

CIC Film Society

The aim of the film society at CIC is to screen movies which facilitate our understanding of the nature of the society we live in. Taking a slight departure from the conventional method of screening movies usually by various film societies or clubs, the core ideology of film society envisaged by the members associated with the Film Society at Cluster Innovation Centre is derived from one of the famous quote by noted US author, writer and humourist, Finley Peter Dunne. Dunne, while speaking about the role of newspapers in a society, famously remarked that the job of the newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comforted. Extending this observation to the understanding of movies, we the members of the film society categorize movies broadly in two major types. Movies, which are mainstream and appeal to large sections of the society and movies, which are appreciated critically, however fail to become part of the mainstream culture.

Film Society, Cluster Innovation Centre tries to integrate movies from both traditions and therefore aims at developing holistic understanding of films, thus of our society. The aim also is to screen movies which connect students to the subjects and themes they study at Cluster Innovation Centre. The screenings are followed by discussions, where participants share their experiences and interpretation skills.

6 April 2018

Words and Pictures

CIC Film Society has screened "Words and Pictures" on 6th April 2018. Words and Pictures is a 2013 American drama film directed by Fred Schepisi. A flamboyant English teacher (Clive Owen) and a new, stoic art teacher (Juliette Binoche) collide at an upscale prep school. A high-spirited courtship begins and she finds herself enjoying the battle. Another battle they begin has the students trying to prove which is more powerful, the word or the picture. But the true war is against their own demons, as two troubled souls struggle for connection.

19 March 2018

Shape of water

CIC film society has screened "The Shape of Water" on 19th March, 2018. "Shape of Water" is known to be the best work of the horror maestro Guillermo del Toro. The film is set against the backdrop of Cold War Era in 1963. In the hidden high-security government laboratory where she

works, lonely Elisa (Sally Hawkins) is trapped in a life of silence and isolation. Her life is changed forever when she and her co-worker Zelda (Octavia Spencer) discover a secret classified experiment.

The oscar-winning film blends whimsical fairy tale with a fresh spin of a classic monster movie.

SADGATI

Remembering Om Puri, CIC Film Society screened, one of his critically acclaimed movie, 'Sadgati' on 24th January 2017

Sadgati (The Deliverance) is a 1981 Hindi film, by **Satyajit Ray**, based on a short story of same name by **Munshi Premchand**.

"Sadgati is a vicious indictment of the Indian caste system when an out-caste village shoemaker Dukhi (Om Puri) goes to village priest (Mohan Agashe) to get the date of his daughter's marriage fixed." - The Times of India

HOLOCAUST

Remembering the Holocaust, we screened a French documentary 'Night and Fog' (1956) on 10th February.

Directed by **Alain Resnais**, this documentary short film is known to be one of the most vivid depictions of horrors of Nazi Concentration Camps.

"An unbearable apotheosis of desolation that speaks to the necessity of our making a mental effort to grasp what is impossible to grasp—a duty that has been imposed upon us by history." - Todd Gitlin, American sociologist and cultural commentator.

OTTAL

Ottal (The Trap) is a 2014 Malayalam film by Jayaraj. It was screened on 22nd February 2017

This multiple award winning movie is the screen adaption of Russian writer Anton Chekhov's short story 'Vanka'.

"Chekhov wrote the short story with child labour as its theme some 130 years ago. Even after a century, there is no change in the situation. Millions of children are working as bonded labourers around the globe, sacrificing their childhood and dreams." – Jayaraj

GARAM HAWA

Garam Hawa (1973) is an Urdu drama film by M.S Sathyu based on an unpublished story of Ismat Chughtai. It was screened on 3rd March 2017.

The film depicts the turbulence in the family of Salim Mirza, more importantly, in Mirza's own psyche, as he undertakes the journey as a Muslim, who wants to stay back in post-Partition North India.

"Taqseem hua mulk to dil ho gae tukre Har seenay mein toofan
wahan bhi thha yahan bhi Har
ghar mein chita jalti thee
lahratey the sholay
Har shahr men shamshan
wahan bhi thha yahan bhi
Geeta ki koi sunta na Quran ki sunta Hairan
thha iman wahan bhi thha yahan bhi"

Initially banned as an "instigation to communal dissension", this film went on to win a national award for its contribution to "national integration."

TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD

It was screened on 13th April. 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is a novel written by Harper Lee in 1960. After being one of the best sellers this book was adapted into an Oscar-winning film in 1962 by Robert Mulligan.

The film highlights how justice was affected by racial discrimination deeply entrenched in the society. The story is narrated by six-year old Scout which brings innocence and warmth into it despite being based on the serious issues of rape and racial inequality. Atticus (Scout's father) has been appointed as a lawyer of a black man who has been accused of raping a white woman.

BICYCLE THIEVES

It was screened on 1st September.

"Bicycle Thieves" is hailed as an example of Italian Neorealism, a style in which directors capture day-to-day life of common people post World War II. The film by Vittorio De Sica shows non-professionals portraying the struggles of working class.

This film which was earlier denied release by U.S. Film Industry Production Code was later distributed by three independent theatre chains, thus bringing a historic change of removing censorship in America. As the protagonist moves around the city searching his bicycle, De Sica presents the cross-sections of the middle-class world from cafes to shops to brothels.

The Danish Girl

It was screened on 24 October.

CIC Film society in collaboration with the Counselling cell is screening "The Danish Girl" on the occasion of Mental Health Awareness Week.

"The Danish Girl" based on the novel written by David Ebershoff in 2000. "The Danish Girl" is a true-life story of Lili Elbe, one of the recipients of sex reassignment surgery.

Einar Wegener (played by Eddie Redmayne) and his wife Gerda (Alicia Vikander) are a happily married couple. Both are artists, Einar preferring landscapes and her portraits. One day Einar poses for a portrait of Gerda while wearing a dress. This is initially done as a lark, as is the later attendance at a party dressed as a woman. However, Einar soon discovers that she is in fact a woman and over time prefers being Lili. At first, she and Gerda try to have her situation "cured" but this leads nowhere (other than to many doctors trying to have Lili locked up as a pervert and/or lunatic). Her voyage of self-discovery will ultimately lead to her undergoing the first ever sex-change operation. The screening of the film will be followed by a discussion on the film as well as the important issues it raises.