

Twilight 07

Press Release

Sri Aurobindo Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi - a unit of the world famous Aurobindo Society of Pondicherry will be holding **Twilight 07 – an exclusive festival of Indian short films** in the capital from Jan 3 – 5, 2007. A total of nearly 50 short films in two categories – the open and the competitive sections will be screened at two prominent venues – The India International Centre and Alliance Francaise. Various respected bodies such as The Indian Express, Hutch, Exchange4media, Barista, Big Fm Radio, Magnon Solutions and The Federation of Film Societies of India are supporting Twilight.

Short films are the new craze that is beginning to make waves in India. A craze that has already inspired a select band of Indian filmmakers and who have made their mark in the international arena. And now, the film aficionados of the capital will have the privilege of viewing the cream of the crop of Indian short films.

Twilight, however, is not just about screening films. It is about a concerted effort to provide an impetus to the budding short film industry in India. "Twilight is primarily aimed at students and young filmmakers", elaborates Shankhajeet De festival coordinator and a teacher of filmmaking at the Sri Aurobindo Institute of Mass Communication. " Our endeavour is to encourage young talent by providing a platform for budding film makers and the students of filmmaking from all over India to showcase their creativity and tell a story say in 30 minutes, not necessarily following the format of a 2 and ½ hours of the run on the mill Bollywood fare. The basic idea of the short films is to experiment with a little money and get recognized " adds Shankhajeet.

The open section treats the festival – goes to a selection of films from established and renowned short filmmakers. Some of the films that have been short listed for the open section are: 'Reflections' by Bejoy Nambiar starring Mohan Lal and Juhi Babbar. 'Printed

Rainbow' by Gitanjali Rao, 'Little Terrorist' by Ashvin Kumar, "Cherry on the Top" by Ayesha Sood and Nitya Mehra, ', "Right Here Right Now" by Anand Gandhi. This section is curated by the Short Circuit, earlier known as the Mocha Film Club of Mumbai who had pioneered the short film Movement in India by developing a loyal short film lover base over the last 5 years.

Along with these established filmmakers, students of filmmaking will share the screen space at Twilight. Students from all over India have entered nearly 80 films for the competitive section from various institutes such as L.V Prasad Film and Television Academy, Chennai; Loyola Academy, Hyderabad; Manipal Institute of Communication, Manipal; Jadavpur University, Kolkata; FTII, Pune; Wigan And Leigh College, Delhi; Zee Institute of Media Arts Mumbai; NID, Ahmedabad; SAE Technology College, Delhi; University of Delhi; AAFT, Noida. Out of this, 24 films will be short listed by a selection committee made up of ex film students and young filmmakers.

A panel of jury chaired by eminent film jurist K. Bikram Singh and comprising of Deepa Gahlot (film critic), Kunal Jhaveri (Co-founder of Short Circuit), Siddhrath Srinivasan (filmmaker) and K. Karthikeyan (Camera man and famous International Line Producer) will judge the films in the competitive section for 8 categories: the best direction (fiction/documentary), script (documentary), screenplay (fiction), animation film, cinematography/ videography, audiography, editing and mobile films.

The winners will enjoy a cash award and a specially designed trophy. As part of the initiative, Twilight has organized buyers of film who will offer distribution rights for films of merit.

Twilight will open with 'Akhnoor', a film by Sudipto Sen, an Indo-Belgian co-production starring Yashpal Sharma. The opening ceremony will be followed performance of 'When God said Cheers', a play written by Anurag Kashyap and starring Tom Alter and Cyrus Dastur. The three day festival will have repeat screenings of films followed by discussion with the present filmmakers to share knowledge and learn from their experiences. The closing film for the festival will be the award winning 'Printed Rainbow' by Gitanjali Rao. The 15 minute animation film won the critic's award at the Cannes Film Festival 2006.

Note to the editors :

Sri Aurobindo institute of Mass Communications is a centre for learning that conducts one year professional programmes in Journalism, Advertising and Public relations, Direction and Production Planning, Video Camera, Video Editing and Creative Photography. The curriculum is made a blend of theory and workshops in arrangement with leading professionals from the industry along with known academicians. This is done with an objective to produce successful media professionals in the contemporary scenario, who combine knowledge, advanced technical skills, aesthetics and beauty. The programmes are conducted from its green and serene campus of Sri Auobindo Society, Delhi.

Short Circuit: This is the new name for Mocha Club, who have made a beginning in Mumbai for popularizing short films. They have successfully created a loyal viewer base by regular screening at the Mocha Café and later at the famous Adlabs in Mumbai. Now the Short Circuit is trying to tie up with The INOX group of theatres to release the films commercially across 8 cities of India.