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First Guwahati International short Film Festival concludes



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The first edition of Guwahati International Short Film Festival (GISFF), held on May 2 & 3, 2011, at Assam State Museum Auditorium saw some exciting response from the film lovers and students.

The two day festival saw more than 2,000 people thronging the venue to enjoy the short films from countries like Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, the USA and Australia as well as all over India under sections like World Kaleidoscope, Indian Kaleidoscope and the competitive North-East Shorts section. Altogether 50 selected shorts were showcased during the two day festival.

The winning short films from the North-East Competitive Sections were:

Best Film (Golden Rhino): “19/87” produced by Café Shillong and directed by Wanphrang Dengdoh & Dondor Lyngdoh;

Best Director (Golden Rhino): Late Angshuman Barkakoty for “Windows 4:3”;

Best Screenplay (Silver Rhino): “19/87” (Wanphrang Deingdoh, Dondor Lyngdoh, Janice Pariat);

Best Cinematography (Silver Rhino): “19/87” (Wanphrang Deingdoh);

Best Editing (Silver Rhino): “Windows 4:3” (Amit Lamzel Sarki).

The opening film of the festival was *Guinness Book Record Holder For Most Number Awards By A Short Film- PORQUE HAY COSAS QUE NUNCA SE OLVIDAN (Because There Are Things We Never forget)* by award winning director Lucas Figueroa, which has won more than 300 awards till date.

A special screening of the highly-acclaimed Malayalam "anthology film" titled "Kerala Cafe", directed by a team of ten directors - Lal Jose, Shaji Kailas, Anwar Rasheed, Shyamaprasad, B. Unnikrishnan, Revathy, Anjali Menon, M. Padmakumar, Shankar Ramakrishnan, and Uday Ananthan was a major highlight of the festival. The festival also saw a special tribute to young filmmaker Late Anghsuman Borkotoky through the screening his film *"Doctor, Nurse & Patient"*.

The festival is an initiative by Creovaent Productions in association with Shamiana, the acclaimed short film club from Mumbai.

A jury headed by eminent filmmaker **Shyamaprasad** from Kerala (director of award-winning Malayalam box office hits like Agnisakshi, Ore Kadal, Akale, Ritu and Elektra) judged the competition films. The other jury members were Assamese actor **Adil Hussain** (who is acting in Ang Lee's 'Life of Pi', Sridhar Raghavan's 'Agent Vinod' and several other important films in various languages, after having received acclaim in films like 'Gangor' by Italian director Italo Spinelli, 'For Real' by Sona Jain and 'Ishqiya' by Abhishek Choubey), this year's Aravindan Puraskaram winning director **Nila Madhab Panda** (whose feature debut 'I Am Kalam' has won 12 international awards till now) and internationally-acclaimed Manipuri filmmaker **Haobam Paban Kumar** (whose documentaries 'AFSPA' and 'Mr India' have earned global acclaim).

The competition films were selected from a large number of entries received from all over North-East India by a preview jury comprising noted theatre and film personality Nayan Prasad, eminent film editor Kaju, film critic Chandan Sharma and acclaimed director Bidyut Chakravarty.

The festival was inaugurated by Shyamaprasad in the presence of other esteemed jury members and guest.

The chief guest for the closing ceremony was renowned filmmaker Gautam Bora who encouraged the platform and said he expected more and more quality short film to come up from North-East India.

Critically acclaimed short film '**Ek Langda Aankada**' produced by Krishna Raaz Baruah and Vijay Raaz was also be screened during the two day fest along with '**Blood Brothers**' by Vishal Bhardwaj.

The festival, which has National Award-winning film critic Utpal Borpujari, plans to also introduce a section focusing on short films made on mobile phones from its next edition.

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