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“Bhagavadajjukam:” A light-hearted film in Sanskrit language!

Sanskrit films are more often shot on serious subjects with philosophical underpinnings. Young filmmaker **Yadu Vijayakrishnan**’s ‘Bhagavadajjukam’ is a humble effort to change this perception. “My aim was to create a light-hearted film in Sanskrit language which the audience could sit back and enjoy, says Yadu in a media interaction at IFFI 52.

The film is an adaptation of the classical satirical text ‘Bhagavadajjukam’ by Bodhayana of 7th century CE. The classical text which deals with the philosophies of Buddhism and Hinduism has been adapted into theatre plays in many languages and in art forms such as Koodiyattam - a traditional art form of Kerala.

On why he went for an adaptation, Yadu says, “I never wanted to write a new story. I was in search of a story with a soul.” On the challenges posed by Sanskrit language, Yadu says that the actors were all seasoned professionals who knew the plot of the film well and they had performed the plot as part of the Sopanam theatre group founded by Kavalam Narayana Panicker.

‘Bhagavadajjukam’ which was shown under feature film category of Indian Panorama also had its World Premiere at the 52nd edition of IFFI.



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‘Koozhangal’ India’s official entry to 94th Academy Awards delineates suffering of marital abuse

Koozhangal, India’s Official nomination to Oscars, delineates the pain and sufferings of a child and a mother, both victims of marital abuse. “It’s a simple story told in the simplest form. And it is borrowed from my life itself. The film is based on the sufferings that my sister and her small child went through due to an alcoholic husband”, says the Director of the Tamil film Vinothraj P.S. at a media interaction held on the sidelines of 52nd IFFI in Goa.

Koozhangal, based on the relationship between an alcoholic father and his son presents their journey to bring back the wife who has gone off to her father’s house.

“I shot the film in my own village as both the story and the landscape were close to my heart. The landscape depicted in the film forms the third character as the behaviour of human beings are also influenced by the climate and geography where they live. The arid landscape and sweltry hot sun in which the entire plot is set are an important elements conditioning the conduct of the characters,” says Vinothraj. Chellapandi, the debutant child artist in the film was also present at the interaction.

The Tamil film is a contender for the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi medal has been screened at various film festivals and has won accolades across the globe.

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IFFI
Interactions



Queen Maharani Returns

Writer-duo of political drama “Maharani”, Nandan Singh and Uma Shankar Singh couldn’t stop gushing about OTT platforms at IFFI’s In-Conversation Session.

Nandan says that OTT is liberating for writers, as they are not bound by commercial pressures or time constraints, making the writing seem almost like a novel.

Uma Shankar said that OTT has ushered in a golden period of opportunities. Giving a sneak peak into the upcoming sequel Maharani 2, the writers shared that the show will present difficult choices to its protagonist Rani Bharati this season, as she navigates the minefield of Bihar politics.

The popular web series has won plenty of fans by moving away from cliched portrayals of politicians.



IFFI Candid Moments



52nd International Film Festival of India, Goa

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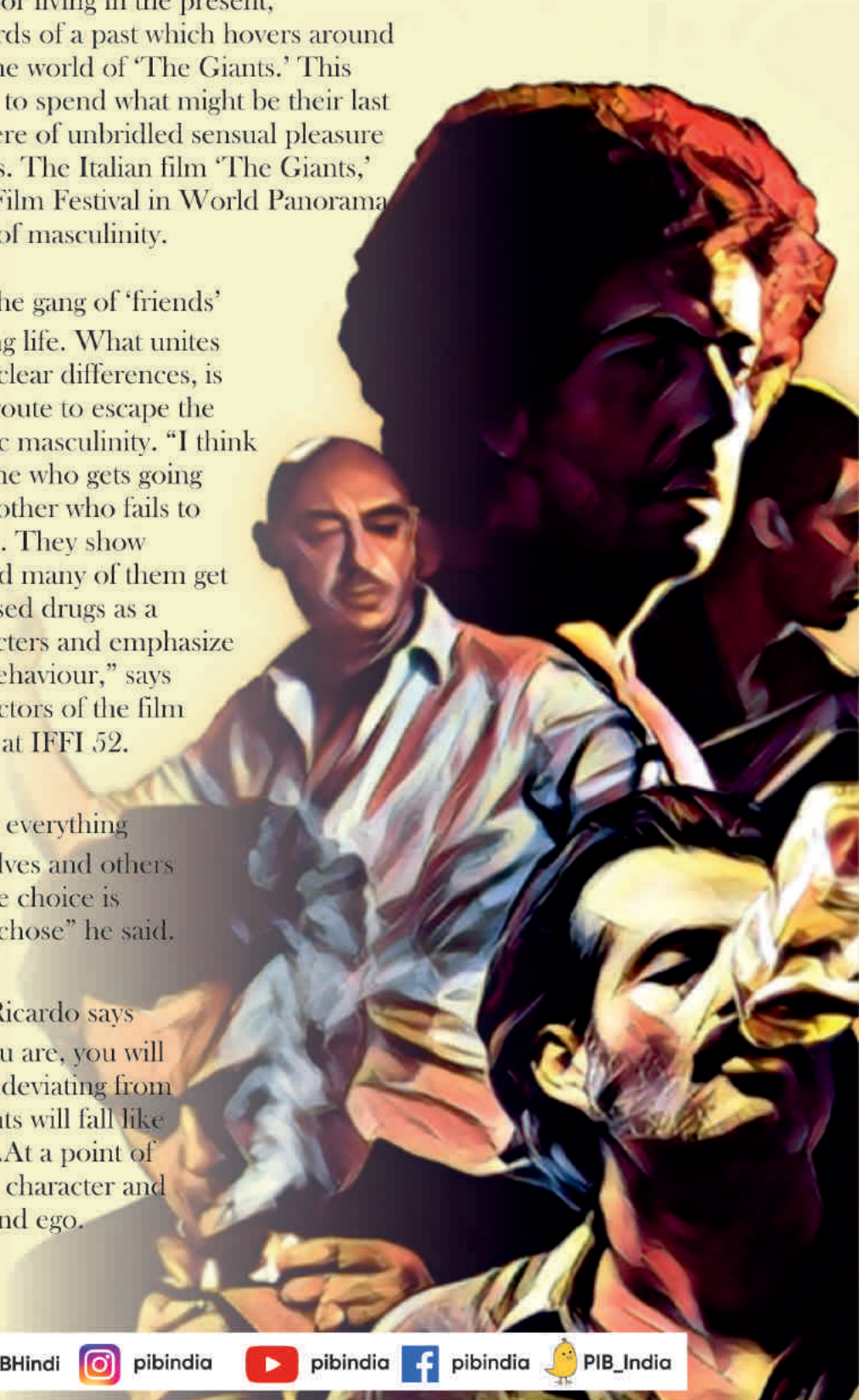
The Giants: On the darker side of masculinity

A get-together among friends who share a passion for artificial paradises in a deteriorating villa lost in the middle of the countryside, an insatiable thirst for living in the present, momentarily forgetting the hazards of a past which hovers around their minds: this is in short, is the world of 'The Giants.' This diverse group of friends decides to spend what might be their last evening together in an atmosphere of unbridled sensual pleasure with drugs, alcohol and darkness. The Italian film 'The Giants,' screened at 52nd International Film Festival in World Panorama, potently reveals the darker side of masculinity.

Ricardo says that each one in the gang of 'friends' has a singular way of approaching life. What unites the five friends, in spite of their clear differences, is their inability to find an escape route to escape the vicious circle of egoism and toxic masculinity. "I think there are two types of people: one who gets going normal even after a loss, and another who fails to accept the loss and goes haywire. They show distraction in their behaviour and many of them get addicted to drugs. So we have used drugs as a symbolism to connect the characters and emphasize the abnormality in the human behaviour," says Riccardo Bombagi, one of the actors of the film while interacting with the media at IFFI 52.

"Some people tries to balance everything and find peace within in themselves and others perish in their so called ego. The choice is yours. On what kind of life you chose" he said.

On the relevance of the title, Ricardo says however powerful and strong you are, you will not remain the same if you start deviating from your original path. Even the giants will fall like the characters shown in the film. At a point of time they have lost their original character and are captured by drugs, alcohol and ego.



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IFFI
Felicitations



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From the Red Carpet



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