

# Joy is an act of resistance

Wanuri Kahiu

The third day of the 28th International Film Festival of Kerala showcased a captivating In Conversation session between Wanuri Kahiu, renowned Kenyan filmmaker and recipient of the festival's 'Spirit of Cinema Award', and Aswathy Gopalakrishnan, acclaimed film critic. The dialogue delved into the profound realms of imagination, the essence of art, and the intricate interplay between creativity and societal dynamics.

Kahiu articulated her perspective on imagination, emphasizing its borders while expressing that if the true intention of art is communication, every creation will find resonance among people. "You can never be against the community; you can only be a part of the community," she asserted, underlining the collaborative nature of artistic endeavors.

Discussing her films, Kahiu revealed that each main character embarks on a quest for self-discovery. With *Rafiki*, she aimed to experiment, inviting the audience to feel and experience the nuances of falling in love. The inspiration behind *Pumzi* stemmed from the belief that natural resources, bestowed by God, should be freely accessible, prompting contemplation on the challenges future generations might confront.

Reflecting on her identity as a woman in the filmmaking industry, Kahiu expressed gratitude for the unique perspective women bring with. "Being an independent filmmaker is extremely hard, especially in a small community," she acknowledged, shedding light on the challenges faced in pursuing creative autonomy.

Acknowledging the vital role of film festivals in shaping a filmmaker's career, Kahiu expressed deep gratitude for their instrumental contribution. "Art creates wealth not just for the artist but for the country as a whole", she passionately declared, highlighting the transformative power of art beyond personal gains.

Throughout the conversation, Kahiu emphasized the emotional depth in her use of colors, drawing inspiration from African literature as her guiding light. Her insights painted a vivid picture of the symbiotic relationship between art and societal evolution, leaving the audience with a profound appreciation for the multifaceted dimensions of filmmaking. ■



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## My job is to propel Malayalam cinema into the global spotlight

**Golda Sellam**



## Malayalam Cinema is at an ever-growing process Open Forum

The second session of the Open Forum on the topic 'New Trends, Vistas and Experiments in Malayalam Cinema' took place in the Tagore theatre premises.

"Malayalam Cinema hasn't changed much. It is a string of continuous slow and small changes. A realistic story telling movement is the biggest change that I see now. The content is the same", opined Santosh Babusen. "Today's Malayalam Cinema is just old wine in new bottles", said Satish Babusen.

"No one can answer the question of change in Malayalam cinema fully because it is perceived by different mindsets. There is no final say in the matter. If you want more people to accept your work, then do not keep anyone in your mind while making the work", remarked Anand Ekarshi. "There

has been an explosion of content, be it OTT platforms or social media, especially after the covid pandemic. Content even adapts to people's attention span like Instagram reels. Change in content is not limited by age", said Prashanth Vijay.

"To me, form and content are the same. There is a surge in the number of experimentation happening in Malayalam cinema right now. The last five years have been crucial in this matter. Every unique cinema gets a space. In order to overcome the challenge faced in order to acquire this space, there needs to be proper curation, not just once a year, but continuous. IFFK is an example of such curation of content", Don Palathara opined.

"We need to encourage more intuitive art. Art need not be ideal. There is no such

### Plans as the curator of IFFK

We can begin with reaching out to the international film market. The core thing lies in the selection of films. Such carefully filtered films carry the tag 'Malayalam films' in the international level hence the selection should be impeccable.

### How to make Malayalam films more internationally visible?

It's a continuous process. The collaboration with foreign companies will do good for Malayalam films in the first stage and co-production could be reserved for the next phase. Malayalam is a tough language. Though English subtitle is there, language could come between a foreign viewer and fine appreciation of the cinema. For some foreign festivals, Malayalam should be translated to English and from English, to say, Spanish or French. The quality of the film could be lost in translation. This needs to be plugged.

### Takeaway from the 28th IFFK

I am proud and happy about the 'The female gaze' section. Eight films are screened in this section including 'A letter from Kyoto' and 'Tiger Stripes'. I am delighted that we are focusing on women filmmakers and the content of the films they make. ■

Interview by Amiya Meethal





Shahrukh Khan Chavada, Ranjan Pramod, Gagan Dev, Harshad Nalavade, Prasanth Vijay, Subal K.R, Sunil Maloor. Moderator : Mira Sahib

# Cinematic Elegance and Political Reverberations

A Homage to Sumitra Peries at the 28th IFFK



engages in a discerning exploration of the human condition situated within the socio-political matrix. Gehenu Lamai delves into familial dynamics set against the backdrop of societal metamorphosis, while Ganga Addara critically scrutinises the repercussions of political tumult on interpersonal relationships. These cinematic endeavors collectively underscore Peries' unwavering dedication to delineating the interplay between personal and political spheres.

In the context of Vaishnavee, Peries perpetuates her examination of the delicate equilibrium between entrenched tradition and emergent modernity, a thematic motif recurrent across her filmic repertoire. The personae encapsulated within Vaishnavee resonate with the nuanced character portrayals emblematic of her antecedent productions, thereby accentuating her adeptness at interweaving political nuances into narratives profoundly grounded in the human experience. The cinematic legacy forged by Sumitra Peries is characterized by her perspicacious observation of societal intricacies, with her works serving

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9:30 AM	WC	The Song of the Auricantur [El canto del Auricantur]	WC	8:00 PM	WC
9:45 AM	SC	Kidnapped	MM	8:00 PM	DM
9:45 AM	SM	The Peasants [Chlop]	MM	8:00 PM	WC
9:45 AM	IC	Totem [TOTEM]	MM	8:00 PM	WC
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9:45 AM	ICN	O. Baby	MCT	8:00 PM	WC
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9:45 AM	ICN	The Servile	MCT	8:00 PM	WC
9:45 AM	ICN	Next Sohee	FG	8:00 PM	WC
9:45 AM	ICN	The Spiral [Spirale]	HOM	8:00 PM	WC
9:45 AM	ICN	Ramjiki Rao Speaking	HOM	8:00 PM	WC
9:45 AM	ICN	Padatik	HOM	8:00 PM	WC
9:45 AM	ICN	Follower	HOM	8:00 PM	WC
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12:00 NOON	WC	20,000 Species of Bees [20,000 especies de abejitas]	HOM	8:00 PM	WC
12:00 NOON	MCT	Hanging Gardens [Jahan mualajai]	WC	8:00 PM	WC
12:00 NOON	MCT	Scheherazade	WC	8:00 PM	WC
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12:00 NOON	MCT	Girl	WC	8:00 PM	WC
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9:15 AM	WC	Hanging Gardens [Jahan mualajai]	WC	6:00 PM	MCT
9:15 AM	WC	I Inheritance [Daayam]	WC	6:00 PM	MCT
9:15 AM	WC	Abnush [Ghaath]	WC	6:00 PM	MCT
9:15 AM	WC	In Search of Famine [Ahaler Sandhan]	WC	6:00 PM	MCT
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9:15 AM	ICN	The Zone of Interest [Obice Ciao]	LA	6:00 PM	WC
9:15 AM	ICN	Foreign Body [Orcio Cialo]	LA	6:00 PM	WC
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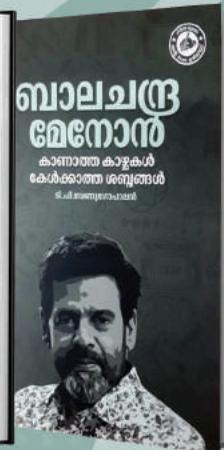
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