

Hope, resilience, and an ode to legends

PIFF Day 4
Pune, February 16

Sangala: A Drop of Hope in Drought-Stricken Marathwada

Directed by Raoba Gajmal, “Sangala” is a poignant and powerful tale of struggle, hope, and resilience. It is one of the seven films selected for the Marathi Competition at the 23rd Pune International Film Festival (PIFF). It is the story of an elderly farmer’s hardships in drought-stricken Marathwada, a region in Maharashtra notorious for its water scarcity. The film’s title “Sangala” refers to the Marathi word for the water that forms at the bottom of a well during summer. This water, formed drop by drop over months, is pumped out in mere minutes, highlighting the struggles of the region.

“The film is not just about the struggles of farmers, but also about the importance of hope and resilience,” Gajmal said, adding that, “We want to inspire people to appreciate the hard work and dedication of our farmers, who are the backbone of our society.”

Gajmal shared that the film is a tribute to the farmers who, like the “Sangala”, work tirelessly with optimism, despite the harsh conditions. He emphasized the importance of humanity and unity, stating that blood relations may fade, but human connections are strengthening.

As a first-time director and producer, Gajmal faced numerous challenges while completing the film. From finding the right cast to securing funding, the journey was not easy. However, his passion and dedication to telling this important story kept him going.

“Sangala” is a powerful reminder of the unyielding spirit of Marathwada’s farmers and the importance of hope in the face of adversity. It is definitely a must-watch for anyone interested in meaningful cinema.

Tendlya: A director’s ode to a cricketing legend

“I am a huge fan of Sachin Tendulkar. I had decided to become a cricketer, but when he retired, I didn’t feel motivated anymore. I wanted to do something for my idol, so I made this film as a dedication to him!” shared the director of Marathi film Tendlya. The film was screened at the 23rd Pune International

Film Festival.

“I took a sigh of relief after the film hit the theatres and became successful,” shared Jadhav. The cherry on the cake for Jadhav – Sachin and Anjali met him and discussed the film!

Jadhav was overjoyed that his movie was shown at the festival, and was very happy with the huge response to the show. While sharing his experience at the show he said, “The festival has brought a movie rhythm in the mind's of people and will enrich the cinema industry.”

While talking to the media after a screening of his film, Jadhav shared that the biggest challenge throughout the making of the film was money. He had to collect funds from his father, and also take a loan. He shared that casting for the film was also tricky – twenty of 6,000 students from the nearby schools of his village Islampur went through the process. He mentioned that most of the characters in the film are based on his experiences. The last hurdle for the film was the name of the film. Jadhav met Tendulkar’s manager four times after the film was completed and had some doubts related to the name “Tendlya” as it twists the last name of the cricketer.

Kraken: A story of identity, passion and resilience

In a deeply personal narrative, Nending Loder shines a light on personal struggles, and difficulties faced by marginalised communities in the remote regions of Arunachal Pradesh in the film “Karken”. The film, which was screened at the 23rd Pune International Film Festival, follows the inspiring narrative of a young man named Karken, a doctor from the northeastern state, who aspires to become an actor. The film is written and directed by Loder, who is also the protagonist of the film. It highlights themes of personal identity, passion and resilience.

"I wanted to make a film addressing the issues of my region. I spent nearly a year writing it. The lack of healthcare facilities in remote areas and the feeling of isolation experienced by the LGBTQ community – these were all realities I observed around me, which inspired my writing. This film can be seen as an emotional and philosophical conflict within people's minds," Loder said in a media interaction at PIFF.

The film also delves on personal sacrifices, insignificant healthcare systems, and the struggles of the LGBTQ community. "The story is based on own life

and experiences. The concerns of the transgender community are inspired by the struggles of my loved ones who are fighting for inclusivity in society," Loder shared.

The film also explores Karken's personal interests, his evolving sense of masculinity, and his relationship with his sister, who wishes to undergo gender transition. "Since I wrote the film myself, I was able to fulfill both the writer's and the director's expectations while acting. Through this film, I have presented social, emotional, and ethical issues. Now, it is up to the audience to decide how impactful the film is," Loder added.

Speaking about his first experience at PIFF, he said, "This is my first time at PIFF. I am overwhelmed by the warm hospitality and the vibrant atmosphere here. With so many exceptional films to choose from, I find myself in a dilemma about which one to watch."

A Criminal Reflection of Society

Pune, February 16: Director Krishne Gowda's Lacchi has impressed many at the 23rd Pune International Film Festival. The movie, based on a real story, looks at crime scenarios taking place in society.

The movie was shot in Gowda's village. The director has played the role of a police officer who is well aware of crime. He added that he has seen such things in society, so the movie covers the real situation among the poor classes of society. The actors did not wear any makeup, keeping the look natural. The movie focuses on a father who kidnaps his own child, while the mother goes through great struggles to find her child, some people in the village with the help of the police take steps to find the child. The mother, meanwhile, has also been facing troubling demands for dowry.

The movie has covered important aspects of poverty and the status of society in day-to-day life of people. Mr. Gowda said that he was quite happy to get a chance to screen his movie at PIFF, and would love even in the future to participate in more such events.