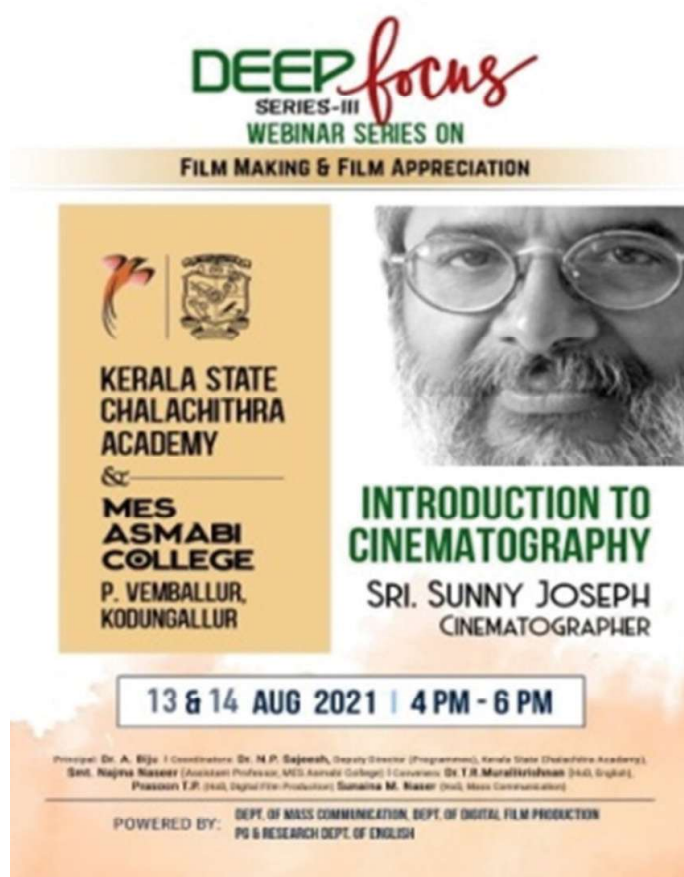


Responding to a query from the audience about the challenges for Doordarshan, Sri Baiju Chandran, observed that there is no competition, for Doordarshan is a public sector broadcast. Being owned by the Government, quality content is vital and integral. Prime time shows and mini soap operas that violate code of ethics will not find a room in Doordarshan. He added that from 2014, Doordarshan has stopped to be a propaganda medium.

The lecture was thus an assessment of the evolution of television and its fundamentals in the Indian context.

Session 15 & 16- August 13 & 14- Introduction to Cinematography, Dr Sunny Joseph



“We are children of light” – Dr Sunny Joseph began his lecture talking about his passion for films. He talked at length about the films that he saw as a teenager which were crucial in shaping the film enthusiast in him. Cinema has the power to unite people. To have a taste of cinema we must watch different cinemas placing classics like ‘Battleship Potemkin,’ ‘Bicycle

Thieves,' 'Trip to Moon'. 'The Great Train Robbery,' 'Wild Strawberries,' as models/touchstone.

In the words of Dr Sunny Joseph, cinema gives an exact model of time. Cinema being an eternal phenomenon, death is no more an absolute truth; hence one cannot say that Nazir and Sathyan are dead in its all-inclusive meaning.

In accordance with physicist E.C. George Sudarshans' proposition that time does not have an arrow of direction, Dr Sunny Joseph opined that past, present and future can be simultaneously experienced in cinema.

After the introduction, Dr Sunny Joseph, cited examples and made use of graphs, to talk about the various nuances of cinematography, tone, lines and light. Elaborating on lines and light, he articulated on the relationship of lines and emotional responses, viz. angular lines that stand for agitation, vertical lines that represent dignity, horizontal lines that denote tranquillity.

In the course of his lecture, Dr Sunny Joseph foregrounded the importance of events and visuals in storytelling. He indexed 8 principal yardsticks to capture a flawless still image.

i) Point of View

Getting in line with the subject rather than shooting from adjacent angle.

ii) Simplicity

Keeping the frame simple, background must be made very simple so that the subject stands out to the viewer.

iii) Geometrical Shapes

Getting unique symbols inside the frame produces a strong focal point.

iv) Balancing the picture

Mixing different things

v) Placing abstract objects inside the frame

vi) Cropping

vii) Depth

Giving depth to the background by focusing on the foreground

viii) Breaking the Rules

“Learn the rules first and then learn to break the rules effectively”. Try to break all the rules that make our work unique.

Along with these 8 major yardsticks, Dr Sunny Joseph added the concept of negative space that will create more attention towards the subject.

Reflecting on *mis en scene* that refers to all of the elements that comprises a single shot, Dr Sunny Joseph enumerated the key elements of *mis en scene*.

i) Dominance

ii) Lighting

iii) Shot and camera proxemics

iv) Angles

v) Colour

vi) Lens, filter and Stock

vii) Subsidiary Contrasts

viii) Density

ix) Composition

x) Form

xi) Framing

xii) Depth of Field

xiii) Character Placement

xiv) Staging Positions

xv) Character Proxemics

Dr Sunny Joseph played a segment from the movie ‘Cries and Whispers’ to highlight the importance of images in cinema. He underlined the significance of learning from masters to “search

for our knowledge”. ‘Battleship Potemkin’ and ‘Passion of Joan of Arc’ are the foundation stones to cinema.

Responding to a question on the qualities needed for a cinematographer, Dr Joseph noted that reading and understanding literature will trigger imagination instilling a sense of rhythm and an awareness of human psychology. One must love light and assimilate that cinema is a universal gift, quintessential to the sustenance of mankind.

Commenting on the question rose on the length of a short film, Dr Joseph cited a personal experience and remarked that director, who helms the cinema has to ruthlessly assess the material after shooting and avoid everything that is not essential.

Answering a query on the term DOP (Director of Photography), Dr Joseph remarked that in Europe the term is used to emphasis authorship rights of the cinematographer.

He concluded his lecture citing two books for further reference and reading viz. ‘Visual Story and Light’ and ‘Science and Magic.’

Session 17- August 16- Creative Writing for television- Ms Sreekala M S

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