

Ms. Bina Paul began her speech by expressing her pleasure at hearing all about her endorsements. She described editing as her favourite job in film. Editing is an integral part of film. It is the process of adding all the elements needed for a story and then replacing them with others. The job of an editor is to find those parts that fit the story and then put them together. After filming the parts for the film in different ways, the most suitable part for the story is selected in the editing table. That is why it takes a lot of time to shoot a movie.

Editing is not just about the use of software; rather, we must first understand the story. Then we need to understand the meaning of those parts and think about how it will tell the story. But for those parts to make sense, the parts before and after must be added. It only makes sense when multiple parts come together like this.

The editor's tools are to look at the shots, the story, the type of film being made, as well as the style of the song. Once the rhythm of the film is found and edited, it reaches its perfection. So we have to pay attention to that rhythm.

An editor's special ability is to look at things objectively more than any other technician. It is also important for an editor to look at the material that is received in a different way. When it comes down to it, there are many things that are visible beyond a dialogue. When we film scenes in landscape mode in cinema, attention has to be paid at every aspect of it. In addition, it is the job of the editor to make sure that the exact content is conveyed through it.

Session 4- July 14-Introduction to Film Direction-Mahesh Narayanan

REGISTRATION

KERALA STATE CHALACHITRA ACADEMY
&
MES ASMABI COLLEGE
P. VEMBALLUR, KODUNGALLUR

DEEP focus
WEBINAR SERIES ON
Film Making &
Film Appreciation

SPEAKER
Mahesh Narayanan
Film Director,
Screenwriter & Film Editor

SESSION V
WEBINAR ON
INTRODUCTION TO
FILM DIRECTION

14 JULY 2021
4.00 PM - 6 PM

Principal: Dr. A. Biju | Coordinators: Dr. N.P. Sajesh, Deputy Director (Programmes), Kerala State Chalachitra Academy),
Smt. Rajma Naseer (Assistant Professor, MES Asmabi College) | Co-moderators: Dr. T.R. Marikrishnan (Hindi, English),
Praveen T.P. (Hindi), Digital Film Production: Saranya M. Nasser (Hindi, Mass Communication)

POWERED BY: DEPT. OF MASS COMMUNICATION, DEPT. OF DIGITAL FILM PRODUCTION
PG & RESEARCH DEPT. OF ENGLISH

Sri Mahesh Narayan started his talk by mentioning that he is more an editor rather than a director. In today's world the most accepted art form is cinema. As long as people have the faculty of telling and enjoying stories, films will continue to exist. This pandemic period is more fearful than war period. Film itself is the by-product of world war. Classic movies mark certain historical moments. Movie though is a collective art is not a necessity and no work from home option is there for movies. We need to tell movies according to the tendencies of the respective period of making. Usually technological advancement happen within a few years, today it has the length of a few months. Though things are changing quickly, cinema cannot be regarded as a medium that reached its completion. People are also incomplete; in cinema there is infinite knowledge to imbibe. Aptitude of the audience is the priority here. Sri Mahesh preferred to answer the questions raised by the audience. So he ended his talk with that note and invited questions.

- “Theatres exist mainly with advertisements,” a producer said, what will happen when movies are released through OTT platforms?

Everything in film should coexist. Cinema embraced technology with digitalisation. Ultimately an art form should reach the people effectively. If the circumstances are not allowing to reach a collective audience, then it could be through OTT platforms. In a particular period, if there are no writers that is the peculiarity of that age.

- How can a story be transformed into a script and then into a movie of two and half hours?

Story and screenplay should be approached differently. There is an organic procedure in the story. Without knowing the end of the story, we can start writing one. It should happen naturally. On the other hand, screenplay should have completeness. If we are writing for a different director, we must have awareness of how he is approaching it. Mutual reading makes a movie happen. One should record the complete narration, and then cut short it into two and half hours. In a screenplay precision of subject is mandatory.

- Why do you make movies?

Not to preach or change lives but the aim is to address situations happening around. Ultimately he is a story teller to entertain. To entertain means to engage effectively.

- Can a good editor be a good director?

There can be loop holes while the director is trying to transform the script into visual language. All these are unified by the editor. By justifying the script editing and writing tables are parallel. The editor when becomes the director the greatest advantage is that, he can communicate with more clarity and reduce the number of days for shooting.

- Cinema is considered as the byproduct of the director even by the great movie maker, Satyajit Ray, but isn't it right that movies are first shaped in the mind of the writer?

Ultimately director and writer are like spouses. A good child will be born only out of their unity of mind. Dramas have the advantage of changing the text, but not movies.

- What kind of difference do you feel while editing a thriller, love story and feel good films?

Whatever be the type of movie the editor must stand with the director. If the editor cannot enjoy his work it is better for him to quit. Even though no specific plan of action is required, the director's vision must not be lost. Issues will arise once the editor goes beyond the screenplay.

- What are the roles of an assistant director?

They have different roles like checking the continuity of action scenes, costumes etc. according to the demand of the movie. In big movies there will be an AD to supervise dialogues and a chief to supervise all ADs. His movie 'Malik' had 12 ADs, but for 'C U Soon' no AD was needed, so ultimately it is the movie that decides the role and number of assistant directors.

- What was the inspiration to make a movie like 'take off,' how was it accepted by the health workers?

It could have influenced health workers, especially nurses during the pandemic period. He got response from a nurse that usually nurses are portrayed in cheap comedies. It is for the first time the real life of a nurse is exposed in a movie.

- Did you expect such an acceptance to 'C U Soon?'

During the pandemic period he was thinking that there is no work from home for movies like other fields. The outcome of the thought during the first wave is the movie 'C U soon,' it got more acceptance than expected.

- What should be the qualities of a good editor?

An editor should have great patience. S/he must read a lot, it is a hidden art.

- You have taken movies of different dimensions. What material would impress you?

The storyline should be true to life. He cited the example of ‘take off’ and ‘C U Soon’ to illustrate his point.

- Occasion of taking the movie ‘Mili.’

‘Mili’ is the male version of Sri Rajesh Pillai who shared his apprehensions and inhibitions, so it can be regarded as a collaborative work.

- What are the qualities of Fahad Fazil with whom you have taken two movies?

Primarily he is a friend with like mindedness. He has great patience, a good observer with transparency and he works hard to make his characters good.

- What kind of research do you do before taking a movie?

If the plot is familiar, then the research is already done. When the subject is less familiar it needs great effort. If our way is legitimate, the detailing will come naturally.

- It is widely said that OTT releases are not based on socio cultural parameters like gender, culture, race, class or caste, but on a completely different lens. Do you think there is such a drastic change?

Audience accepts cross cultural aspects, they have more interest in content than in form. However local we go, more will be the reach. Economic aspect should also work out. We must not think that men have changed a lot, they are still narrow-minded.

That was the talk and response from a passionate film maker. “To be an editor of movies no assistance or knowledge of software is needed, but craft should be there.”

Those are the words from an editor with great craftsmanship. Though he appeared a bit tough in the beginning, his sincere words could reduce the appearance of rigidity and he turned out to be an ardent lover of movie editing and making.