



PIFF Forum- Vijay Tendulkar Memorial Lecture by Kamlesh Pandey

Main points are as follows-

-When I was young, though I was not involved in theatre, I used to hang around with people in theatre. I have seen the rehearsals of 'Ghashiram Kotwal' where the playwright Vijay Tendulkar would show Actor Mohan Agashe about how to capture his character in the play. We, friends used to go out for a walk with Tendulkar. Tendulkar is the writer who was always searching the truth which we have hidden in our psyche as wounds. He ripped off our bandages and exposed us to that truth. While writing on the risky subjects, I remember him.

-I was doing very well in Advertisizing and only by chance, Amol Palekar, told me to write his movie 'Ankahee'. Then I wrote commercial movie 'Jalwa' and my journey in this field started.

- As a writer I do not draw any boundaries around me like Commercial Cinema and Artistic or Parallel cinema. As a writer, you cannot limit yourself to one recipe. Even a 'Saas-Bahu' story is not regressive for me if handled in a right way.

-For me, the writer is the first star of the film. Before the writer, a film is a blank piece of paper. A blank page tells you how hard it is going to be a writer.

-While writing a film, I write biography of every character- even a small one in the story. Write down about the character up to how much loose change he has in his wallet. When I know my characters inside out, then only they become real persons for me. Then at one point, these characters start talking to the writer. That is writer's reward. Film writing cannot be taught in workshops of 4-5 sessions.

-An Indian story cannot be complete without music. But you have to know where to use it.