

Editorial

Tribute to the Masters



2021 is the birth centenary year of Satyajit Ray (B. 2 May 1921) and Chidananda Dasgupta (B. 20 November 1921). Both of them pioneered the film society movement in India, first by founding the 'Calcutta Film Society' in 1947 and then by forming the 'Federation of Film Societies of India' in 1959. Both of them lived in Calcutta and worked continuously for the propagation of film culture throughout the country with admirable sincerity, true love and deep passion towards cinema. Both of them believed that only a film literate audience could understand and promote better cinema. In personal life they were very good friends with high respect for each other.

Ray started his journey in the field of cinema as a writer and performed his role as an author very seriously throughout his life by writing on cinema both in English and Bengali. His writings on cinema are no less important than his films. To commemorate his birth centenary, FIPRESCI-India installed 'Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Writing on Cinema' on the maestro's birth anniversary this year. Veteran author Aruna Vasudev, the founder secretary of FIPRESCI-India, was the first recipient of this coveted award. This award will be given every year.

Dasgupta was a renowned critic who introduced a new dimension in film criticism in India. He authored several books and innumerable articles on cinema in English and Bengali. He was the founder president of the India chapter of FIPRESCI established in 1992. To commemorate his birth centenary, FIPRESCI-India installed 'Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Award for Best Film Criticism' since last birth anniversary of the master. The award is conferred through a national competition.

E-CineIndia paid tribute to Ray in its Apr-Jun 2020 and Jul-Sep 2020 issues and to Dasgupta in Oct-Dec 2020 issue. We are continuing these tributes in the later issues of E-CineIndia as well as a memorandum of celebration of the centenary of these two masters having a huge influence on the activities of FIPRESCI-India towards the propagation of film culture. On that mission, we organised an online film appreciation course for two months during June and July 2021 with 18 week-end sessions conducted by well renowned faculty members from different fields of cinema attended by 72 pre-registered participants from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Recently we have lost our very important friends Sumitra Bhavé and Buddhadeb Dasgupta, who left us on 19th April and 10th June this year respectively. We have paid tribute to Buddhadeb Dasgupta in our last issue (Apr-Jun 2021) with 11 articles contributed by the eminent authors and critics. We are paying tribute to Sumitra Bhavé in this issue with a valuable discussion.

E-CineIndia is now being supported by more than a hundred contributors from all over the world including many FIPRESCI Members. Its regularity, quality and coverage earned it a huge reputation worldwide. We are trying our best to maintain this standard and to raise the bar further. Support and suggestions from all well-wishers will be highly appreciated for its development.

Premendra Mazumder