



Press release

For immediate release

BARAH BY BARAH **WINS BEST FEATURE FILM AT OIFFA 2021**

Ottawa, June 26, 2021—After five days of an exciting, strong Official Competition of contemporary, independent Indian films, the all virtual 4th edition of the **Ottawa Indian Film Festival Awards (OIFFA)** comes to an end with the announcement of the winners.

The five members of **OIFFA**'s prestigious jury, formed of Diana Ashimova (Kazakhstan), Mirona Radu (Romania), Nina Kochelyaeva (Russia), Premendra Mazumder (India) and Swarnavel Eswaran (USA), decided to crown the following films and individuals among the selections from the Festival's **OFFICIAL COMPETITION**.

OIFFA is pleased to announce that the 2021 award for **BEST FEATURE FILM** goes to **Gaurav Madan's BARAH BY BARAH**. The other three finalists in this category were *Chronicle of Space (Sthalpuran)* by Akshay Indikar, *Nasir* by Arun Karthick and *Where is Pinky? (Pinki Elli?)* by Prithvi Konanur.

The award for **BEST DIRECTOR** goes to **AKSHAY INDIKAR** for *Chronicle of Space (Sthalpuran)*. The other three finalists in this category were Gaurav Madan (*Barah By Barah*), Arun Karthick (*Nasir*) and Prithvi Konanur (*Where is Pinky?/Pinki Elli?*).

The award for **BEST ACTRESS** goes to **SHIVA RANI KALITA** for *Bridge*. **Special Jury Mentions** are also given to the two other finalists in this category: **Akshatha Pandavapura** (*Where is Pinky?/Pinki Elli?*) and **Rucha Inamdar** (*Not Today*).

The award for **BEST ACTOR** goes to **VALAVANE KOUMARANE** for *Nasir*. **Special Jury Mentions** are also awarded to **Yashpal Sharma** and **Prageet Pandit** (*The Mouse/Mooso*). The other two finalists in this category were Gyanendra Tripathi (*Barah By Barah*) and Harsh Chhaya (*Not Today*).

The award for **BEST SCREENPLAY** goes to **PRITHVI KONANUR** for *Where is Pinky? (Pinki Elli?)*. The other three finalists in this category were Gaurav Madan (*Barah By Barah*), Akshay Indikar (*Chronicle of Space/Sthalpuran*) and Aditya Kriplani (*Not Today*).

The award for **BEST SHORT FILM** goes to **THE DUFFER** (*Faltu Lok*) by **Antara Banerjee**. The other two finalists in this category were *Adhura* by Arjun Lal and *Veena and Ukulele* by Unni Vijayan.

The award for **BEST SHORT FILM DIRECTOR** goes to **UNNI VIJAYAN** for *Veena and Ukulele*. The other two finalists in this category were Arjun Lal (*Adhura*) and Antara Banerjee (*The Duffer/Faltu Lok*).

The jury also decided to give a **SPECIAL AWARD** for **BEST CHILD ACTOR** to **NEEL DESHMUKH** for *Chronicle of Space (Sthalpuran)* by director Akshay Indikar.

OIFFA is looking forward to seeing what the participating filmmakers will do next—and to welcoming them in a near future to the National Capital.

OIFFA's all-virtual 4th edition took place from June 22 to 26, 2021, entirely ONLINE. The Official Competition included 12 feature films (fiction) and 5 short films. Not only was the Festival a showcase for several regions, ethnic minorities and languages of India, but it was a launch pad for many exciting new talents. No fewer than 8 first feature films were screened, including works from a remarkable number of female filmmakers, producers and artisans.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

OIFFA is made possible through the support of its many partners. The Festival wishes to thank its sponsors, media partners and community partners, all of whom can be found at oiffa.com on the homepage. **OIFFA** would also like to thank all of its collaborators, suppliers and volunteers as well as all participating filmmakers and artisans for their precious contributions to the success of this all virtual 4th edition of the Festival.

ABOUT OIFFA

OIFFA is the National Capital's and Eastern Canada's preeminent festival dedicated to Indian cinema and all things Indian with its **OFFICIAL COMPETITION** and **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** sections open to filmmakers from India and the Indian diaspora as well as films featuring Indian content. In its 4th year now, the Festival is extremely pleased to continue to cultivate an audience for Indian cinema and Indian culture not only in Ottawa, but throughout Canada and North American, thanks to the magic of its new online screening platform. **OIFFA** looks forward to welcoming its guests and the public in the heart of Ottawa again in 2022, at last, for its usual five-day competitive showcase of multi-genre Indian films as well as its roster of events, special screenings, contests, Q&As with artists and the popular VIP Lounge.

For more information, go to www.oiffa.com | Follow the latest **OIFFA news on Facebook and Twitter**

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