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Masterclass

Indian Panorama

Festival Highlights

# IFFI Frames



# The Race to the Golden Peacock

The International Competition segment of the 56th IFFI 2025 presents a carefully selected slate of fifteen fiction feature films competing for the esteemed Golden

Peacock Awards. Representing a broad spectrum of global cinematic expression, the lineup blends works from acclaimed masters and compelling new voices,

capturing the evolving landscape of world cinema. Beginning today, two films each day will find pride of place here.



## AMARAN

India | 2024 Tamil | 169' | Colour

Amaran is a Tamil biographical drama directed by Rajkumar Periasamy portraying the remarkable life of Major Mukund Varadarajan, an Indian Army officer acclaimed for his exceptional bravery in Kashmir. The film traces his evolution from a sincere college student to a committed soldier of the Rashtriya Rifles, capturing the discipline, resilience and sense of duty that defined his service. It also explores his touching relationship with Indhu, a Malayali-Christian woman whose steadfast presence adds emotional depth to his journey. As Mukund faces the intensifying challenges of insurgency, the narrative highlights his ability to balance professional responsibilities with personal devotion, embodying

courage and compassion in equal measure. His heroic leadership during counter-insurgency operations culminates in the 2014 encounter that claims his life. Indhu later receives the Ashoka Chakra on his behalf, immortalising his sacrifice. The film stands as a tribute to Mukund's valour, integrity and enduring legacy of service and love.



## Mosquitoes (Le Bambine)

Italy, Switzerland, France | 2025 | Italian | 105' | Colour

Mosquitoes (Le Bambine) is a 2025 Italian-language drama directed and written by Valentina Bertani and Nicole Bertani. The film presents a tender, intimate coming-of-age narrative set in 1997. The story follows 8-year-old Linda, who moves from her affluent grandmother's Swiss home to Italy with her free-spirited mother, Eva. In this new environment, Linda forms a deep bond with sisters Azzurra and Marta, creating a close-knit trio that seeks freedom, imagination, and escape from their emotionally complicated surroundings.

The girls grow up amid self-absorbed parents, prying neighbours, and a queer babysitter yearning for acceptance, all of which shape their understanding of belonging and identity. As they move between the fragile space of childhood dreams and the harsher realities of the

adult world, their summer becomes a tapestry of mischief, discovery, and emotional awakening. The film sensitively portrays how children interpret the complexities of family dynamics, social expectations, and personal struggles through their own innocent yet perceptive lens.

Mosquitoes celebrates the resilience of childhood, highlighting friendship as a sanctuary in a world marked by instability and social challenges. It reflects the turbulent yet transformative journey toward self-awareness, depicting rebellion not as defiance but as a search for emotional security and freedom. Supported by strong performances from Alberto Baraghini, Marco Bonadei, and Francesca Bonelli, the film has earned recognition at the Locarno International Film Festival 2025, including a Special Mention from the Junior Jury and a nomination for the Golden Leopard.



# Opening the Doors to Mastery

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. L.Murugan, today inaugurated the Masterclass Series at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2025) at the Kala Academy, Goa. Present on the occasion were Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Shri Sanjay Jaju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting; Dr. Ajay Nagbhushan, Managing Director of National Film Development Corporation Shri Prakash Magdum and acclaimed filmmaker Shri Muzaffar Ali and noted film

personality Shri Ravi Kottarakara. Marking a historic milestone, this year's Masterclass inauguration was held for the first time in the presence of the general public, reflecting the festival's commitment to accessibility and wider engagement.

Masterclasses has attracted participants from Australia, Japan, Germany, and Canada, further strengthening its position as a global platform for cinematic collaboration and talent exchange.

The Masterclass segment at IFFI 2025 will feature an extensive range of knowledge-sharing formats, including panel discussions,

workshops, roundtable interactions, interview sessions, fireside chats, and conversational workshops. Esteemed cinema personalities such as Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Anupam Kher, Muzaffar Ali, Shad Ali, Shekhar Kapur, Rajkumar Hirani, Aamir Khan, Vishal Bhardwaj, and Suhasini Maniratnam will conduct various sessions throughout the festival.



International Film Festival of India

The following masterclass sessions were conducted in the Kala Academy on its inaugural day



**Cinema and Culture : Reflections from Two Eras**  
Speaker :Muzaffar Ali  
Moderator: Shaad Ali

**The Luminary Icons: Creative Bonds and Fierce Performances -An In Conversational Workshop on Acting**  
Speakers: Kushboo Sundar  
Suhasini Maniratnam

**Reel Green : Sustainability and Storytelling Across Four Cinemas**  
Speakers : Nila Madhab Panda, Mina Moteki, Garth Davis, Anna Saura  
Moderator: Naman Ramachandran



Muzaffar Ali and Shaad Ali in a session on 'Cinema and Culture- Reflections from Two Era' at IFFI.



Garth Davis, Anna Saura, Mina Moteki, Nila Madhab Panda and Naman Ramchandran at a Panel discussion.



# A Trail of Self-Discovery Echoes Across IFFI 56

The cast and crew of the opening film *The Blue Trail* interacted with the media at the PIB Press Conference Hall on the second day of the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). They shared simple and heartfelt insights about the making of the film.

Director Gabriel Mascaro spoke about how he found a strong connection between Goa and the Amazon region while writing the film. This connection inspired him to choose the Amazon as the main shooting location. He also shared that the style and appearance of the Goa police influenced some parts of the film.

Sound designers Maria Alejandra Rojas and Arturo Salazar RB explained how closely Gabriel worked with them. They said he cared deeply about the smallest sound details and treated sound as an important part of the story from the very beginning.

Actress Rosa Malagueta expressed her pride in

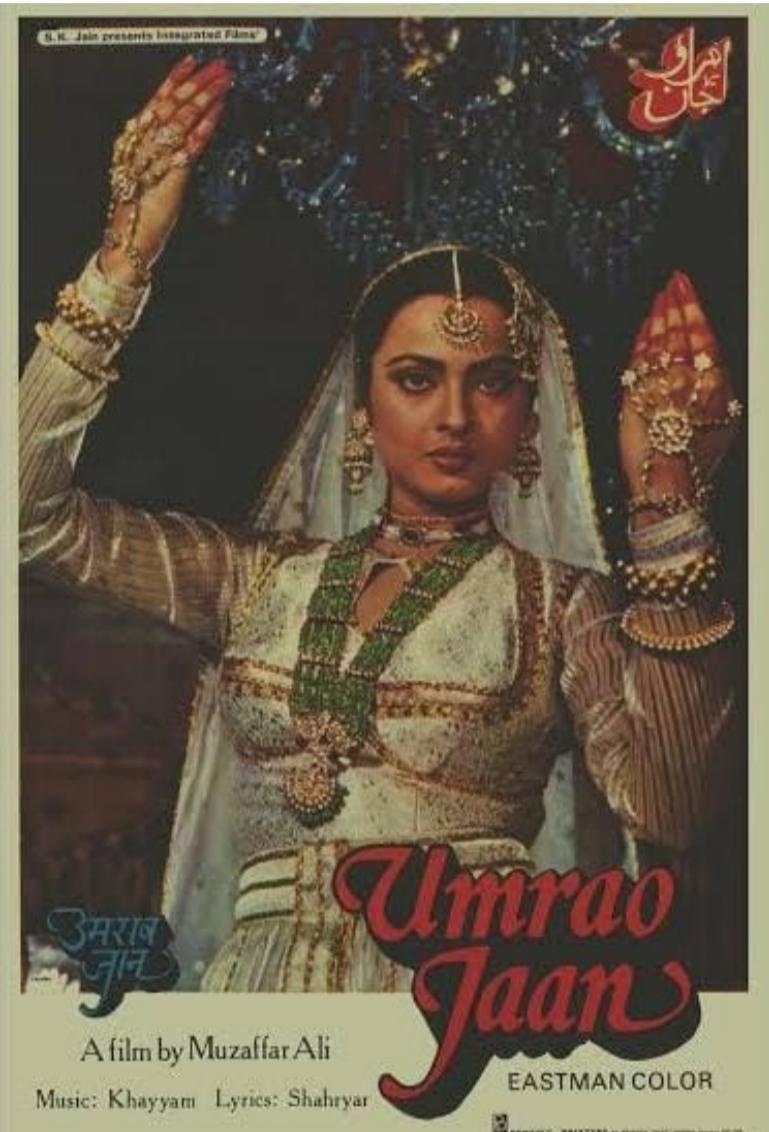


representing her Amazonian culture, which includes both Indigenous and Black roots. She said the film allowed her to bring her cultural identity to the screen. Actress Clarissa Pinheiro shared that working with Gabriel was a happy and meaningful

experience. The film's premiere received warm applause from the audience. Viewers connected with its simple message of resilience, hope and the personal journey of Teresa as she discovers herself.



# Muzaffar Ali's poignant filmography

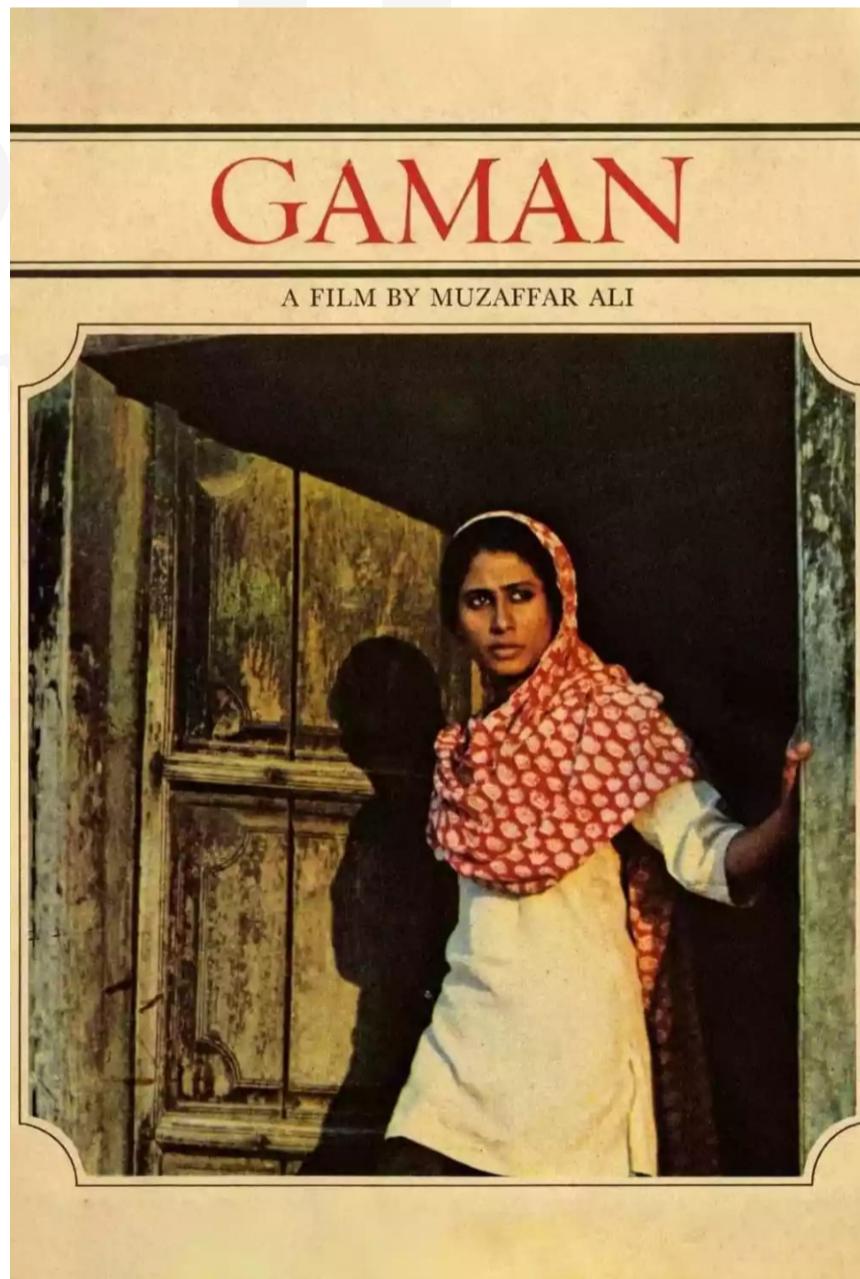


Muzaffar Ali's Classics 'Umrao Jaan' and 'Gaman' dazzle IFFI 2025 By Mohammad Aqib Khan Panaji, Goa: The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is currently celebrating the powerful duality of Muzaffar Ali's cinematic vision with special screenings of his restored classics, 'Umrao Jaan' and 'Gaman'. While 'Umrao Jaan' dazzled the Maquinez Palace with its story of a celebrated but tragic Lucknow courtesan, 'Gaman' offered a stark, moving counterpoint at INOX Porvorim, portraying the dashed hopes and urban alienation of a migrant taxi driver in Mumbai. The dual showcase reminds audiences of Ali's unparalleled ability to capture the complex sorrow of both high-society outcasts and the socio-economically marginalized. Both films continue to resonate deeply, confirming their status as vital, timeless commentaries on Indian life. The festival spotlighted the contrasting yet equally poignant narratives in Ali's filmography. 'Gaman' was showcased at INOX Porvorim, captivating the audience with its unflinching look at the human cost of migration. The 1978 classic tells the story of Ghulam Hasan, a poor

relevance to today's socio-economic issues. Following this, the opulent tragedy of 'Umrao Jaan' graced the historic Maquinez Palace-I. The restored version of the 1981 masterpiece chronicling the life of a villager who

leaves his beloved and mother for the harsh realities of a taxi driver's life in Mumbai, a 'city of dreams' that becomes a landscape of struggle and alienation. The screening underscored the film's enduring relevance to today's socio-economic issues. Following this, the opulent tragedy of 'Umrao Jaan' graced the historic Maquinez Palace-I. The restored version of the 1981 masterpiece, chronicling the life of a courtesan drew a spellbound audience. The film's exploration of identity, love, and a woman's autonomy in a patriarchal society cemented its place as a timeless piece of Indian cinema. Muzaffar Ali's dual presentation at IFFI 2025 serves as a powerful reminder of his mastery in capturing both the gritty reality of marginalized life and the sophisticated sorrow of high art.

Gaman starring Farooq Sheikh and Smita Patil released in 1978. Umrao Jaan starring Rekha and Farooq Sheikh released in 1981.



# Daily buzz at IFFI



Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan inaugurating the Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) initiative and the Masterclass series at Kala Academy.



Ambassadors' Round Table on Co-production at IFFI Goa.



So much passion and talent gathered here today as CMOT 2025 begins.



The "Bilyarista" cast and crew discussing their movie at a press conference



The festival tabloid IFFILOID was officially launched by DG, Ms Smita Vats, and ADG, Ms Ritu Shukla



IFFIesta in full bloom



## Red Carpet Events...

11:30AM

Mosquitoes

02:45PM

Muriel's Wedding

04:30PM

Renoir

@Inox 1 Panjim

@Inox 1 Panjim

@Inox 1 Panjim

## IFFI Gala Premiere...

12:30PM

Hanti Hanti Pa Pa

@Inox 1 Panjim

05:30PM

Spying Stars

@Inox 1 Panjim

06:30PM

Papa Buka

@Inox 1 Panjim

## Press Conferences...

11:00AM to 11:30AM

Pescador

DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE  
INDOOR STADIUM  
Ceremony Venue

12:00PM to 01:00PM

Tanvi The Great

02:00PM to 03:00PM

Mosquitoes

04:00PM to 05:00PM

Legends of Indian Silver Screen

05:00PM to 06:00PM

Su from So & Maliput Melodies &  
Biye Fiye Niye

06:00PM to 07:00PM

Spying Stars

Open Air Screenings

Vagator Helipad,  
Miramar Beach,  
Ravindra Bhavan, Margao