

Young talent to be featured at a film festival in the city

Among the 58 movies selected for the three-day film festival in the Capital, 16 are films made by young students from various film institutes across India

Students of film institutes across India will showcase their talent through 16 films dealing with socio-cultural and environmental issues at the second Woodpecker Film Festival to be held in the Capital from December 11-13.

"It's exciting to see the diversity of films, in terms of their themes as well as the geographical areas they represent," says festival director Narendra Yadav.

The movies, by budding filmmakers, are part of a total of 58 films selected this year to compete for the Woodpecker awards that include a trophy and a citation, as well as a cash honourarium. The three-day festival at the India Habitat Centre will screen a diversity of documentaries from India. Of the 58 films, 27 are from Delhi, 16 from Maharashtra, seven from Uttar Pradesh and three from Haryana. In addition, one film each comes from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha and Meghalaya.

The decision to select so many films made by students has struck a warm chord in the hearts of aspiring filmmakers who are yet to graduate from institutions like the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, the Jamia Millia Islamia and Amity University. "There is a big difference between being a student and a professional, especially in filmmaking, as one has to struggle a lot before entering the industry. The name of the institute doesn't help you to get a job in this field," says Himanshu Prajapati, a second year direction student at FTII. His non-fiction film, *Daad-Bhag aur Papad*, is based on how people are part of a mad race without any concrete aim in life. It has also been shortlisted for the Siliguri International Film Festival.

*Film festivals for students



(Top to bottom) Stills from *Candles in the Wind*, *Tigress Blood* and *Rainbows are Real*

and budding filmmakers should be organised more often, as we meet many directors and get to share their experience," says Umang Sobharwal, who graduated from Jamia Millia Islamia this year. Sobharwal's documentary, *Songs of the Other Firefly* has been screened at the 2014 International Film Festival of India, Goa, in the student's film category.

Amresh Kumar Singh, 26, who studied film technology from Amity University says it was very important to get the support of the faculty members and the parents of the students to make his film. His short film, *Sanwadiya* (fiction), was screened at the Darbhanga International Film Festival 2014.

The Woodpecker Film Festival will screen documentaries like *Candles in the Wind*, *Tigress Blood*, *Life Force-Western Ghass*, *The Pad Piper*, *Womb on Rent*, *Rainbows are Real*, *In Search of Destiny* and *Delhi 16 Dec 2012*, to name a few. The festival is organised by Delhi-based CMSR foundation. IANS

