

2nd International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh

Festival Report

1. Dates: The Festival was held from January 24-30, 2009.

2. Venues: The main venue was Central Public Library. Other venues are: Iranian Cultural Centre, Russian Centre for Science and Culture, Alliance Francaise, British Council and German Cultural Centre.

3. Slogan: The festival slogan was: Future in Frames.

4. Inauguration: The inaugural program of the festival was held on 24th January 2009 at the Central Public Library, Shahbag, Dhaka. The inaugural program was divided into two parts. The first part was held at the open premises, it started with the presentation of a famous Tagore song 'Alo Amar alo Ogo Aloy Bhuban Vora' by the young artists of the Cultural Institute 'Chhayanaut'. After the song was sung splendidly the National flag was hoisted by the chief guest Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed in the presence of Mr. Carel De Rooy, representative of Unicef Bangladesh as a special guest, the festival flag was hoisted by Mustafa Monwar, Chairman of the festival advisory committee and the flag of the Children's Film Society was hoisted by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, president of CFS. It was followed by setting free of balloons with festival slogan & logo by Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed and seven doves by Mr. Carel De Rooy.

The second part of the inaugural ceremony was held at the Shwkat Osman auditorium. After a spectacular welcome speech by Munira Morshed Munni, General Secretary of CFS, a briefing about the festival was given by the Festival Director Morshedul Islam. The session was presided over by Mustafa Monwar. Speeches were given by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Mr. Carel De Rooy. The chief guest Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Mr. Carel De Rooy and the other guests then declared the commencement of the Festival by jointly lighting a lamp. After the opening speeches and other formalities, the German film 'Hands of Mississippi' was screened.

5. Number of participating countries: Short, Animation, documentary and feature-length films suitable for or made by children from 40 countries including Bangladesh were shown during the wee-long festival.

6. Total number of films shown in the festival: 156

7. Number of screenings: Total number of screenings in the festival was 224 in 6 different venues.

8. Total number of audience: 30,000 + (18,000 children, 12,000 adult).

Number of schools participated: 18 high schools, 6 primary schools.

Street children: 2200 (with the help of Manusher Jonno)

Working children: 980 (with the help of ASD)

9. Child delegates: Total 103 child delegates from all around the country were participated in the festival. They were selected by an essay competition. These children came from twenty eight districts including two from the remote hill district Khagrachari. Among them, 8 were physically challenged and 8 were underprivileged children. Forty-three of them came from Dhaka, and Sixty from the other parts of the country. Among the child delegates, 18 were filmmakers, whose films were selected in the festival for competition. Child delegates programme was sponsored by UNICEF Bangladesh.

10. Events for child delegates:

Workshop: A workshop on the basic idea on film was organized for the child delegates to let the children know about the process of film making and develop their film making skills. The workshop was divided into four sessions, each for one and half hour. The first segment of the workshop, dealing with the definition of film and basic idea on film language, was conducted by Morshedul Islam, the second, about the basic technical knowledge of film making, was conducted by Katherine Masud, the third, difference between good film and bad film, was conducted by Tareque Masud and the fourth, discussing the role of films in understanding social reality and responsibility, was conducted by Tanveer Mokammel.

Meeting with important persons: Children had the opportunity to spend time with three eminent personalities namely Muhammad Zafar Iqbal , the renowned writer, Syed Shamsul Haque, a well known poet, Sultana Kamal, human rights activist and the former advisor of the caretaker government. All three of the respected personalities dedicated their precious time for the children on three different days and thus gave them immense knowledge about various prospects.

Special programme: A special programme 'Learning through Film' along with the reception was held during the festival at the German Cultural Centre on 28th January. The prioritized topic of the session was 'Child Rights', 'Child Health' and the 'Influence of Entertainment in Children'. Country representative of 'Save the Children' (Sweden-Denmark) Mr.Niels Bentzen was present at this session as the Chief Guest. The session was sponsored by 'Save the Children' (Sweden-Denmark).

Meeting with child filmmakers: Child filmmakers met with audiences and journalists on 29th January. They answered questions and shared their filmmaking experience in the programme.

11. Seminar: A day-long seminar on children's film was arranged on 27th January. The seminar was divided into four sessions. The first session's theme was 'Problems and prospects of children's film making in Bangladesh'. The keynote paper was presented by Fuad Chowdhury, moderated by Morshedul Islam, and chaired by Khushi Kabir. The second session's theme was 'Use of Media for Children: Role of TV Channels'. The keynote paper was presented by Shamsul Alam Bakul, moderated by Muhammad Jahangir, and chaired by Faridur Reza Sagar. The third session's theme was 'Influence of Film and Media on Children'. The keynote paper was presented by Moshi Uddin Shaker, moderated by Geeti Ara Nasreen, and chaired by Shaheen Anam and the forth; session's theme was 'Responsibility of the State & the Society to enrich children through Cinema'. The keynote paper was presented by Badal Rahman, moderated by Farah Kabir, and chaired by Syed Bazle Hossain.

12. Official Dinner: An official dinner was arranged at Topkapi, Gulshen. Officials, advisors and patrons of the festival attended the dinner.

13. Publications: Posters, Souvenirs, Sticker, Tattoo, Daily bulletin, screening schedules etc. were published during the festival time..

14. Souvenirs: There was an assortment of souvenirs – Bags, T-shirts, Posters, Pens, Sticker and more.

15. Logo film: A logo film of 40 seconds duration was made on the occasion. It was an animation based on the festival slogan and theme.

16. Film Competition: A competition of films made by children was arranged in the festival. The competition was between 15 films. 5 awards were declared and given at the closing ceremony. The awards include a crest, certificate and gifts. Besides, all participating filmmakers received certificates and gifts. The films were judged by a 5 members Jury Board formed by children.

17. Closing ceremony: A closing & Award giving Ceremony was held on 30th January at 6 pm at the Showkot Osman Hall of Central Public Library. Ms. Christine Julmes, chief of Communication & Information of UNICEF Bangladesh, Ms. Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Ms. Farah Kabir, country director of Action Aid Bangladesh and Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, president of Children's Film Society Bangladesh were among the speakers in the closing ceremony. The chairperson of the festival advisory committee, Mustafa Monwar officially declared the festival closed and the festival director Morshedul Islam announced the festival dates for the next year.

18. Festival declaration: A seven- point festival declaration was read out at the closing ceremony demanding state support and social awareness for making films for children in the country.