

## Cinema as education, cinema that inspires life at the 2nd day of the 23rd PIFF

### **Cineman: A teacher's initiative for education through cinema**

Pune, February 14, 2025 : After his first award at PIFF for the Marathi film "Natrang", veteran actor Kishor Kadam subsequently won a total of seven awards at the Pune International Film Festival. He has now vowed enthusiastically to take that count to 10! Kadam is the protagonist in the Marathi language film "Cineman", which was screened at the 23rd PIFF on Day 2.

With unlimited content on innumerable platforms, children are exposed to an overload of information. The information they consume at a young age influences their vulnerable minds, and showing them the right content can help them shape their personality and character in a way which shall make them noble citizens and humble human beings in the future.

"Cineman" drove home this point through a heartwarming story of a passionate teacher working to educate children through films. The film has been directed by Umesh Bagade and features notable actor Kishor Kadam as the protagonist.

While in conversation with Kadam, he emphasised the significance of cinema in a person's life and building their character, as was his case. In the movie, he is showcased as a teacher who is enthusiastic about cinema, and how he travels to remote villages to show movies to young children who lack even the basic necessities.

When he was asked what inspired him to become a part of the world of cinema, he humbly replied that he never dreamt of being an actor, but situations drove him down this road, and his journey made him whatever he is today. When asked about what kind of films should be shown to children, he commented that like very vulnerable, so is the camera, which makes it harder to make films for children than for adults. As the movie quotes, "There is a very thin line between good cinema and bad cinema, it is the responsibility of adults to choose the correct cinema for their child."

When asked about his experience at PIFF, he shared enthusiastically that he was extremely privileged to have received seven awards at the festival, and is now determined to take the number to 10!

## **Celebrate the Diversity of Indian Cinema: Vidyashankar Jois**

Day 2 of the 23rd Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) saw an insightful interaction with Vidyashankar Jois, the Director of the Bangalore Film Festival.

“Indian cinema is not limited to Hindi films any more; it encompasses various languages such as Marathi, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, and Odia,” Jois asserted. He noted that while Hindi cinema was once considered synonymous with Indian cinema, this perception is changing, and regional cinema is gaining recognition. Jois highlighted the importance of preserving the unique identities of various languages and regions, as they contribute to the richness of Indian cinema. He praised PIFF for its transparency in the film selection process, which he believes is essential for promoting quality cinema.

Jois, who has been involved with films for over four decades, fondly recalled watching a film every day in a cinema hall during his youth. This experience, he said, instilled in him a deep appreciation for cinema and its potential to shape society.

During the interaction, Jois shared his experiences at the Bangalore Film Festival and PIFF, emphasizing the significance of film festivals in promoting cinematic excellence. He encouraged young filmmakers to leverage the medium to create social awareness and drive positive change.

### **“Nocturnes” Brings the Soothing Sounds of Nature to Life at PIFF 2025**

“Nocturnes” is a captivating documentary that delves into the world of hawk moths and the researchers who study them. Directed by Anupama Srinivasan and Anirban Dutta, the film is a sensory experience that transports viewers into the heart of Arunachal Pradesh’s natural world.

Shot in the pristine landscapes of the northeastern state, “Nocturnes” follows lepidopterist (person who studies butterflies) Mansi Mungee and her assistant Bicki as they study the effects of rising temperatures on hawk moths. The film’s stunning visuals, accompanied by an immersive soundtrack featuring the sounds of insects, birds, and wind, create a mesmerizing experience.

According to Director Anupama Srinivasan, the idea behind the documentary was to reconnect with nature, which she and co-Director Anirban Dutta felt they had lost touch with due to their urban lifestyles. “Our film is not meant to

convey a message, but to create an experience,” Srinivasan said, speaking to journalists. “We want to give the audience a sense of being in nature, to calm their minds and transport them to a different world.”

The film’s unique approach to storytelling and its breathtaking cinematography have already generated buzz among film enthusiasts. “Nocturnes” is a must-watch for anyone looking to escape the chaos of urban life and reconnect with the natural world.

### **Kulup: A Journey of Memories**

The film “Kulup” is an emotionally driven film directed by Rudraprasad Karpe. This movie is not just about a locked house; rather, it sheds light on the memories of the protagonist that remain trapped in a single moment due to a past event. Will he find the key to unlock the past? Will he be able to set his memories free? These questions unravel as the audience embarks on this heartfelt cinematic journey. Kulup is not just a movie; it is a journey of emotions and memories that have been locked away, waiting to be set free.

Kulup is Rudraprasad Karpe’s first feature film; he has directed seven to eight short films in the past. “The journey of creating this movie allowed me to learn various technical and artistic aspects of filmmaking. From camera angles and set design to directing actors, every element contributed to my growth as a filmmaker,” said Karpe.

Karpe's journey is an inspiring one. Since childhood, he had a keen interest in acting and direction. While pursuing an MBBS degree in the medical field, he discovered his deep passion for theater and storytelling. Participating in one-act plays and stage performances, he realized that cinema was his true calling. Determined to follow his passion, he made his way into the film industry. Currently, he is working on his next feature film.

