

iffiloid

Your never-ending reel!

‘Bittersweet’ is the story of India’s Blood-Sugar: Anant Mahadevan

Bittersweet follows the heart wrenching travails of Suguna and her fellow women sugarcane cutters who are trapped in a situation that they can neither avoid nor escape. “It is the story of India’s Blood-Sugar. It’s how bitter the sugar we use can be in real life,” says film maker Anant Mahadevan.

Based on a newspaper report, the filmmaker explores the realities that plague the existence of the women sugarcane cutters of Beed, a village in Maharashtra. Mahadevan says, in the rate race to become the market leader in global sugar export, we are subjecting these poor women to horrifying practices in the fields. Continued on Page 2

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The film is on these women's quest for survival and the intense portrayal of the harsh reality will shake you up for sure.

The sugarcane harvest season will last for six months only and these poor women need to survive on the paltry wage that they earn during the season. And these women can't afford to lose even a single day's wage, even during their menstrual days. To avoid this loss, a strange practice has started about 10 years back in the Beed - the removal of the uterus, the womb. Young women in Beed are subjecting their bodies to surgical removal of the womb so that they can work in the sugarcane fields all days!

The film is on these women's quest for survival and the intense portrayal of the harsh reality will shake you up for sure, believes ANANT MAHADEVAN



“Raj Kapoor was the best teacher in the world”

Veteran filmmaker Rahul Rawail has revealed that he can never forget what he has learnt from the venerated late actor, producer and director Raj Kapoor. “Raj Kapoor was the best teacher in the world. The fascinating things I have learnt from him, I can never forget.”

Rawail said this while addressing an IFFI 52 In-Conversation session on his book ‘Raj Kapoor: The Master at Work’. Raj Kapoor’s son and renowned actor-director and producer Randhir Kapoor joined him in discussion on the book about the celebrated icon of Indian cinema.

Rawail said that the book is not about Raj Kapoor the showman, but the passionate workman and professional ‘Raj Kapoor’. It offers readers an all-encompassing account of the filmmaking style of the master craftsman. It not only explores the genius but also brings out the never-before-seen aspects of Raj Kapoor.

Randhir Kapoor told the audience how this book is special. “My father was a master storyteller. Though there are a number of books on his legacy, a book by Rahul Rawail, who shared a rich history with my father, is something very special.”

Rawail informed that the biography of the legend, dedicated to late actor Rishi Kapoor, is scheduled to be released on 14th December 2021, on the occasion of Raj Kapoor's 97th birth anniversary.



Rhino: A true portrayal of post-soviet Ukraine in the wild 1990s

Set in Ukraine of the 1990s, *Rhino* is the story of a petty thief, a young man nicknamed Rhino, who quickly works his way up the criminal hierarchy. Rhino has only known power and cruelty, but with nothing left to lose, he seeks to find a chance at redemption.

My film is very violent and tough. I wanted to show the life in Post-Soviet Ukraine during the 'wild' 1990s through this film," says Oleh Sentsov the Director of *Rhino*. He was interacting with the media on the side-lines of IFFI 52.

On *Rhino*, Oleh Stentsov says, "I hate criminal dramas and hate violence but wanted to portray the real world as it is. It is based on a real story and the characters live a different and not-so-good life. The film had its Asian Premiere at IFFI yesterday and was also shown at the Venice Film Festival 2021, earlier.





"Loneliness is almost like a pandemic now"

Debut Director Abhinandan Banerjee has told IFFI delegates that his film Manikbabur Megh has its origin in the epidemic prevalence of loneliness. "Loneliness is almost like a pandemic now, the origin of the idea came from the curse of loneliness on us."

Indeed, surreal are the outcomes of loneliness. The Bengali film tells the bizarre story of an ordinary man striving to discover meaning in life from his relationship with a cloud which starts to follow him. Known otherwise as The Cloud & The Man, the film has been presented for the delectable indulgence of film lovers at IFFI 52, in the Indian Panorama Feature Film category.

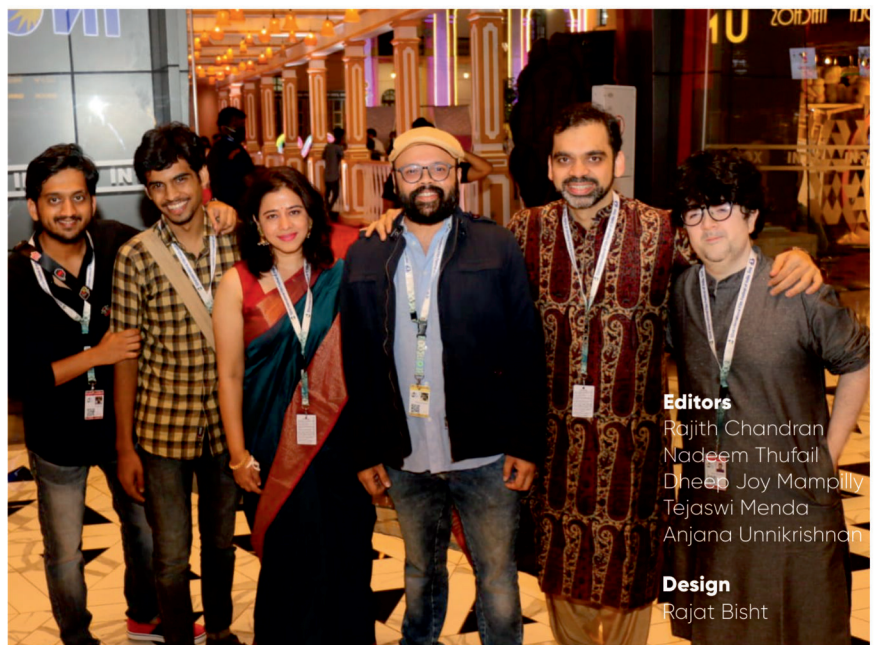
He explains that the film is a story about a socially unfit man trying to exist in a social setting, where as a natural harbinger, a cloud comes and starts to follow him. "What happens next is the story of the film."

Banerjee added that the film has been developed from an idea of his own life experiences. "The film can be called a modern-day fairytale for adults. In this day and age of connectivity, social media, internet and chaos of human society, we are straying away from the core of our existence which is nature and which is ourselves as well."

What say? Have we gone too far from ourselves?







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