

25 February-4 March 2012 Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2012

BOOKS AND CINEMA: AN ENDURING RELATIONSHIP

About a century ago, in 1912, Dadasaheb Phalke completed the first Indian feature film. Harischandra Raja released it in 1913. At the turn of the year when it completes a hundred year journey, the Indian cinema with its wide popular appeal would have left an indelible influence on our polity, culture and society. In the process it would produce some of the finest acclaimed internationally auteurs and films.

The 100 years of this spectacular journey is the focus of attention at the 20th New Delhi World Book Fair. In an elegantly designed pavilion, the story of Indian cinema unfurls itself through books, panels, posters, movie camera, phonogram and also a bioscope – still a popular form of entertainment in remote corners of India particularly in village fairs.

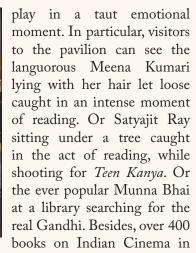
As one enters through the gate of the Pavilion, resembling clapboard, a filmmaking tool, to your right is the ticket counter and a small shop selling popcorns.

The release of a new film particularly in India is a celebration of sorts. Crowds throng the theatre and a



long queue for 'first day first show' slot greets the cinephile. Reminding you of this typical scene outside cinema halls in India is a sculpture by Devabrata Chakrabarty, titled *Cinema Q* at the entrance.

The presentation arena is like a theatre of cinema with panels of stills from films and posters of classic films, a movie camera and a phonogram. A mini theatre with a capacity to seat 50 forms the main attraction at the centre. The overarching theme of the presentations is the enduring relationship of cinema and literature. It tries to posit the relevance of books and reading within the frame of cinematic expression. The panels too have been carefully selected to show the role books and reading



English and other Indian languages tell you the story of Indian cinema and about 300 select titles have been documented through an annotated Rights Catalogue.

The Pavilion also underlines the influence of cinema and literature on each other. Cinema too is a language. Adaptation, thus, of any piece of literary work, is more or less like translation. In this respect, the filmmaker assumes the role of translator. As much as the viewer is the reader so is the filmmaker. For a filmmaker, literary piece provides him or her with the plot, character and theme. And he uses images and sounds to tell the story in a new grammar and idiom. Many such adaptations have gone onto become classics of cinema.









Many of these films are being screened at the Theme Pavilion everyday.

During the days of the fair the pavilion will see many film personalities including Sushma Seth, Javed Akhtar, Farooq Sheikh, Muzaffar Ali, Jabbar Patel, Deepti Naval, Amol Palekar and Nandita Das in conversation. Besides many scholars and film critics will be part of many panel discussions on filming literature, cinematic imagination and literary sensibility,





style and technique of adaptation, acts of reading, and role of literature in Indian Cinema. A workshop on film appreciation as well as special session on negotiating copyrights of books on Indian Cinema will also be part of the presentation.

BLURRED IMAGES

An engaging panel discussion at the Theme Pavilion sought to decode the representation of the marginalized in Indian Cinema and Literature. Speaking on the occasion, noted media critic Vartika Nanda underlined that women continued to be misrepresented on the silver screen and the same symptom had gripped the television also. S. Anand, Publisher and Dalit activist, emphasised how caste and class have all along defined the characters and plots of Indian Cinema. He illustrated this with examples from Hindi and Tamil films as well as through a video clip from the film Love, Sex and Dhoka. Prof. Satish Kumar Verma, a critic from Punjab, underlined how a major character in a Punjabi film becomes a minor or laughable character in Hindi cinema and highlighted the dynamics of caste and class in the representation of different communities on the screen. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Asghar

Wajahat, eminent playwright and scriptwriter shared his perceptions on the issue. Shri Mangalesh Dabral, eminent poet and critic, made a reference to the misrepresentation or stereotyping of characters belonging to minorities like Christians, Muslims etc. Making a special mention of films like Messey Sahib, Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyon Aaata Hai etc, he stated that though such great experiments have also been done to present alternative visions, these efforts, however, have been few and far between. Moderating the session, Shri Asad Zaidi, noted poet and publisher, stated that even though Hindi Cinema has been sort of 'ruled' by many starts from the Muslim communities, they have largely played safe and remained indifferent to social realities. As a result, they have ended up promoting and projecting stereotyping of the minorities. The discussion was followed by a lively interactive session with the audience.

STAGE TO SCREEN

"All students need to have some drama experience to acquire the kind of confidence every single student strives for and to master the art of communication,"said Sushma Seth who has played mother and grandmother to almost all the lead actors of Bollywood. The Hum Log fame theatre and film personality was speaking at the Theme Pavilion yesterday. She was reading excerpts from her critically acclaimed book Stageplay: The Journey of an Actor. In a free-wheeling conversation with young and not-so-young readers and film enthusiasts, Seth explained the intricacies of acting on stage and that of in front of camera: "As an actor I feel it is very important to keep your mind and body agile, alert and expressive just as an instrument has to be tuned before it can be played upon beautifully." A respected name in Delhi theatre, Smt Seth has acted in many memorable and popular films of Bollywood including Junoon, Prem Rog, Silsila, 1942: A Love Story, Insaf ki Awaz, Chandni, etc.





MY LITTLE INDIA

A two-day National Seminar on 'My Little India: Communicating India to Children' was held at the Children's Pavilion on 25-26 February 2012.

Inspired by the title of a book written by Prof. Manoj Das (My Little India), published by the National Book Trust, India; the seminar divided into six sessions, dealt with the challenges of communicating India in the right perspective to our young generation to help children respect and retain the core Indian values, ethos and traditional knowledge.



The seminar was inaugurated by the celebrated writer, Prof. Manoj Das. The inaugural session was presided over by Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT. Delivering the keynote address, Ms. Shamim Padamsee underlined the need to communicate India to the children of modern times as western values and culture is weaning them away from the rich Indian culture and literature. Ms Padamsee, a children's writer, also runs an e-portal 'Young India books' for children.

Shri Sikandar said that he was hopeful that the two-day discussions would be helpful in finding methods to communicate India to the children in a



right manner. Ms Louise Barry-Taylor from Thebe Exhibitions & Projects Group from South Africa also spoke on the occasion.

The second session 'Discovering India in Our Books for Today's children' was chaired by Dr Madhu Pant, former Director, Bal Bhawan. The speakers included Dr Subodh Mahanti, Director, Vigyan Prasar and Shri Rajesh Khar from Pratham Books. While Dr Mahanti emphasized the importance of encouraging children to ask questions and inculcate scientific temper in them, Shri Khar pointed out that fantasy is a strong tool to convey India to children through traditional Indian tales, fables and epics. Dr Madhu Pant emphasised on the need to be very innovative in our ways of communicating with the children.

Revolving around the theme 'Communicating India to Children: Challenges Before Authors', the third session held on the second day of the seminar was chaired by Shri Prayag Shukla, Editor with Sangeet Natak Akademi who felt that poems, little rhymes, and historical songs best convey India to children. Presenting her paper on the topic, Subhadra

Sengupta, noted children's writer was of the opinion that less text and more of children-friendly illustrations could do the trick. Dash Benhur, popular Odiya writer for children, advocated for more regional varieties with a human face having secular and scientific temper.

Dealing with the issues involving illustrations, the fourth session was chaired by Subir Roy. Aabid Surti and Viky Arya presented their views on the topic.

The fifth session discussed the challenges faced by publishers in



making books more appealing for children. Manasi Subramanyam from Karadi Tales, Chennai and Sayoni Basu ACK Media, Gurgaon presented their side of the story while Debajyoti Dutta, Shishu Sahitya Sansad, Kolkata presided over.

The last session chaired by Vikas Narain Rai from Sahitya Upkram, looked at the possibilities of effective methods of right communication. Arup Kumar Dutta, children's writer from Assam and Sujata Chatterjee, were hopeful that if the writers, illustrators, and publishers work together towards it, the right communication of "My Little India" is quite possible.

From being one of the forms of cinema, the bioscope has come a long way being seen now as just an antique contraption. Designed first by the Skladanowsky brothers in the 19th century, it was a treat then to peek through the round window-like openings to get engrossed in its mystical world of Bollywood stars and monuments from India and abroad.

The theme pavilion at the 20th New Delhi World Book Fair has brought back the bioscope to celebrate the 100 years of Indian cinema. It is put up at the entrance where people, mostly curious young children are having a lovely time peeping through it. Even celebrities are unable to keep themselves from having a *dekko* through the device.



CULTURAL PROGRAMME





Yesterday's cultural programmes that enthralled the audience at the Lal Chowk in the Fair grounds were Pandwani - Folk Singing; Folk dances: Raie Dance, Badhai Dance, Novta Dance, Lathi Dance by the artists from Madhya Pradesh.

BOOK RELEASES

- Six new titles were released by B. Jain publishers at Hall No. 6. The titles released were namely, Superfoods: Make Your Child a Genius, Learning Disabilities in a Nutshell, At Ease with Etiquette, Tarot Forecast 2012, Easy First Food and Easy Breastfeeding.
- At Hall No. 6, a title Rahul Gandhi: The Great Warrior of Indian Politics written by Lakshmi Priya N., was released.
- Three Hindi titles by Juli Prakashan, six titles in Hindi by Basanti Prakashan and fourteen titles in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu by Kalawati Prakashan were released at Hall No. 14.

Today's Events : MONDAY, 27 February 2012					
Date/ Time	Event	Organiser			
Theme Pavilion Hall No. 7E					
11:30 - 13.30 hrs	Lights, Camera, Rights! : Receptions of Books on Indian Cinema by Publishers Abroad	National Book Trust, India			
16:00 - 17:00 hrs	Book Release and Discussion on : Representation of Awadh Culture in Indian Cinema	Tawazzo.com			
17:30 - 20:00 hrs	Literature that Walks, Talks and Sings: Screening of Umrao Jaan	Tawazzo.com			
Children's Pavilion Hall No. 14					
10:30 - 13:00 hrs	Release of Children's Books from Finland and Discussion	Embassay of Finland, NBT and A & A			
	Workshop on Illustrations by Finnish and Indian artists				
	Presentaton of Songs on Books and Reading	Ahlcon International School			
15:30 - 17:30 hrs	Panel Discussion on 'Selection of Children's Books for International Libraries – Is it Quality Based?'	Publishers' Action Group (Pag-e)			

Other Events				
Date/ Time	Event	Venue	Organiser	
10:00 - 13.00 hrs	New Editorial Trends in Publishing	Mezzanine, Hall No. 14	French Embassy & National Book Trust, India	
11:00 - 13:00 hrs	Book Release Function	Conference Room 1 Hall No. 6	Antika Prakashan	
	Book Release Function	Conference Room 3 Hall No. 14	Qbend Digital Content India	
13:00 - 15:00 hrs	Discussion	Conference Room 3 Hall No. 14	Unique Publishers	
15:00 - 17:00 hrs	Book Release Function	Conference Room 1 Hall No. 6	National Police Academy	
	Book Release Function	Conference Room 2 Hall No. 6	JyotiParb	
	Book Release Function	Conference Room 3 Hall No. 14	All Bengal Pub. & Booksellers Assn.	
17:00 - 19:00 hrs	Book Release Function	Conference Room 1 Hall No. 6	Spectrum Publications	
	Annual Functon	Conference Room 2 Hall No. 14	Hindyugm.com	
	Book Release Function	Conference Room 3 Hall No. 14	Chintha Publishers	

18:00 - 20:00 hrs Cultural Programmes at Lal Chowk organised by Sahitya Kala Parishad:

Maganihar - Folk Singing; Folk dances: Chari Dance, Ghoomar Dance, Bhavai Dance, etc. (Rajasthan)

Hall No. 1 Stall Nos. 168 to 183: English Publications

Visit NBT Stalls at: Hall No. 11 Stall Nos. 256 to 271: Language Publications Hall No. 14 Stall Nos. 70 to 79: Children's Publications

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