

# Film Fest Kicks Off



**Ashiqha Sultana**  
**Rose Mary John**

All roads lead to the theaters of Thiruvananthapuram, the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala has begun.

The capital city is all set to welcome the week long carnival organized by Kerala State Chalachithra Academy on behalf of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Kerala. It will be a grand treat for the film buffs. About 200 films from various parts of the world will be screened. The fest will take 7000 and odd delegates through the marvelous spectacle of cinema in the coming week.

The Chief Minister Oommen Chandy will light the lamp at Nishagandhi Auditorium and K.C.Joseph, Minister for Cultural Affairs will preside over the function. Veteran actress Shabana Azmi is the chief



guest. V.S.Sivakumar, Minister for Health will release the catalogue of the fest by handing it over to cine actress Manju Warriar. MLA K. Muralidharan will receive the festival bulletin from the Chief Secretary E.K. Bharathbhushan.

Spanish director Carlos Saura will be honored with the life time achievement award. Mayor Adv K. Chandrika, Chalachithra Academy Chairman S. Priyadarshan, Cultural

Secretary Rani George, Academy Secretary S. Rajendran Nair and Festival Director Beena Paul will take part in the function.

The Israeli film 'Ana Arabia' directed by Amos Gitai is the opening film. The main attraction of the fest is the presence of the South Korean director Kim Ki-duk, who is here with his latest movie 'Moebius'. The films to be screened at the festival have been put under 13 categories.

The session with Harun Farocki is a golden opportunity for students of cinema to learn documentary production. In the retrospective section films of eminent directors Marico Bellucio, Takashi Miike, Claire Denis, Jean Renoir, Harun Farocki, Hariharan and Gorah Paskeljevic will be screened. The international jury is to be headed by Arturo Ripstien of Mexico.

## IFFK Awards

The Competition Section of IFFK is restricted to films from Asia, Africa and Latin America

### SUVARNA CHAKORAM

The Golden Crow Pheasant Award with a Cash prize of INR 15 lakhs (US \$ 30,000 approx) for the Best Feature Film to be shared equally between the Director and the Producer.

### RAJATA CHAKORAM

The Silver Crow Pheasant Award and Cash prize of INR 4 lakhs (US\$ 8,000 approx) to the Best Director

### RAJATA CHAKORAM

The Best Debut Film Award and a Cash Prize of INR 3 lakhs (US\$ 6,000 approx) to the Best Director

### AUDIENCE PRIZE RAJATA CHAKORAM

Cash Prize of INR 2 lakhs (US \$ 4,000 approx) to the Director of the film voted as the Best Entry in Competition by the festival delegates.

**FIPRESCI** (The International Federation of Film Critics) gives an award for the Best Film selected by the FIPRESCI Jury

**FIPRESCI** Award for the Best Malayalam Film

**NETPAC** (Network for the Promotion of Asian Film Centre) award for the Best Asian Film in Competition.

**NETPAC** Award for the Best Malayalam Film

## Ana Arabia to set the reel rolling

**Parvathy Vijayan R**  
**Dinsha T**

Israeli film maker Amos Gitai's 'Ana Arabia' is set to be the opening film at this year's International Film Festival of Kerala. The eighty five minute long film will be screened at the Nishagandhi open air auditorium. Shot in a single sequence, the film portrays the peaceful life of Jews and Arabs in Israel. It became a big hit in various film festivals.

The story takes us to a small enclave near Jaffa, where the Arabs and Jews stay in harmony inspite of all conflicts between Palestine and Israel. Yael, a young journalist, comes here to write about the death of Siam, a Jewish lady who had converted to Islam and married a Palestine



Muslim. Yael talks with the residents of the area and Siam's husband and daughters, Miriam and

Sarah. Yael's association with the residents of Jaffa makes her forget even her job and ambitions. The

film depicts the beauty of the whole place and the depth of love between the two communities.

Amos Gitai's films screened in the retrospective section in the 2008 IFFK, gave him a large number of followers here. The director himself stated 'Ana Arabia' as a "peaceful bomb" at the Venice Film Festival. The film will surely be an eye-opener to the world. It can silently enter the minds of people and can burst their thoughts.

Amos Gitai himself has done the script and production. The cast includes Yuval Scharf, Yussuf Abu Warda, Sarah Adler, Assi Levy, Uri Gavriel, Norman Issa and Shady Srur. Giora Bejach is the cinematographer. Altogether 'Ana Arabia' seems to set the beginning of 18th IFFK a grand event.

