

Fifth Hyderabad Bengali Film Festival to commence on June 21: offers a platform for multi-ethnic culture exchange

Hyderabad, May 10, 2017: The 5th edition of the Hyderabad Bengali Film Festival (HBFF) is going to start on June 21, 2018, at Prasad Preview Theatre at Road # 2, Banjara Hills. The 5th edition of the boutique film festival is going to be a 4-day celebration this year and is scheduled to conclude on June 24, 2018, with an award ceremony.



The festival is organized by Bengalis in Hyderabad, a not for profit cultural organization based in Hyderabad. The journey of HBFF started in 2014 and it's been running successfully ever since. The Government of Telangana and Federation of Film Societies in India (FFSI) have partnered with HBFF in its 5th edition to make it the perfect occasion for cultural exchange.

Last year, HBFF has introduced Telugu as the guest language. This year the festival management team is going to extend its culture exchange activities to the western part of the country. Bengali films, being the primary focus, will be joined by Telugu and Marathi. And that's not all. "For last couple of years we are increasingly receiving requests for good short & documentary films, from different parts of the country and also from other countries. To respect all such requests, we are introducing a **Seed**, the competitive short & documentary segment in this edition," commented Partha Pratim Mallik, the Director of the festival. "Seed is an open competition for all film enthusiasts, budding and established film makers around the globe," added Partha.

There will be a competitive section for the Bengali films for which, the viewers will hold the voting pad and judge the best along with members of the Jury. The organisers also have more surprises for the classic lovers. 5th edition of HBFF will also have a special section: *Return to Classics*, with a small but smart segment of Bengali oldies.

Apart from the films screenings, panel discussions and Q&As, the festival management team is going to present a composite festival of art, culture, cuisine and cinema under same roof. In a nut shell, the weekend is going to be quite happening with Bengali, Marathi, Telugu films, *adda*, foods and fun that will bring and Feluda films. The festival will be star-studded with the presence of directors, actors, crew members, film scholars and super-enthusiastic '*mana Hyderabad film buffs*.'

Partha Pratim Mallik, the Director of HBFF, says: "The 5th edition of HBFF will surely be a great platform for everyone – film lovers and enthusiasts of diversified culture. The films have been curated to portray a kaleidoscope of society and cinema. Featuring films of varied genres and tastes, there is something for everyone."

However, Mr. Mallik wanted the followers of HBFF to hold their breath for a little while when asked about the lineup this year. "The lineup is very interesting this year which will be revealed soon. Currently we are open to submissions in both short, documentary and feature sections. Submissions are open till the end of May. You may logon to www.hbff.in for submission details. But more importantly, don't miss the Q&A and filmy-adda sessions in the presence of stars. The screenings and events will surely amaze everyone, especially the Bengali diaspora of Hyderabad," he kept the mystery alive.

Hyderabad Bengali Film Festival (HBFF) is the first and only curated and competitive Bengali film festival in India and the 3rd of its kind in the world after Singapore and Dubai. But within this short span of time HBFF has been well accepted among the film fraternity as well as the people in Hyderabad - Secunderabad. Every year we screen 8 unique and critically acclaimed films and host the actors and directors, arrange for seminar, meet the director sessions to introduce the audience with the flavors of film making. This year we are going to introduce **Telugu as the guest language and will screen Telugu films apart from Bengali**. Every year we invite film makers from different industries, including Telugu film industries. But this year we want to create a more prepared **platform for cultural exchange between Telugu and Bengali**.

The last but not the least the festival is being organized by a not for profit organization **Bengalis in Hyderabad**, a registered cultural organization registered under AP Society Act. The organizing team of HBFF is full of young Bengali minds, majorly from IT, ITES and other technology industries in Hyderabad and the belonging to an age group of late 20s and mid 30s.