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Happy Reading!

We are delighted to share the first issue of WFF Newsletter. Your comments and suggestions will help us in making the upcoming issues more informative and interesting. Do share your feedback at woodpeckerfilmfestival@gmail.com

Lights, camera, action...awards!

The 61st National Film Awards marks a gratifying victory for the emerging talent in the world of alternative cinema.

The announcement of 61st National Film Awards, recently, has given a strong morale boost to young independent filmmakers, who are struggling to get a foothold in the film industry. With Independent filmmakers making their presence felt in this year's list of awardees, it provided a welcome respite from the domination of 'Big-names' and 'Big-banners' in many of the previous editions of National Awards.

Truly reflecting the diversity of Indian Cinema, this year's winners have narrated impactful stories and showcased intricate themes on the big screen. From issues of metaphysical belief and morality to realistic portrayal of Dalits in the country and from an unconventional investigation of the Devadasi tradition in South India to an indictment of the pervasive and ruthless world of the sex trade, the winners have poignantly brushed the canvas of cinema through the vibrancy of colourful themes.

In the language category, 'Ajevo' was named the best Asamese film, 'Bakita Byaktigato' (Bengali), 'December 1' (Kannada), 'Baga Beach' (Konkani), 'North 24 Kaadham' (Malayalam), 'Aajcha Diwas Majha' (Marathi), 'Thanga Meengal' (Tamil) and 'Na Bangaaru Talli' (Telugu) were other winners. 'Yellow' (Marathi) and 'Na Bangaaru Talli' were given special mention by the jury. The other language winners were, 'The Coffin Maker' (English), 'RI' (Khasi) and 'The Crossing Bridges' (Sherdukpen). Marathi films and actors bagged nine awards this year. The categories include best debut for a director, best film on social issues, best supporting actress, best child artiste, best female playback singer, best dialogues and special jury award among others.

The Nargis Dutt award for best feature film on national integration has been won by Tamil movie

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Cont. on page-02

FESTIVALS

- Indian Film Festival of Melbourne
 - **May 1-11, 2014**
 - www.iffm.com.au
- 14th New York Indian Film Festival
 - **May 5-10, 2014**
 - www.iaac.us
- 67th Cannes Film Festival 2014
 - **May 14-25, 2014**
 - www.festival-cannes.com
- Dharamsala Film Festival
 - **May 13-15, 2014**
 - www.dharamsalafilmfestival.com
- 5th Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival
 - **May 21-25, 2014 (Tentative dates)**
 - www.mumbaiqueerfest.com

ENTRIES

- 28th AFI (American Film Institute) Fest 2014
 - Regular Deadline: 27 June 2014
 - **Last Deadline: 8 August 2014** | www.afi.com
- 4th Gujarat International Short Film Festival 2014
 - Regular deadline: 26 April 2014
 - **Last deadline: 20 May 2014** | www.giffindia.org
- 41st Telluride Film Festival
 - Shorts and Student Films - April 15 to July 1
 - **Features - April 15 to July 15** | www.telluridefilmfestival.org
- 11th Indian Documentary Producers Association (IDPA)
 - Regular Deadline: 31 May 2014
 - **Last Deadline: 30th June 2014** | www.idpaindia.org
- 9th Voices from the Waters Film Festival 2014
 - **Final Deadline: 30 May 2014**
 - www.voicesfromthewaters.com

WORKSHOPS

- **Impulse Filmmaking Workshop**
 - June-July 2014 (Weekdays based)
 - Registration Open
 - Apply Now! Request a free INFOBOOK 2014! Send in your complete name, full contact details including mobile no. and a line or two about what you do to impulsemail@gmail.com
- **Beginners Photography Workshop**
 - Delhi Photography Club (DPC)
 - Date: 11th May to 08th June
 - Timing: 11.30 am - 1.30 pm
 - Venue: Building No. 5 D, Second Floor, Shahpur Jat Village, New Delhi-49
 - www.delhiphotographyclub.com

WORLD OF WORDS

Title : Green Wars-Dispatches from Vanishing world

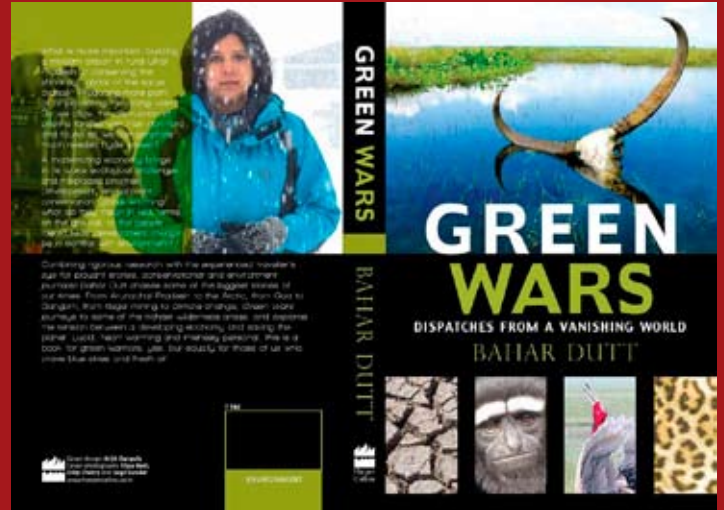
Author : Bahar Dutt

Book summary

Wildlife biologist and journalist Bahar Dutt travels to the far ends of the planet to report on some of the biggest environment stories of our time from climate change to illegal mining to big dams being constructed in rich tropical rainforests. As India makes its way to a super economy, the impact on its wildlife remains largely unreported. Dutt draws on her experience as a conservationist to look at how this tension between a modernizing economy and saving the planet can be resolved.

Sharp, incisive and in-depth, this book goes beyond the rhetoric of television debates to look at some of the leading issues facing our forests and wilderness areas. Dutt relives exhilarating moments of coming face to face with gharials and the grand old orangutan, and many creatures facing an uneasy future, in search of an answer to the question: how can we save all that is precious in a 'development without brakes' model of economy?

Source : harpercollins.co.in



NEXT BIG THING!



Hari S
Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Hari S did his graduation in Chemical Engineering and is passionate about film making. KadhaikulKadhai (2012) was his first film, followed by 'The Picture' and 'Mission Thiruvanniyur'. His latest film 'Mission Thiruvanniyur' also bagged the 'Best Student Film Award' in WFF-2013.

Nandita Anand
Bhubaneswar, Odisha



Nandita has completed her Bachelors' in Mass communication, Advertising and Journalism. As a student filmmaker she has been involved in directing short fictions, documentaries and advertisements. She is a multitasker and enjoys dabbling in audio/visual direction, script writing, screenplay, film research and photography.

GRAB YOUR SPACE! :

Passionate about filmmaking? Have a burning desire to change the world through the power of camera? Feels restless due to constant rush of creative ideas in your mind? Then this is just the right space for you. Send us your pic along with a 100 word writeup about yourself to woodpeckerfilmfestival@gmail.com and we will feature you in this section.

Lights, camera...

Cont. from page-01

Thalaimuraigal, a sensitive tale about the breaking of walls of orthodoxy and religious and linguistic bias in a small village of Tamil Nadu. In non-feature films category, English film 'The Last Adieu' won the best biographical/historical reconstruction. A film by Nandan Saxena & Kavita Bahl, 'Candles in the Wind' received a special mention at the National Film Awards.

The National Awards were presented in a glittering ceremony on May 3rd in New Delhi.

Some noted awardees:

Best Feature Film On National Integration	Thalaimuraigal(Tamil)
Best Film On Social Issues	Tuhya Dharma Koncha (Marathi)
Best Film On Environment Conservation/ Preservation	Perariyathavar (Malayalam)
Best Children's Film	Kaphal (Hindi)
Best Non Feature Film	Rangbhoomi (Hindi)
Best Biographical/ Historical Reconstruction	The Last Adieu (English)
Best Science & Technology Film	The Pad Piper (English)
Best Environment Film Including Agriculture	Forestry Life (Hindi, Assamese)
Best Film On Social Issues	Gulabi Gang (Hindi, Bundelkhandi)
Best Educational Film	The Quantum Indians (English)

“As long as there are issues to be tackled, there will be great documentaries”

...believes filmmaker **Akanksha Sood Singh**. In a freewheeling chat with *WFF team* she talks about her debut film *The Pad Piper* winning National Award this year and her other upcoming assignments.

WFF Your debut film has won National Award this year! Were you expecting it or the news came as a complete surprise?

AS This was a complete surprise! I am 33-year-old and this is my directorial debut! So, this news came as a huge surprise for me. I was not in the country at that time. I had logged onto an Indian news site, when a ticker flashed announcing the winners of the 61st NFA. I looked up the list and did not see my name there. I was sad! I re-read the list and suddenly realised it was only the feature film category! So, I opened the DFF website and there it was!

WFF Tell us something about your debut film-‘The Pad Piper’. How did you get this idea?

AS This concept was my husband’s. My little daughter, husband and I just packed our bags and decided to go and spend time with Muruganatham. We followed him day and night. With him, we travelled all over South India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Japan, filming as he went about installing machines, training women, giving talks, discussing marketing strategies with international brands.

The film was shot over a period of one year in different locations in India and in Japan. We spent three months on the post production.

WFF For a very long time you have been associated with conservation films, why you chose this subject for your debut film?

AS Natural history is and always will be my first love! But then, I am known to do things that are out of the ordinary! When I started research on the cultural and socio-economic significance of menstruation, I got sucked into it. The more I read, the more it shook me. Being an educated woman, I always thought I was ‘aware’. But I was not! At the end of the day, I am among the 12% women, the privileged class, who can afford to wear sanitary pads, but more importantly who know they exist! 88% women in our coun-

try don’t know they exist or don’t know how to use them!

The more women I met in India and Africa, the more shocking were their stories and experiences. And this is not an ‘Indian problem’ or ‘third world country belief system’. Even women in UK and USA have horror stories to narrate. The myths and taboos had to be broken and whispers had to be given a ear. And with the backing of NHK Japan, I knew I had a global platform.

Natural history is and always will be my first love! But then, I am known to do things that are out of the ordinary!

And, then there is Muruganatham’s story - it’s funny, thought provoking, sad, awe inspiring, shocking and crazy. After all, how many men do you know who wear sanitary pads to make their wives’ lives easy!

WFF What are your future plans? Any new challenging ideas for the next venture?

AS Yes! lots and lots of plans. My core strength is natural history and factual films for international broadcast. As a company, we at Kosmik Global Media, are producing many ground breaking natural



Akanksha Sood Singh

history films in India to be released in the coming months. On the personal front, I have just received an invitation from the Sheffield Doc Fest 2014 to be a member of the panel on Natural History.

WFF How do you see documentary filmmaking industry growing in India in near future?

AS As long as there are issues to be tackled, there will be great documentaries. The mantle to tell meaningful and important stories has always fallen on the shoulders of documentary films. While there is a public appetite for these films, it is rather small and limited. In India, we are at a crossroads. Our film makers seem to encounter competition from fiction within the country, a crowded market internationally and also have trouble engaging a global audience.

But there is help - new interactive technology. And this is what is helping documentary films see production funds through crowd sourcing, completion through accessible equipment and technology, distribution to specific communities through new media platforms.

Obviously, with all this a new set of questions have been born for which answers are yet to be formulated, but the possibilities are endless.

I have learnt that as long as stories are well told, people will want to see them.



(Some stills from the film *The Pad Piper*)



A village trader with his herd of camels in the famous Pushkar Camel Fair, Rajasthan.



Capture a moment, weave a story, create an impression and let the world talk about it!

Send us your favourite click along with a caption and we will publish it in the upcoming issue of WFF Newsletter. Email us at woodpeckerfilmfestival@gmail.com with *Picpocket* as the subject line.

CLICK!

Canon's latest offering is EOS 1200D. The camera boasts of 18 MP APS-C Sensor and a DIGIC 4 Image Processor. Also features a 3 inch 460k-dot LCD screen, 9 AF Point, and continuous shooting up to 3 Frames per second.



JOIN

• Delhi Heritage Photography Club (DHPC)

This club was started through Facebook in 2009 and is now one of the most active and happening hobby clubs across Delhi-NCR. DHPC conducts heritage PhotoWalks in and around Delhi with an idea to promote the rich architectural heritage.

www.facebook.com/groups/dhpcclub

VISIT

• Photographs of Rural India

Apr 19 - May 14

Vadehra Art Gallery, D - 40, Defence Colony, New Delhi

• Habitat: An exhibition by PIX

May 09 - May 16

Goethe-Institute / Max Mueller Bhavan, 3, KG Mrag, New Delhi

• On Joue Sur la Terre

May 08 - May 21

72, Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMSR foundation

The Programmes and initiatives of CMSR foundation were widely appreciated in 2013. This year, the foundation would work more aggressively and creatively in communicating and disseminating information on sustainable development issues. An important step in this direction is the establishment of two specialised units - Centre for Environmental Communication & Initiatives (CECI) and Centre for Rural Development & Communications (CRDC) recently. To be a part of these initiatives just send us an email at info@cmsrfoundation.org

WFF-2014

The second edition of Woodpecker Film Festival & Forum will be organised from Dec 11-13, 2014 at India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi. Call for Entries for the festival is likely to be announced in first week of June. WFF-team is currently working on the new festival website and it will be launched soon. To stay updated, do like our facebook page (www.facebook.com/TheWoodpeckerFilmFestival) and visit our website www.woodpeckerfilmfestival.in

CONNECT WITH US

If you would like to contribute an article in the Newsletter or would like to share information about upcoming events do get in touch with our editorial team at woodpeckerfilmfestival@gmail.com. Ph: 011-41661868.