

## CIFFI2019 brings together countries, communities and cinephiles



**Cineaste International Film Festival of India (CIFFI)**, jointly organised by **DME Media School** and **School of Communications and Creative Arts, Deakin University**, commenced in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium of DME on April 17, 2019. The inaugural session was graced by Mr. Khalid Mohamed, celebrated journalist, author, screenwriter and film director as the chief guest. As many as 81 films will be screened during the four day festival.

The event witnessed the presence of eminent film-makers, screenwriters, media-academics from all corners of the world. Prominent names included Ms. Saara Lamberg, eminent filmmaker from Australia, Ms. C.B. Anzi Zalis, active film-maker from Israel, Ms. Roseann M. Mandziuk, Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Texas State University, US.

Dr. Nakul Parashar, Director, Vigyan Prasar, Ms. Ravneet Pawha, Deputy Vice President and CEO-South Asia, Deakin University, Mr. R.K. Arora, CEO, Swen Today enlightened everyone with their words of wisdom.

Mr. Aman Sahni, Vice Chairman, DME greeted everyone and stated that plan behind CIFFI was not to get publicity but for the faculty and students to get an opportunity to be involved in something meaningful. Prof. (Dr.) Susmita Bala, Head, DME Media School

welcomed all dignitaries and stated that the best thing about CIFFI2019 is that we can have discussions with the stalwarts of the film industry. Prof. (Dr.) Ambrish Saxena, Dean, DME Media School, mentioned that the core idea behind organising CIFFI was to create a platform for brainstorming and interactions.

Dr. Ravikant Swami, Director, DME, shared his long fondness and admiration for Mr. Khalid Mohamed.

Ms. Manmeet Kaur, Assistant Professor, DME Media School, presented vote of thanks. The session kicked off with great energy and enthusiasm and set the bar for the days to come.



**CIFFI dignitaries unveil the festival curtain raiser Newsletter. Also released a book based on a study conducted on the Lok Sabha election 2019 by RIM team of DME.**

# Guests Speak



*"The energy seems good and I wish to interact more with the students. I would suggest DME students to explore cinema more and don't just depend on the special effects, rather see all kinds of movies."*

**- Khalid Mohamed**

Celebrated Journalist, Author, Screenwriter and Film Director

*"It is overwhelming! So much energy and laughter. Film festivals can be more-not so energetic but here energy is very palpable. I feel included as the atmosphere here is very positive and fun. It is a special experience. I wish to visit DME again."*

**- Saara Lamberg**

Eminent filmmaker, Australia



*"It is a wonderful experience and I am eagerly waiting for the events in upcoming days. It is really fun watching the films and meeting other guests. I am looking forward for award ceremony at the end. It is a nice way to acknowledge the efforts of the participants."*

**- C.B. Anzi Zalis**

Former cultural Attachee at embassy of Israel in New Delhi and active filmmaker

*"Indian cinema is as vibrant as the people here. I have been travelling a lot and my experience here has been amazing. It is really pleasing, that I got an invitation for CIFFI and I am looking forward for all the events in upcoming days. My best wishes to CIFFI."*

**- Roseann M. Mandziuk**

Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Texas State University, US



*"The involvement of documentaries, fictions, non-fictions, short films, animation films is the biggest achievement of international film festival CIFFI 2019. Despite being a jury member, I enjoyed a lot. The event is going to be fun."*

**- Nimish Kapoor**

Science Communicator and Scientist, Vigyan Prasar

*"Indian cinema is a great reflection of the times that we are living in today. It gives an insight of different aspects of society. My only advice to the aspiring journalists is to watch movies as there is no better teacher than cinema."*

**- Savita Oberoi**

Independent Filmmaker, Aquarius Productions, New Delhi



*"We want to educate youth of this country through the medium of films about disability issues and CIFFI is giving the platform to do the same."*

**- Satish Kapoor**

Founder Director, We Care Film Festival

# CIFFI screenings enlighten cinephiles on social issues

It takes a filmmaker's heart and soul to produce just few minutes of a film. In order to appreciate their hard work, some of the selected films were screened at DME Media School during CIFFI2019.

On first day of the film festival, various films were screened simultaneously in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium and Studio 62. In

the competitive category, 21 films were showcased whereas 2 films were screened in the independent category.

The competitive section of short films revolved

around social issues like air toxicity, child sexual abuse, gender inequality etc. Abhishek Singh's

'Rouge Water' enlightened the viewers about the harmful effects of drinking RO water and its mineral deficiency.

The director urged the audience to stop drinking RO water and look for an alternative.

Naval The Jewel, a film in the independent category

displayed a two hour drama showcasing the cultural restrictions in our society and how women are oppressed by men.



## Satish Kapoor discusses disability with students in Curate Session



**Mr. Kapoor in conversation with DME students**

The first Curate Session of CIFFI2019 took place in the Studio 62 of DME Media School. The session started with the introductory speech by Mr. Satish Kapoor, Founder and Director, Brotherhood and We Care Film Festival. The entire session focused on the topic 'Disability'. Mr. Satish Kapoor gave a brief idea about the session and also added that when these type of films are showcased in film festivals, people get to know about the importance of disability to be taught as a subject in colleges.

The session involved screening of five short



**Student raising a point during interaction**

films titled, 'Blindness', 'Love is Blind', 'A Different Kind of Day', 'The Filled Half', 'The Fish & I'. Following the screening, he interacted with students and answered their queries regarding the films. Finally, the National Anthem, which was an amalgamation of three kinds of disabilities; conceptualized and directed by him was showcased. He added that the National Anthem is the most accessible anthem to support his idea regarding equality for specially abled.

# CIFFI Day 1 concludes with an Australian blast

Day one of CIFFI2019 concluded with the screening of the brilliant Australian film- Book Week by Heath Davis.

With the energy still buzzing through, the screening was a wonderful affair. The audience was more excited for the critically acclaimed Australia film.

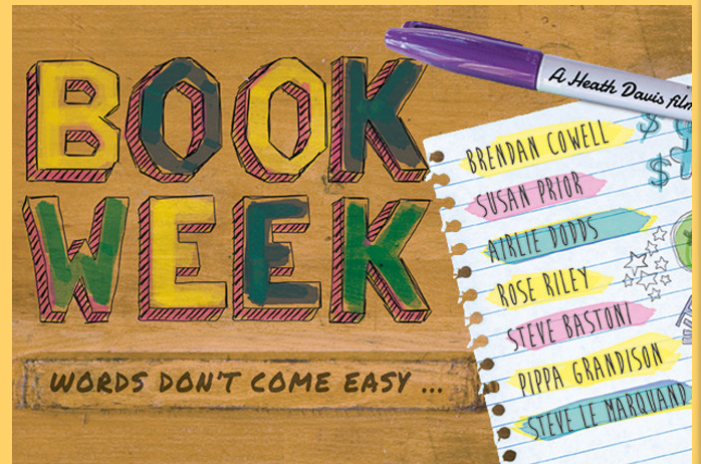


Ms. Saara Lamberg addressing the audience during CIFFI2019

It was about a high school English teacher- Nicholas Cutler- who thinks his life is finally going to change for the better as his novel was about to be published after several attempts.

But what is meant to be the best week of his life turns into purgatory. A pregnant girlfriend's peremptory demands, a student in trouble, a critically ill brother-in-law and the chances of living a life of unfulfilled dreams, force Mr. Cutler to review what is most important in his life.

The storyline was astounding, unexpected and very well received by the audience. The upbeat music score was incredible; the viewers swooned to it. Ms. Saara Lamberg, an Australian Filmmaker who was present on the occasion said that the screenplay was lovely and she enjoyed the movie. "I was more excited because it was from my own country- Australia," she added.



While Ms. Roseann M. Mandziuk, an American communicator stated that the character building was very well executed. She enjoyed the movie a lot.

Fazal Khan, a member of Cine Treasures, DME, said, "I loved how there were more manual shots than the dependence on technology. I liked the editing and would take inspiration from Mr. Heath's work."

The screening concluded the day's event with a blast, leaving everyone with more zeal and expectations for the upcoming days of CIFFI.

**Patron-in-Chief:** Mr. Vipin Sahni, **Patrons:** Mr. Aman Sahni, Justice Bhanwar Singh, Dr. Ravikant Swami, **Editorial Advisor:** Dr. Ambrish Saxena, **Editor:** Dr. Susmita Bala, **Assistant Editors:** Mr. Mohammad Kamil and Ms. Kritika Sati, **Design & Layout:** Shubham Mandal, Vishnu P.V. **Student Editorial Team:** Kushagrata Thakur, Pranati Agarwal, Srishti Sharma, Gajendra Singh, Adarsh Sharma, Saket Tejaswi, Kausik Das, Yukta Prakash, Priyanka Naithani, Shivani Saini, Swati Singh, Aparna Sharma, Aamaan Alam Khan, Aneesh Narda, Aditya Pratap Singh, Tanya Ghosh, **Photography and Visual Effects:** DME Frames.

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