

Festival of short films opens in Delhi

A three-day festival, Twilight 07, that will showcase 50 short films got under way here Wednesday.

Veteran actor Tom Alter inaugurated the festival that started with the Indo-Belgian co-production 'Akhnoor', a film on terrorism by Sudipto Sen, which stars Yashpal Sharma in the main lead.

'It's a world of contrast. On the one hand, we have films making a lot of money and on the other, we have a world of short films where filmmakers spend large sum of money in making them,' Alter said.

Cyrus Dastur, co-founder of Mumbai's Mocha film club, said the festival was a positive step in bringing the short film industry under a common platform.

Organised by the Sri Aurobindo Institute of Mass Communication, the films will be screened under two sections - open and competitive. All the screenings will be held at the India International Centre and Alliance Francaise.

The closing presentation Friday will be Gitanjali Rao's animation film 'Printed Rainbow' which won the critic's award at Cannes Film Festival in 2006.

Some of the films short listed for the open section are: 'Reflections' by Bejoy Nambiar starring Mohan Lal and Juhi Babbar, 'Printed Rainbow' by Gitanjali Rao, 'Little Terrorist' by Ashvin Kumar, 'Cherry on the Top' by Ayesha Sood and Nitya Mehra and 'Right Here Right Now' by Anand Gandhi.

A panel of jury chaired by K. Bikram Singh and comprising Deepa Gahlot, Kunal Jhaveri, Siddhrath Srinivasan and K. Karthikeyan will judge the films in the competitive section for eight categories - best direction (fiction/documentary), script (documentary), screenplay (fiction), animation film, cinematography, videography, audiography, editing and mobile films.

The winners will get a cash award as well as trophies. Twilight has also organised buyers who will offer distribution rights for films of merit.

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