



Press Conferences held at PIFF Bazaar – January 16th, 2017

Bhutanese Movie – Thimphu

Speakers – Chand R.C., Director

- Set in Thimphu, a capita of Bhutan this film is about 7 characters, their stories and how to interconnect. Being the cosmopolitan city f the country these people have come here from different backgrounds. Each character battles here with their own secrets and desires. The background of the city is also used as one of the characters of the movie.
- Chand comes from a very small place and is a self taught film maker. It's his mere passion and the desire to express self through cinema that inspires him to make films.
- Bollywood influences Bhutan's film industry which is still very small and is growing organically. We get lot of help from Indians in the film making.
- Bhutan is currently in the transition. The country is trying to balance itself between modernity and its cultural values.
- This film is a very subtle, simple drama and ye very human in nature. Chand got an idea about it from the real life characters that he was surrounded by.

Khasi Movie – Onaatah : of the earth

Speakers – Pradip Kurbah, Director and Producer

- This is a movie from North East India which depicts a story of a rape victim who refuses to be a loser but doesn't know how to pick up the broken pieces of a broken life.
- Adding to the film is the rich terrain of Khasi hills.
- Film making is still a very small industry in this part of the country. It started growing when digitization came in. thanks to platforms like PIFF who build bridge between the film industries of Northern Indian and the mainland.
- While making a film I believe that this is high time that we should tell our stories to the world instead copying them from the world. We should never forget our roots.
- Rapes are very common in our country nowadays still the rape victims can't be a part of society, they don't know if they can ever get married and have a family, and their future has gone astray.

- Pradip feels that we should change our perspective about life and help such victims.

‘Om Puri – an actor, a human being and a legend’

Speaker – Naseeruddin Shah

Conducted by - Prof. Anil Zankar

- When Om Puri happened to Indian Cinema, the industry needed a different actor who would do distinctive roles. Om never hesitated to do smaller roles in films. He was always ready for such roles and did it merely for the variety and a commitment to good cinema.
- Om was very self-less and generous. He could do many things which I was very much incapable of.
- He was criticized for not having a cinematic face but he proved every accusation wrong by playing intense characters like a beggar, a diplomat, villain, a caring father, hungry tribe man and even a Pakistani. Every time he demonstrated that his face was a landscape itself.
- Naseer recalled their memories of student life and also mentioned that Om was leaving in a smelly corridor opposite railway station. It required tremendous hard work and struggle to reach where he was now and thus his life was a testament itself.
- Om was a serious person but the most fascinating aspect of Om was that he had so much in himself and he could express it all through his eyes.
- I knew Om since my student life and our relationship was very deep, complex. We had fractions but our relation lasted for long time. We worked together in film in 1970 for the first time and were together for almost 46 years.
- I was envied of Om as he got a chance to work with Satyajit Ray but I didn't. I am sure if he would have been here earlier, he would have got many more chances to work with the legend.
- Om was probably the only Indian actor who was also loved by Pakistani citizens. May be because of Pakistani accent when he acted as one.
- One of the international publications also called Om as the greatest actor of the world.
- Though he wasn't very confident about his English he acted in many international films.
- Om has inspired me innumerable times.

- Alas, that such a great man so unhappy during his last days that maybe it was good for him to move on.