

## **NFDC Film Bazaar 2013 facilitates 10 independent projects to get funding, sales agents, and distribution**

~957 delegates, 36 participating countries, at the seventh edition of South Asia's Global Film Market~

**Mumbai, Wednesday, 27 November 2013:** Film Bazaar- South Asia's Global Film Market- NFDC's (National Film Development Corporation) promotional arm, a prominent evolving trade market for film industry professionals, in its seventh edition this year, concluded with ten significant acquisition, funding, and distribution deals. The four-day market (20 -24 Nov, 2013) saw 957 Delegates from over 36 participating countries which included an influential and eclectic mix of Indian and international film fraternity- festival directors, festival programmers, scriptwriters, producers, distributors, bankers, international sales agents.

Last year, in its sixth edition, Film Bazaar had 712 delegates from 33 participating countries attend the market.

NFDC selected more than 30 International and Indian feature film projects this year from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, UK, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Poland and New Zealand, amongst many other countries.

The market saw a host of who's who of the global film industry, including the four bigwigs of Cannes Film Festival, namely, Thierry FREMAUX; Christian JEUNE; Charles TESSON - Critics' Week; Edouard WAINDROP - Artistic Director, Director's Fortnight; Clare Stewart – BFI London Film Festival; Luc Ntonga- Insomnia World Sales; Vivek Krishnani- Fox Star Studios; Jasmine Jaisinghani - IFFLA (Indian Film Festival- LA); Sam Scupp – FilmBuff; Ben Rekhi- IM Global; Raj Nayak- Viacom 18; Marco Mueller- Rome Film Festival; Clare Stewart – BFI London Film Festival; Cary Sawhney – London Indian Film Festival; Bero Beyer- Netherlands Film Fund; Bianca Taal- Programmer – International Film Festival Rotterdam; Philippa Campbell – Scriptwriter and Producer (New Zealand); Sergio Fant- Locarno International Film Festival; Cedimir Kolar – Oscar Winning Producer of No Man's Land and co-producer of The Lunchbox, amongst several others. While Resul Pookutty, Jaideep Sahni, Ritesh Sidhwani- Excel Entertainment, Farhan Akhtar, Sujoy Ghosh, Tillotama Shome, Rajat Barjatya, Rajkumar Rao (earlier known as Rakumar Yadav), were a part of the Knowledge Series and Producers' Lab, Sanjay Suri, Rajat Kapoor, Adil Hussain, Kamal Hassan, Irawati Harshe, Abhay Deol, Anushka Manchanda and many amongst other Indian filmmakers and celebrities visited the market to

interact and network with the delegates.

The newly introduced program Producers' Lab saw twenty-six aspiring producers mentored by industry experts on various topics to name a few, viz, Raising Finance and Working with International Co-producers, Development- Working with Writers and Directors, Essentials of Budgeting and Scheduling, Understanding Co-Production Markets and International Funds, Importance of Film Festivals.

### **Projects facilitated at Film Bazaar 2013 – Funding, Sales, and Distribution.**

1. **Steve Barron's UK based Riley Productions** came on board as a co-producer for Kolkata based filmmaker Q's English language film titled *Brahman Raman* with Overdose Joint (Q's production house). The film will be made in English language. Set in Bangalore in the 1980s, the film is a comedy about a teenager who is top in his class but also has a whisky addiction, filthy mouth and a porn collection. Barron is best known for producing films like *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *The Specialist*. While talks between Steve Barron and Q have been going on since recent months, the deal got finalized and closed at Film Bazaar this year
2. **BGP Film picks up North American rights of *The Good Road (an NFDC production)***- New York based BGP Film has picked up North American rights of Gyan Correa's *The Good Road*, which is India's official submission for foreign language film at the 86<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards. Launched by former New Line executive Bill Straus, BGP is a sales agency focused on the North American market.
3. **DAR Motion Pictures** joined hands with IME Motion Pictures (Suhrod Godbole) and Blue Drop Films (Nikhil Mahajan) for an action-adventure Marathi film titled *Baji* directed by Nikhil Mahajan. The film will have Shreyas Talpade essaying the title role of the film, which is his grand comeback into the Marathi industry after almost a gap of seven years
4. **Abhay Deol's production company i.e. Films will be partnering with UK based Collin Burrow's Special Treats Productions** for co-production of *Bounty Hunter*. A thriller set in UK, *Bounty Hunters* will star Deol and will be directed by brothers Sunandan and Yugesh Walia, who will also co-produce through their UK-based production company Endboard Productions

5. **Gimme Blood and Side Hero** - Guneet Monga's Sikhya Entertainment will produce Amit Kumar's *Give Me Blood* and Vasan Bala's *Side Hero*. *Give Me Blood* is about two Indian soldiers serving in the British Indian army during World War II, which was a part of Film Bazaar's Co-production Market 2012
6. Vasant Nath's drama *Sebastian Wants To Remember* found an Indian co-producer in Kartikeya Narayan Singh's production house The Film Café. *Sebastian Wants To Remember* is the story of an aging photographer who loses his memory and must embark on a daunting journey with his wife in search of his past - NFDC Screenwriters' Lab 2011 and Co-production Market 2012.
7. **France's ASAP Films** has boarded Rajesh Jala's *The Spark* (Chingari) at the market. The project was a part of the Screenwriters' Lab and Co-production Market this year. The Film Café will produce the film alongside existing co-producers Germany's Die Gesellschaft DGS and France's 24 Images
8. Nikhil Mahajan's Blue Drop has boarded Varun Grover's *Mother Goddess Coaching Class*, (Screenwriters' Lab 2012).

### Awards

- The Incredible India award was conferred to Rajesh Jala for film *Chingari* (The Spark) - Screenwriters' Lab project, with a cash prize of INR 1 million
- The DI Prasad Labs award was given to Kanu Behl for his film *Titli* - Work-In-Progress Lab project

Last year, Nasreen Munni Kabir- Channel 4 Indian film programmer, picked up four titles at the Bazaar- *The Good Road*, *Sulemani Keeda*, *Fandry*, and *BA Pass*, which were announced in July 2013. The titles will be broadcast as part of the new Voices section in Channel 4's Indian film season in 2014. The season of around 20 Indian titles will be screened in two blocks, April and Sept- Oct.

**“It was an enjoyable experience at Film Bazaar and was fantastic to meet and interact with young filmmakers. I have liked a few films from this year too, which be finalized and announced at a later stage”** says, Kabir.

**Highlights** Day 1 saw Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

Chairman and filmmaker Ramesh Sippy, Bimal Julka – Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Raghvendra Singh – Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, visited the labs and programs with a tour at the market. The sessions along with Uday Singh, Chairman, LA India Film Council, Utpal Acharya, Head of Distribution at Reliance Entertainment, writer Jaideep Sahni, Cinematographer and filmmaker Rajiv Menon and Academy Award winner sound designer Resul Pookutty who were part of several panel discussions under Knowledge Series Programme.

Day 2 Raj Nayak, CEO, Colors-Viacom 18 shared interesting insights about Cinema content on television channels (Satellite Rights), while Thierry FREMAUX from Cannes Film Festival spoke about how Cannes has become a hub of World Cinema. Another session that was well attended on this day was about film financing by private companies and their interest and objectives in funding a project in India.

Day 3 The morning session comprised panelists Jai Khanna, Executive Brillstein Entertainment Partner, Caleb Franklin, Agent CAA KWAN, Tess Joseph, Casting Director who discussed positioning Indian talent globally.

Anuradha Sengupta moderated a session on Portrayal of Women in Indian Cinema with Sudhir Mishra, Nasreen Munni Kabir and actress Tillotama Shome.

This year too the market saw a sizeable delegate attendance from Poland, where Olga Domzala, Polish Film Institute, Tomasz Dabrowski, Film Commission Poland and a few others who spoke about Co-productions with Poland. Another highlight of the third day was actor Farhan Akhtar's chat about engaging the audiences in different capacities as a director, actor, producer and singer.

Day 4 While the session on Literary adaptations in Indian Cinema saw presence of Govind Nihlani, Screenwriter Urmi Juvekar and Author Nasreen Munni Kabir, Patrick Frater of Variety conducted a candid chat with Gyan Correa- Director on *The Good Road* being selected as India's official entry to Oscars. Like every year, the market saw Film Critic and TV Anchor Rajeev Masand's tete-a-tete with actor Rajkummar Rao (Shahid, Kai Po Che, Ragini MMS fame) and director Sujoy Ghosh. The sessions for the day closed with a presentation by Mr. Raghvendra Kumar Singh- IAS- MD- Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

The Incredible India and DI Prasad Labs awards were conferred to deserving projects from the Co-production Market and Work-In-Progress Labs respectively in the evening during the cocktails hosted by Incredible India and Punjab Heritage And Tourism Promotion Board. What brought in a further energetic atmosphere to the evening was Punjabi singer Jasbir Jassi's thunderous performance on Punjabi Bollywood numbers and the crowd dancing away to the music.