel comfortable in the harsh and cruel modern world and intuitively look for a way out. They accordingly get an opportunity to watch old silent movies of Charlie Chaplin in a theatre, which helps them forget their everyday problems, empathise with the heroes of silent cinema, and feel clear joy and sincere love, feelings that the world they came from utterly lacks.

"The film is about human feelings and characters' struggle to come out of mundane existence of life. It is the outburst of all emotions of the director, Alexander Zhovna, which were accumulated in him since past 30 years as a guardian of the students suffering from Down Syndrome in Ukraine. We had our doubts while making this film as we thought people may not like the topic we wanted to highlight, but eventually we received good response. We wanted to tell the world that 'sunny people' are wonderful, sincere and real and with proper treatment and privileges they can lead normal lives," said Valeriy Kalmykov, Producer.

He added saying that for the film, the characters with Down Syndrome were chosen from a boarding school in Ukraine where the director teaches after casting their age and health.

2) The Teacher

Julia Franzke, Actor

"The film explores facts about the German culture cultural ethos and how linguistic hierarchy can make things unstable. It also highlights the problems of migrants who are unable to adapt the German culture. With many interesting scenes and a horrible end, the film has received good response so far and has been released in Paris," said Julia Franzke, lead actor in the film.

The story, written by the director, Denis Dercourt is set in Berlin, where a young migrant wants to learn how to converse in German. The teacher he gets in touch with uses a peculiar new method. The first topic she wants him to talk about is: "Yesterday my dog was killed; today we will kill somebody." But as the lessons progress, the student starts to feel more and more committed.