

Second Annual Indian Film Festival: A Delightful Treat

Posted on 01 October 2010



In the picture taken at the awards night show (from left) Vikramaditya Motwane (Director of Best Feature Film Udaan); Dilip Mehta (Special recognition award for Cooking with Stella); Carolyn Farb (Philanthropy Award); Sumit Chadha on behalf of Amit Khanna (Leadership Award); Festival Founder and Director Sutapa Ghosh; and Mohammed Iqbal Khan (Accepted the award on behalf of Kiran Deol for the Best Documentary Woman Rebel)

Photo: Navin Medivala

Founder and Director, had dreamed of developing a non-profit organization devoted to creating a greater appreciation of Indian cinema and culture by showcasing quality films.

Last year that dream came true. By honoring entertainment industry performers and film makers, the general public had an opportunity to see diverse perspectives of the Indian Diaspora. "Slumdog Millionaire" opened the eyes of film-goers whose only concept of Indian movies was Bollywood musicals. Few were aware of India's regional films or broad range of genres, and they were ready for a new experience.

Word of last year's success spread to India, and seventy-five filmmakers sent submissions, many of which had also gone to film festivals in Cannes, Berlin and Toronto. Of those, fifteen of the best were selected. They proved to be the good choices.

Guests who attended the IFFH Award Night at the Royal Oaks Country Club on September 26 felt they were transported to exotic India. The decor, music by Hidden Veil—a division of Moodafaruka—delicious cuisine, and beautiful live auction items created a festive mood.

Roseann Rogers and Mohammed Iqbal Khan were the emcees for the Oscar-like presentations. Winners were: Best Feature: Udaan, directed by Vikramaditya Motwane; Best Short: You Can't Curry Love, directed by Reid Waterer; Best Documentary: Woman Rebel, directed by Kiran Deol; and Special Recognition: Cooking with Stella, directed by Dilip Mehta.

Dr. Carolyn Farb won the first Indian Film Festival of Houston Philanthropy Award for her years of charitable work, and Amit Khanna, Chairman of Reliance Big Entertainment, received the first Indian Film Festival of Houston Leadership Award. Sumit Chadha flew from New York to accept it for him.

HOUSTON: The city was once again treated to a taste of film, food and fantasy during the Second Annual Indian Film Festival of Houston (IFFH) from September 22 to 26. Feature films, documentaries and shorts were screened for four nights at the Studio Movie Grill.

The Opening Night VIP Reception at Straits Restaurant set the tone for the evening. Guests then walked over to see Dilip Mehta's "Cooking with Stella," a film about diplomats in Delhi and their Indian staff.

Throughout the four days, several directors were present to participate in Q & A sessions after their films had ended. They continued to talk with film buffs outside the theater, giving their time and insights about their work.

Sutapa Ghosh, the Festival