

Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival



FIPRESCI Award Ceremony

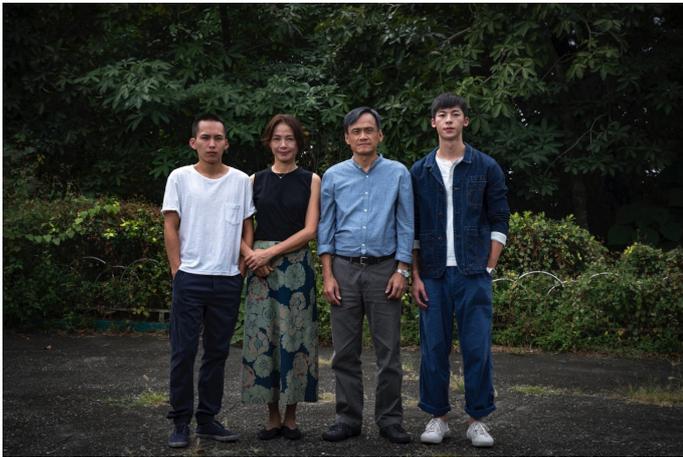
Normally a festival can be called fun, joy and celebration. A film festival is always a big party of creative minds. Like we have various sections in our International Film Festival of India (IFFI) every year at Goa, it is more or less a same affair, but neatly done with all pomp and show. Like our IFFI the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival is also old enough and has crossed fifty years and still going strong with all the festivities and fervor. When a festival is as old as fifty years or more it proves that it is one of the best in that part of Asia. It can be said that it is a sure shot winner. Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival is international in nature, but it does not tell it at all. I was fortunate to meet its chairman, who is a popular filmmaker and an Academy award winner for his film *Life of PI* and some of his films were in the nomination list, whenever he does a new movie. If a person of his caliber is heading the festival, will the festival be low; it is high on all aspects. Taipei Golden Horse film festival has everything planned

and executed precisely.

Golden Horse film festival awards are always prestigious for Chinese language films. This started from 1962. Some of the best directors have received the best director award including its present Chairman Ang Lee. They include Lee Hsing, King Hu, Li Han-Hsaing, Bai Ching -Zue, Edward Yang, John Woo. Lead actors, both male and female have won the awards are also popular. They include Jackie Chan, Maggie Cheung, Tony Leung, Chow Yun and many others.

India has only one entry this year and it is *Bul Bul Can Sing* directed by Rima Das. As I told earlier, as IFFI there are different sections in this film festival also. They are Master Class, Some where 4 some time, Viva Auteur, Panorama, New Waves, Another View, Window on Asia, Nippon Selection, L.G.B.T.Q., Music apocalypse, Crazy World, All about Cinema, Beyond the Verdict, Spot Light on Switzerland. This year the Golden Horse Film

Festival focuses on three directors. They are Elia Suleiman, Milcho Manchevski and Suo Masayuki. The Fipresci awards and the audience choice awards are given one day before the closing day of the festival and other awards, there are 23 in the number were given on the closing day of the festival with pomp and show.



A Sun

A Sun got the best film, best director for Chung Mong Hong, best actor award to Chen Yi-wen, best supporting character male actor award for Liu Kuan-ting, best editor for Lal Hsiu-hsiung, audience choice of the best film also went to *A Sun*. The best female leading actor award went to Yen-yann-Yann from the film *Wet Season*. The supporting actor in a female role was got by Winnie Chang for the film *The Teacher*. The outstanding film maker of the year award this year was bagged by Tang Shiang Chu. The Fipresci prize this is

year was got by *Heavy Craving*, while the life time award was received by Wang Toon. There are also awards for documentary, animation and short films in this festival.

The Fipresci prize winner in this year's Golden Horse Film Festival is a film, which is a contemporary and talk of the town subject. A 30 year old Ying-Juan is overweight. She wants to reduce her weight. She works at her mother's childcare centre and she has a hard time until she meets Wu. He encourages Ying-Juan to reduce weight. Due to her over excessive diet she is not able to work at the child care centre. What she does and how the climax goes is interesting. The Fipresci award certificate says, "*The film is both brave and bold, looking directly into various aspects of women in the present time. It deals with the protagonist's desire to fit into society, the paranoia of physical attraction, the sorrow of being alienated, and the craving to be loved*". The director of the film Hsieh Pei-Ju was very happy to receive the award. As a Fipresci jury member, I was happy to present it to her on the dais. This is the first feature film of the director and the film also bagged the audience choice award in the international new talent competition at the 2019, Taipei film festival. The Golden Horse film festival is one of the best film festivals and Chinese film makers and technicians always want to win a prize at this festival.

Mr. S.R. Ashok Kumar is a Member of FIPRESCI-India. He served in the FIPRESCI Jury in Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival 2019.