



CHRIST
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE · INDIA

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
AN INITIATIVE OF MEDIA STUDIES AND ENGLISH
STUDIES

KHWA BEDA

★ **TALKIES** ★

DATE: 31 AUGUST AND 1 SEPTEMBER, 2018



Dreams are not just stories you see with your eyes closed. They're also the ones that are painted on silver screens ready to walk into your imagination and change your reality.

Whether you are a film maker, or a film enthusiast, we offer you an opportunity to be a part of both.

This festival will contain some of the most eminent speakers who will provide a glimpse of their experiences through the screen.





TAKE 1- The journey begins...

Kanhai and Riddhi



Picture credit: Supriya

Khwabeeda Talkies, a two day long film festival organized by the Media Studies and English clusters of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bannerghatta Road Campus was inaugurated on 31 August, 2018. The chief guest of the event was Mr. Zakariya. He is a critically acclaimed director cum writer who has been honoured by the 'Kerala State Chalachitra Academy'. The guest of honour was celebrated filmmaker Mr. Anand Kumar. It was unveiled that the fest revolved around the theme of 'Journey'.

The inaugural event commenced with the lighting of the lamp. Following this, Mr. Arun DM, a professor from the English department took the stage to

address the gathering. He went on to talk about the evolution of how a mere 'khwab' (dream) of a film festival transformed into 'Khwabeeda Talkies'. He reminisces on the lunchtime conversations that the faculty used to have regarding the same.

Dr. Jyothi Kumar, Associate Dean, School of Business Studies and Social Sciences then took to the dais to address the audience. "Events like these are highly essential for the practical exposure in a student's life", she said.

Adhering to the theme of Khwabeeda Talkies- 'Journey', a performance was put up by the students of Media and English clusters. The performance depicted the journey that the Indian film industry has undergone over the years. From the first Indian film ever made to the pivotal role of VFX, the performance portrayed the different eras of Indian cinema. "Invocation dances are something we do every time. We wanted to do something different," said Mr. Ajay Kumar, a professor of the Media Studies cluster. He wanted the performance to be a tribute to the world of cinema. "The vision was that of the faculty, but the credit should go the

students who made this vision a reality," he said.

The chief guest for the inaugural event, Mr. Zakariya, the director of the movie 'Sudani From Nigeria' was next to grace the dais. Mr. Zakariya said that he was honoured to be a part of the two-day film festival. "I am glad to have been given an opportunity to screen my film with you guys. Events like these motivate me to make more films", he said.



Picture Credits- Supriya

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Pradeep Thomas, a faculty of Media cluster. The Khwabeeda Talkies production team also put together a short video on the heart-wrenching impact that the Kerala floods had on its victims. Khwabeeda Talkies was dedicated to all those affected by the floods.

TAKE 2- Beyond Boundaries

Kanhai, Riddhi and Sandra

The first movie screening that followed the inauguration was 'Sudani From Nigeria', a Malayalam film set in the Malabar region of Kerala. The scriptwriter and director of the movie, Mr. Zakariya was present during the screening. The movie focused on different themes such as the intricacies of human relationships, the refugee crisis in Africa and hardships faced by a footballer. The story revolves around a Nigerian football player, Samuel Abiola Robinson and his team manager, Majid. A discussion followed the screening where various students put forth their questions and opinions to which Mr. Zakariya responded with utmost humility. Vishwesh, a second year student of BA Journalism (Hons) was eager to find out if the film wanted to draw the viewers' attention towards various inhumane practices such as harassment of Africans in India. To this, Mr. Zakariya replied by saying that he doesn't believe in the concept of a particular community being 'bad'. He sheds light on a recent event where a Nigerian student was brutally beaten up in Delhi. He concluded by saying that no matter which community one belongs to, human feelings remain the same, and this film has managed to incorporate that.

While there were hundreds who were watching the film for the first time, there were many who were excited to feel the surge



Picture Credits- Koustubh

emotions all over again as they watched the film for the second time. Ms. Arya PV, a professor of Cultural Studies was one of them as she told the Press Club that she was particularly excited for this film, already having watched it once. "It's a wonderful movie. A rare piece where I could see the movie within the director himself," she said, as she praised Mr. Zakariya, not only as a filmmaker but also as a human being.

In an interview with the Press Club, Mr. Zakariya praised the initiative of Khwabeeda Talkies and was particularly impressed by the idea of all the students being united by the common medium of films. "Sudani From Nigeria showcases not only a physical journey but also an emotional one for all the characters showcased in the film", he said, finding relevance with the larger theme of Khwabeeda Talkies, i.e. Journey. On being asked about the outcome he expected from the film, he said, "We had no expectation from the movie while we were producing it because the story is new and there is not a star-cast involved." That being said, he was pleased by the massive response he received after the initial release, as well as from the hundreds present for the screening.

The initial moments of Khwabeeda Talkies were a wholesome experience for film enthusiasts. The event even managed to enthrall visiting students from other colleges. "The entire event was captivating. I found the performance about the story of cinema through the eyes of the camera particularly interesting. The movie too was a great piece of art. I enjoyed myself thoroughly", said Rutvik M, a student of Jain University. In hindsight, this was only the beginning as several more entertaining screenings and interactions followed.

TAKE 3- Story of the bald man

Manasvi Nag and Nikita Nair

On 31 August 2018, Khwabeeda Talkies, the film festival organised by the Media Studies and English Studies of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bannerghatta Road Campus screened 'Ondhu Mottheya Kathé' (meaning 'The story of a bald man') in the Mini Auditorium.



Picture Credits- Koustubh

The film revolves around Janardhan, an anxious man who is desperate for a change in his physical appearance. Taking the audience through different aspects of his life, the film brings out intimate family relationships and the overarching ideas of beauty and love. The whole film is a drawn-out war between a man and himself.

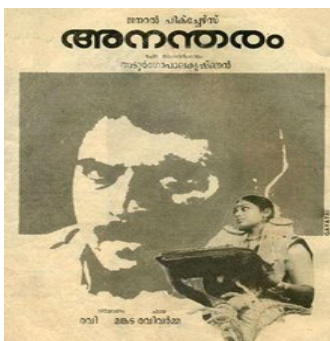
A discussion followed the screening

with Mr. Suhan Prasad and Dr. Parashuram Kamath of the Media Studies cluster. The conversation led from an anecdote from Mr. Suhan Prasad, about his struggles and accidentally discovering his career in the film industry. The producer of the film said, "It's a person's pain which is making us laugh and gives us entertainment". With a low budget and limited crew, the film was intended to be a short one.

According to Mr. Suhan, the producer's involvement during the making of the film holds key importance. He personally took immense pleasure in working with a small crew and micro managing funds. 'Ondhu Mottheya Kathé' has reached both at national and international levels. "When you seek for something and when you are doing your first film, whole universe is with you", said Mr. Suhan and further added that their purpose was solely driven towards making a good film.

"Anyone can relate to the film, nobody is perfect" Mr. Suhan conveyed this message in the context of the film to the audience. He captured their attention not only through humor and sarcasm but also with a unique storyline, making the audience question their societal ideals.

TAKE 4- Anantaram



Source- Google Images

Rachana and Ankita

Day one of 'Khwabeeda Talkies', the official film festival organized by Media and English cluster of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), witnessed the screening of the Malayalam feature film 'Anantaram'(Thereafter) in the Seminar hall of the Bannerghatta Road campus. It was attended by M.K. Raghuvendra, a popular film critic and writer, who was not only present as the guest of honour but also enlightened the crowd with his insightful lecture.

Winner of three National Film Awards and one of the 100 greatest films of all time in IBN Live's list: Anantaram (Thereafter: Monologue) is a 1987 Malayalam feature film production written and directed by Adoor Gopalakrishnan, an Indian film director,

script writer and producer who had a major role in revolutionizing Malayalam cinema during the 1970s. The film *Anantaram* is structured like a monologue. It revolves around Ajayan, the protagonist, a gentle and sensitive young man who narrates how his undiagnosed psychosis led him to where he is now. Each perspective is put across in the first person narrative and brings forth new events and relationships into focus as it unfolds.

The screening began with an interactive talk by Mr Raghuvendra. As a National Award Winning Critic, he spoke about the growth of cinema in India and the basic issues of narrative in cinema. He also juxtaposed Indian Cinema with Hollywood and said, "Hollywood is more contextual than Bollywood. Bollywood does not show character and authorial subjectivity". What character subjectivity talks about is the interpretation of the character, it's what the character sees whereas authorial subjectivity has more to do with the generic nature of the scripts. For example, most dreams in Indian popular cinemas would be of getting richer, dancing with a pretty girl. Having penned six volumes of books based on Indian cinema, he draws a contrast between Indian cinema and the rest of the world. Speaking about storytelling, he mentions that films always have a pre-existing message or a meaning to put across. He digressed into orality, literacy and Indian films, the earliest art films and the difference between art films and popular films. Talking about film literacy, he explains how commercial movies tend to find a hesitant balance between social relevance and entertainment. And this is solely dependent on how the audience acclaim the subject based on their awareness of the content. He concluded by saying "the movie I have selected for you to see is a movie called 'Anantaram'. It is old fashioned but the thing is, you are dealing with character subjectivity; you are dealing with authorial subjectivity. This film allows you to interpret the things, it allows you to look at the truth, what it is and how is it related."



Picture Credits- Karn Mohan

Offering a fresh and yet, an old take into art-film making, the screening provided a thoughtful idea of narratives being the essence of film making along with other aspects involved. Commenting on it, Mr Arun DM, professor at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) told a reporter of the press club- "This movie makes us look at Indian cinema with a serious and different perspective and this is the reason why we opted to screen this movie".

TAKE 5- Four lives, One addiction

Smruthi and Kavya

Day one of Khwabeeda Talkies, held at the CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bannerghatta Road Campus witnessed screenings of films in diverse languages in the Main Auditorium. Starting with the inaugural screening of 'Sudani from Nigeria' in Malayalam to the last screening of the day, 'Udta Punjab' in Hindi and Punjabi.

The storyline of 'Udta Punjab' is focused around the lives of four main characters – A raving musician, a farm labourer, a doctor and a policeman. Through this interlaced script, the film has highlighted the upsurge in the consumption of drugs and narcotics in Punjab and the adverse effect it has had on the people. The film also showcases the youth of Punjab struggling with withdrawal symptoms from these drugs.



Picture Credits- Karn Mohan

The screening was scheduled to be graced by cinematographer of 'Udta Punjab', Rajeev Ravi, who could not attend due to his participation in the relief camps of Kerala. The discussion which followed the screening appraised various aspects of the film and was moderated by Dr. Benson Rajan and Dr. Santosh Kumar. They started by posing a question to the audience that was put forth in the film, "If it's not concerning you or anyone you (drug abuse)?" They then underlined the part where the two female protagonists are connected to or care about, then is it

okay for us to not worry about it guided their counterparts to look beyond themselves and at the bigger picture. "It is important to see beyond ourselves, this is where we get larger meaning and our contribution to society would be greater", Dr. Santosh Kumar emphasized.

"The subtitles take away the essence of the language particularly used. It is sort of difficult for people who don't understand Hindi as well as Punjabi", says Sandra Sunil, a Journalism Honours student. Rachita Shetty, another Journalism Honours student admired the way the ending scenes had been shot, stating, "And in the end, Sartaj's face, that one shot, I loved that." The loud uproar from the audience at the end of the screening, only established the strong connect they had with the storyline.

TAKE 6- Tale of friendship

Shravani A and Nandhini Srinivasan

The film narrates the life of Krishnan who upon receiving a phone call from his childhood friend Ganga, comes back to his hometown Kammati Paadam, in Ernakulam. The audience travels with Krishnan as he tries to find his friend who was missing, and in the process, relives his past. With interloping narratives, the director brings out the story of the protagonist and helps understand his journey to the present scenario. The film received praise for its portrayal of lives of Dalits and capturing the journey of varied characters.

After the screening of the movie, a discussion was conducted by Prof. Gaana J of the English Cluster and Prof. Arun Kumar of the Media Studies Cluster. During the discussion, Prof. Arun Kumar shed light on the concept of a darker reality that forms a background to the plot of the film. Prof. Gaana J further commented on, “the absent presence of caste” throughout the film which portrays a story of friendship and love placing the effects of caste subtly in the background. The speakers also emphasized on the representation of the Dalit community and the domestic dialect of the region. They placed importance on the development of society and the visible changes through the years.



Picture Credits- Varada Nair

In response to the comment of a student, regarding the lack of emphasis on female characters, Prof. Gaana J spoke on the existence of an extended director’s cut, that consists of a wider background for those characters. Prof. Arun Kumar spoke about the cinematic language used to subtly highlight themes of culture and caste.

The discussion ended with an insight proposed by a student that “The agents of change are consumed by the change” referring to the development of the plot over time and the effects on the characters. Dr. Prerana Srimaal, of the History and Political Science department, shared her thoughts with The CU Edge, “it is a very good take on how ideas keep evolving but they don’t really leave the past behind. The themes brought up especially in terms of minority identities, caste distinctions and how things remain with us as culture and doesn’t go beyond, as things that we constantly talk about from historical, political, and cultural perspectives; this is a perfect example of that.”

TAKE 7- Rainbow of emotions

Deeksha and Vanshika Bhatt

Rainbow Jelly is a Bengali film that talks about the life of Ghoton, a special child who is left to live with his maternal uncle, Gondaria by his father who died from a terminal illness. The movie takes us on a ride as Ghoton unravels the mystery associated with the demise of his parents which left him orphaned. By creatively using elements such as animation, colour, food and a unique take on fairy tales, this movie successfully strikes a balance between fantasy and reality.

The film captured reality in its true essence by incorporating actors such as Mahabrata Basu, the protagonist, a 13 year old special child who deals with autism. The bitter - sweet tale sparks important parallels between empathising with situations and understanding real life experiences.

Through a discussion with Mr. Ghosal



Picture Credits- Ajay Isaac

and Ms. Chatterjee, the session touched on various crucial and sensitive themes involved in the film.

The topics for the discussion varied from narration and content creation to the commercialisation and conceptualisation of the film.

The session began with Prof. Devalina Kundu asking “What made you tell this story?”, to which the director replied by recalling a personal experience with special children three years ago, which

was when he began to write this script. Throughout the session, various questions were asked about drawing the line between social acceptance and empathising to which he answered, “I did not aim for the audience to empathise with Ghoton but to understand his version of his own story.” On being questioned about the use of science fiction as an element in the movie, he talked about the amalgamation of science and spirituality inspiring him to write stories. He goes on to say, “I use science fiction as a metaphor for reality”. By doing so, in a way, he tries to question the tenets of spirituality and interlink both of them. The session on the whole, was an efficient one, which managed to bring about various perspectives and ideas on social issues such as domestic violence on young impressionable minds. On an ending note, Mr. Soukarya Ghosal and Ms. Pooja Chatterjee expressed that they had an interactive session with the students and stated that the session went.

TAKE 8- Reflections of reality

Nikita and Aishwarya M

The second day of Khwabeeda Talkies Film Festival included the screenings of three award winning short films – ‘Prajā Hakku’, ‘Anturaanithanam’, and ‘Chiru Tej Singh.’ And the director of all three, Dr. Anand Kumar made his presence felt in the campus by interacting with the students following the screenings. A doctor by profession and the current Chief Medical Officer of Delhi, Dr. Anand Kumar is a filmmaker by interest. With the help of his friend, Sri N.S. Naik, a producer, he has made several short films, often showcasing the social issues prevalent in the society He has won several awards such as the National Best Short Film Director, Telangana State Achievers Award and National Kirti Ratna Award.

‘Prajā Hakku’, his debut short film, focusses on the importance of human rights and the education of the girl child. Jai, a Journalist who works for a newspaper called Prajā Hakku, comes across an 11 year old girl working in a brick factory. On learning

about her plight, he fights for her fundamental rights and tries to raise awareness about the same. His second film, 'Anturaanithanam', revolves around the subjects of untouchability and primarily women empowerment, and is narrated from the perspective of a discriminated girl who later goes on to succeed in life and become an agricultural scientist. And his last screening 'Chiru Tej Singh' is a biopic on a 9 year old tribal girl who rose to great heights with her prodigious memory power to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

The director Dr. Anand Kumar, when asked about what inspired him to make the short film 'Anturaanithanam', answered that, "I was a great film lover of a Marathi movie called 'Sairaat' which dealt with caste system and it was presented in a very beautiful way, its making was so high and very touching." While casting for the film 'Anturaanithanam', he interestingly came across a woman belonging to the Brahmin caste who was willing to act as the fisher woman, a role which was in stark contrast to her higher caste. On being asked about his intent behind the making of the film, he expressed his wish to convey that "there is a gap between the people and the gap should be cut down, upper caste or lower caste whatever it maybe we all are human beings, peace and human emotions are most important rather than sticking to your old traditions and mentality".



Picture Credits- Malavika

TAKE 9- The makers

Prerna and Maria

Continuing to reverberate the theme of 'Journey', the second day of the film festival hosted a panel discussion in the Main Auditorium on the topic 'Revisiting Independent Films in India'. The discussion was moderated by Dr Nirmala Menon of the Media cluster of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Hosur Road campus. While the panel included diverse film makers from across the country – Anand Varadaraj, director and critic, Krishna Sarthak, producer in the Kannada film industry and Pooja Chatterjee, producer in the Bengali film industry.

The discussion started off with the Panelists talking about the reasons why cinema is a viable platform for storytelling. With no censorship and wider garnering of audience, independent films now have a better platform in terms of digital media like Amazon, Netflix and many others. Commenting on this, Mr Anand Varadaj said that the most important aspect of showcasing a film is what the director really wants to say. Mr. Krishna Sarthak said he fears that censorship might take over content over internet as well, as they emphasized on carrying your individual identity as a film maker and standing up for your content. On the contrary, Ms. Pooja Chatterjee stated that more than censorship, it is the inputs of a producer that decides the fate of an independent film. She said, "The urge to showcase an independent film is not criticized by the censorship. In fact, it receives acclaim when it's signed by the producer at the



Picture Credits- Supriya

very beginning."

Recollecting his experiences, Mr Sarthak talked about his own debut film, Dayavittu Gamanisi being censored for bold content and narrative. He argued, "I want to show something that my audience wants to watch. And why should directors be creative when they don't have the freedom?"

With more accessibility for independent films now alongside mainstream cinema because of media, there is a better opportunity for these films to really leave a mark behind in the audience's mind. "It's truly a loss for the audience", says Mr Varadaraj who feels that the best thing about screening films in festivals is to appreciate and have discussions. Thus, one should be a part of it as it's a type of education on its own.

When the moderator, Dr. Nirmala Menon posed a question about the balance between art and commerce in independent cinema, the panel admitted that it is indeed difficult for such films to be funded. On talking about her latest film 'Rainbow Jelly', Ms. Chatterjee said that crowd-funding and self-funding are a

challenge they face. Not compromising on the script of her film, she felt the responsibility to tell the truth as well as to sell her product. Not giving into nepotism, she went on to fund the film by herself and keep the film more cast driven with the content. On the other hand, as a producer, Mr. Krishna Sarthak contradicted that it's difficult for him to invest without thinking about profits. He emphasized on the need for experience of handling distribution and promotion of films in the box office till it becomes a part of your life. This will help one to weigh the outcome and criticism carefully. He also educated the audience about how the digital platform fails to solve everything for indie films. With emergence of online TV platforms such as Hotstar and Voot, it is hard for a producer to recover the amount invested and to find the right audience. Through the business point of view prior to film making, crowd funding is sure to help the crew in dealing with losses. As the share of recovery is divided but the chances of loss are less as it creates a larger market, making promotions easy through word of mouth.

The discussion concluded, with independent films being titled as not just cinema but art, science and economics as a whole. Many low budget plots and realistic ideas are given birth to, shared and witness a journey from 'real' to 'reel' and vice versa. Yet, only a few see their destination of reaching the audience while many remain as a dream.

TAKE 10- A convict and a question

Aishwarya S

Khwabeeda Talkies pulled up its curtains one last time this year for the screening of the Kannada movie 'Rama Rama Re' in the Main Auditorium on 1 September, 2018. Mr. Satya Prakash, the director of the movie, and Mr. Nataraj S. Bhat, and Mr. Dharmanna Kadur, the lead and the supporting actors, respectively, were present as the guests for the screening and as speakers for the panel discussion scheduled for later.

Released on 21 October 2016, 'Rama Rama Re' was nominated for the Best Film- Kannada in the 64th Filmfare Awards South. It is the story of a convict on a death row, who escapes from prison and accidentally ends up travelling with a retired veteran of the Police Department. It has various accolades to its name, like the First Best Kannada film in the 2016 Bengaluru International Film Festival and the Director's First Time Best Film in the Karnataka State Film Awards. The story questions the conscience, and various aspects of life, death, human values and moralities of human societies. The moderators for the following panel



Picture Credits- Preksha Bhatia

discussion were Professor Gaana J and Dr. Vasundhara Priyadarshini. Prof. Gaana began the discussion commenting on the mythology aspect of the film, which she says, "provided a rich tone to the film".

Mr. Satya Prakash chanced upon the story of friendship between Dronacharya and Drupada, two totally different people, which became a subject that he could portray in a film. Dr. Vasundhara Priyadarshini, taking the journey of Khwabeeda Talkies as a reference connected it to the journey which forms the crux of the film.

On being asked about the preparation for his role by Prof. Gaana, Mr. Natraj answered that he had visited some prisoners to understand them, and had seen a 'bizarre sense of fear' in them which he

tried to emote.

The floor was then open for questions and comments. A question about the locations of the shoot was put forth to which Mr. Satya said, "We needed to show locations which had no access to mobile phone towers, electricity, or even people, so we had chosen the Karnataka-Maharashtra border".

Prof. Gaana remarked on the minute details regarding the looks of convict. Various other aspects, like the absence of any background of characters, multiple interpretations of the story, and how it was a conscious decision by makers of the film, were discussed in detail. The panel discussion concluded with guests asking the audience, "Do you believe that we can make good cinema?" Shouting out, the audience replied in the affirmative.

Khwabeeda Talkies film festival came to an end with a concluding video being played and the curtains falling, accompanied by cheers of the audience. The emcee for the session signed off with, "Cut! And that's a wrap", thus ending the glorious journey of Khwabeeda Talkies.

The final take



Picture Credits- Preksha Bhatia

Rachana Pathrikar

The valedictory for the two days long film festival, Khwabeeda Talkies organized by the Media Studies and English clusters of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bannerghatta Road campus, was held on the 1st of September in the Main Auditorium. The final event of the fest commenced with the emcees introducing and inviting the Chief guest, Prof. Dr. Anil Kumar to share his insight. "We have learned something different, something no other fest has taught us. What we have done for the past two days is just the beginning, we hope that this fest becomes a grand tradition that separates us from the others. The real achievement would be to keep this tradition alive, for years to come" said Prof. Dr. Anil Kumar.

The heads of CU Edge, Aakanksha Mishra and Sandra Sunil then introduced the special Khwabeeda Talkies edition that exclusively covered the fest. The newsletter had been designed using the theme of truck art which had been a recurrent theme for design during the festival. "This edition is truly a special one, as it is the manifestation of what the faculty had aimed to achieve for this festival," said Aakanksha while introducing the newsletter. "This edition is not only the reporting of the events that took place over the two days, but also has the essence of the whole film festival," said Sandra. While the journey of making the edition was similar that of the making of a film, the heads' expressed their hope for this edition to be a truly special one. Following this, the newsletter was unveiled by Prof. Dr. Anil Kumar.

Keeping the theme journey close to heart, the students of 3 MEP put up a beautiful medley of famous Bollywood songs starting from 'Aaj Kal Tere Mere' and ending it with 'Shubhaarambh' the theme track for Khwabeeda Talkies. Filling the air with a whiff of nostalgia, the much awaited after movie of Khwabeeda talkies was screened, showing the journey of all the students and faculty members to truly shape this festival. The festival concluded with Prof. Dr. Benson Rajan's vote of thanks where he thanked the departments for making the show a success with their support and guidance. In a truly filmy element, Prof. Dr. Benson Rajan ended his speech with the iconic Bollywood dialogue, 'Picture abhi baaki hai mere dost,' (meaning: 'The film is not over yet') indicating that there will be a lot more to come. The film festival, being the final take of this journey was then declared closed by the clapping of the clapper.