

## **Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival hosts 'Transgressions: Essaying the New in Indian Films'**

### **A panel discussion with Shyam Benegal, Onir, Dhritiman Chaterji, Mira Hashmi and Jai Arjun Singh**

**Kolkata, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2013:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2013 saw on Day 2, a thought provoking discussion on the changing face of Indian cinema and its evolution with new ideas and treatments from 1970's to now. Titled "Transgressions: Essaying the New in Indian Films," the panel discussion attracted eminent personalities from different fields and genres. The panel featured Shyam Benegal eminent film director, Onir, film maker of My Brother Nikhil fame, Dhritiman Chaterji, renowned actor, Mira Hashmi, well known film critic and academic from Pakistan and moderated by Jai Arjun Singh - writer and journalist.

The panel discussion, a part of the umbrella theme of AKLF 2013, "A Century of Cinema" showcased the changing phases of Indian Cinema over the decades. The accomplished panelists threw light upon Indian commercial, parallel and regional cinema focusing on different aspects involved in film making including sound, dialogue, cinematography etc. Mira Hashmi touched upon Pakistani style of filmmaking, its history, inspiration and influences.

#### **About the panelists:**

**Shyam Benegal** is a renowned Indian director and screenwriter. He has won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi seven times. Apart from this he was also awarded the Padma Shri in 1976 and the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

**Onir** is an Indian film director, editor, writer and producer. He is best known for his film My Brother Nikhil, one of the first mainstream Hindi films to deal with AIDS and same-sex relationships.

**Dhritiman Chaterji** is an acclaimed Indian actor and theatre personality. He began his acting career in 1970 as the protagonist of Satyajit Ray's Pratidwandi.

**Mira Hashmi** is a well known filmmaker, academic and critic from Pakistan

**Jai Arjun Singh** is a New Delhi-based freelance writer/journalist. He has written for Yahoo! India, Business Standard, The Hindu, The Man, Tehelka, Outlook Traveler, The Sunday Guardian and Hindustan Times, among other publications. His book about the making of the cult comedy film Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro was published by Harper Collins India in 2010. He has also edited The Popcorn Essayists: What Movies Do to Writers, an

anthology of original film-related essays for Tranquebar. He also writes a popular blog called Jabberwock.

**About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) 2013:**

A Community initiative by the Apeejay Surrendra Group, the annual literary festival hosted since 2010 in Kolkata is the first international literary festival in Kolkata, a city celebrated for its intellectual depth and cultural heritage. An array of special curated discussions, performances and some of the finest literary events are scheduled for the fourth edition from 9th- 13th January, 2013. A noteworthy literary and cultural representation from across India and overseas will be seen at the Festival, amongst the finest minds from India and overseas. Prominent personalities attending will be Ramachandra Guha, William Dalrymple, Shyam Benegal, Pavan Varma, Yasmin Ali Bhai Brown, Amit Chaudhuri, Leila Seth, Manil Suri, Ruchir Joshi, Onir, Urvashi Butalia, Shobhaa De and Tishani Doshi and several others. Events are scheduled at significant cultural and heritage venues across Kolkata like National Library, St John's Church, banks of Hooghly, Lascar Monument, and at India's finest and most loved 92 year old iconic bookstore- Oxford Bookstore, Kolkata. Amongst the many highlights is Festival's collaboration with the Tibor-Jones South Asia Prize to recognize and encourage new and emerging writers in the South Asian region.

**For event videos & pictures Log On to <http://www.aklf.in/>**

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