

in scene and heightens mood and atmosphere. Camera and its various components like angle movement, position, composition and depth of field are important in cinema.

He concluded his lecture by talking about sound in cinema. Sound has existed in film since 1927. Sound is used conventionally to create a more involving and believable narrative. There are primarily two types of sound in film, Diegetic and Non-diegetic. Diegesis, the Greek term for world is used in film analysis to describe the narrative world of a film. Diegetic sound can be subdivided into: dialogue, speech sound effects, footsteps, doors closing, gun shots, ambient sound, background noise, distant chatter, wind, traffic etc. Non-Diegetic sounds are sound which has been added to support the mood and atmosphere that the filmmaker is trying to convey. Sound effects are of two types: synchronous and asynchronous sounds. Synchronous sounds are those which are synchronized or matched with what is viewed. It contributes to the realism in film and helps to create a particular atmosphere/mood. Asynchronous sound effects are not matched with a visible source of the sound on screen. It provides an appropriate emotional nuance, and they may also add to the realism of the film. Meaning of a visual image is dependent upon all these elements. Obviously, it has social, cultural, political and psychological dimensions and its reception varies from viewer to viewer. Not only what is included but also what is excluded from the frame/shot/sequence or narrative is important to understand cinema.

Session 6 July 19- Panel Discussion on ‘Independent Cinema in Malayalam: Opportunities and Challenges’ by Sri Sajin Babu and Don Palathra



Sri Don Palathara, remarkable independent film director, screenwriter and documentary film maker initiated the panel discussion by expressing that the perfect answer of how mainstream cinema differs from independent cinema is still not defined. According to him a movie gets its independent nature when it has the freedom to express itself without restrictions. Independent movies are made on low budget or zero budget. So they don't have the producers' pressure to create a profit out of the movie, they don't have to bent their stories or cast superstars with star value. They can express their inner thoughts and feelings without capitalistic restrictions. Independent cinema is a platform where film makers can express themselves without altering their thoughts, where they can create what they want and how they want without the influence of outer forces.

One of the main characteristics of independent cinema is that it is bolder and has a different way of portraying their content than the mainstream cinema. While responding to a query on the stereotyping of independent cinemas, Don said that independent cinemas are different, their purpose is different and he does not expect his cinema to be universally accepted. Independent cinemas are mostly slow paced with long shots and deals with deep contents. It provides space to think deeply about the movie and they don't accept a review from people who don't have the patience to watch and think further about the movie. Differing from instantaneous effects intended by mainstream cinemas, independent movies are meant to have long life and greater impact in the society. Sharing his experience of watching one of his movies 'shavam' again, he opined that the views and preferences of a director undergo change with time.

Sajin Babu, national award winning independent film director, explained how technological development was instrumental in bringing out more independent cinemas. He explained how OTT platforms have given more space and visibility to independent movies. OTT platforms are ready to accept and stream independent movies if the content is solid. By streaming on OTT platforms, independent movies are getting more global recognition and reach. Audience are also evolving for the best, they are now ready to accept good cinema, even though there is not a huge star cast or a celebrated film crew in independent films.

Nowadays star value is decelerating on one side. Recently mainstream OTT platforms rejected to stream some movies of mainstream stars. The time when a movie will become super hit only because of the presence of a super star is long gone. The OTT platforms are only ready to stream the movies that have a certain depth or quality of content. This is a good sign for independent film makers.

At the same time, as OTT platforms are profit driven and should ensure that they will be streaming contents that are loved by their audience. They also have certain politics to make sure that they keep their viewers satisfied and entertained in order to get desired profit. Hence

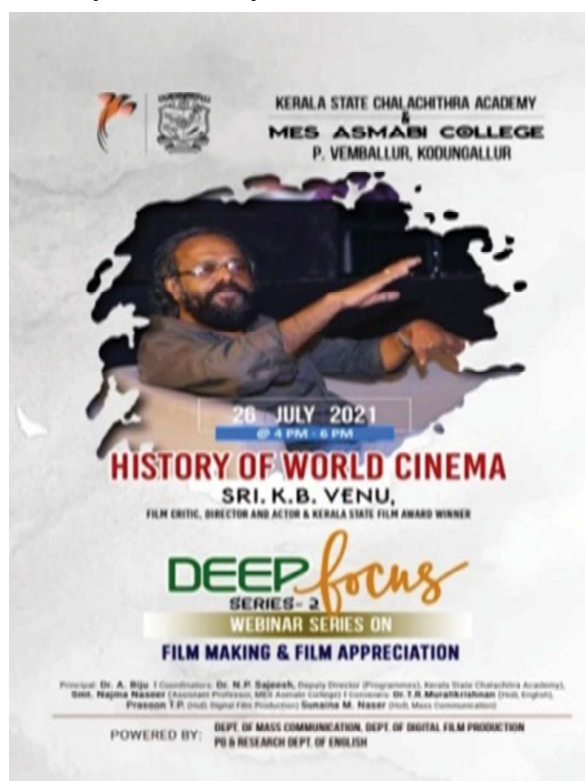
independent cinemas may face hostile reception from OTT platforms in the future.

Discussing on political correctness, the directors opined that it is nearly impossible to create a movie that is politically and morally correct for everyone.

The trend of award movies being stereotyped as boring, slow and dull is witnessing a shift with the global recognition accorded to independent cinemas. The directors acknowledged the recognition rendered by film festivals to independent cinema. Simultaneously they suggested categorising independent movies and mainstream movies as separate categories in the festival.

They concluded by talking about censorship policy of the state, and voiced their dissent over the state's interference in their creation. They cited censorship as an exaggerated exercise by the government to exercise their authority and create an illusion of fake concern towards the society. Being an inevitable process in releasing cinema in theatre's censorship is reluctantly embraced by the makers of the movie.

Session 7- July 26- History of World Cinema- K B Venu



Sri. K.B.Venu, renowned director, script writer, actor and film critic of Malayalam film industry started the session on the history of world cinema stating that, history of world cinema is not as long as that of the history of literature or art. It is short but at the same time complicated, as it is the representation of different nations, cultures and languages.