

## Cineclub Inaugurated

CINECLUB of Delhi University was inaugurated in the first week of February, this year organised jointly by the recently-revived DUMADS and *Conversazione*—a non-political forum of intellectuals. Perhaps at his first official engagement in the capital, the youngest minister at the Centre—Mr Arif Mohammed Khan, the new Dy Minister for Information & Broadcasting—said at the inaugural ceremony that he had 'a lot of learn' from creative and thinking people and welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas with youth and with intellectuals. The 31-year old handsome Minister invited university people and media-men to come forward with ideas to serve the society.

The panel discussion on *British Cinema* with special reference to David Lean (in town for the script of *A Passage to India*), as part of inaugural ceremony, was chaired by sitar-maestro, Debu Chaudhary, of international fame and Dean of the Faculty of Music & Fine Arts of Delhi University.

Carnatic musician Leela Omchery and two students—Pankaj Rakesh and Sanket Mahajan—escorted the Minister around the Book Exhibition on British Cinema, arranged also as part of the inaugural ceremonies. Recalling Lean's directorial career (beginning 1928), Gautam Kaul IPS said that it was marked by controversies as on *Doctor Zhivago*, *Ryan's Daughter* and the latest on *A Passage to India* and the Lean is part of the romantic cinema of the West.

Widening the scope of discussion, noted cinebuff

Hameeduddin Mahmood said British were the first to respond positively to Indian Cinema. Dadasaheb Phalke was honoured in Britain, Himanshu Rai's *Karma* had a distinguished London premiere in 1933 and, two decades later, Clement Atlee presided over the first world premiere of an Indian film—Mehboob's *Aan* dubbed *The Savage Princess* in London. Mahmood saw no grounds for the pessimism expressed in April '81 by 21 British film industry figures about the bleak future of the native industry.

Closely analysing sequences from films like *Brief Encounter*, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Lawrence of Arabia*, Sydenay Rebeiro said Lean was an advocate of the big screen process yet he brought rare perceptions to the presentation of superscale actions. His scripts, said Sydney, on which he himself admitted to spend several months, were excellently conceived and his filming was distinguished by a keen sense of editing, reminding one of India's own Vijay Anand. Lean, in fact, began his career as editor. Sydney also pointed out that Lean film inevitably had a distinguished music score imaginatively woven into the narrative. Tracing a Man-Nature dialectics in the films, suggested that the Devon marshes in *Great Expectations*, snow in *Doctor Zhivago*, the jungle in *Kwai* and the sands in *Lawrence* assume a character of their own and become a part of the overall expression of the film.

The discussion was followed by a screening of David Lean's 1948 classic *Oliver Twist*.

Inauguration of **DU Cineclub** 1982 Secretary : Sydney Rebeiro initiated and managed by

DUMADS and *Conversazione*

# DELHI UNIVERSITY CINE CLUB DISCUSSES LEAN'S FILMS

From ARUN KHANNA

NEW DELHI

THE recently-revived Delhi University Music Arts and Drama Society and Conversazione, a non-political forum of intellectuals jointly organised a function on the occasion of the recent inauguration of the Delhi University Cine Club here.

The Delhi University Club will function under the Delhi University Music Arts and Drama Society with the Delhi University Adult and Continuing Education Coordinator Dr S. C. Bhatia and noted organist Dr Iris Paintal as the conveners, with Jaideep Ballal as the student convenor.

The Delhi University Music Arts and Drama Society itself was revived after a gap of eight years on the initiative of Mr Sydney R. Rebeiro, elected teacher-member of the Delhi University Academic Council, with the active cooperation of the Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Professor Gurbaksh Singh.

As part of its cultural diversification, the Society has also started a Music Club, a Photo Club, an Artists Corner and a Theatre Group.

Mr Arif Mohammed Khan, the recently appointed Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting, who inaugurated the Cine Club, while speaking at the function, said he had "a lot to learn" from creative and thinking people and welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas with youth and with intellectuals. The Minister at the same time invited the University people and media men to come forward with ideas, proposals and plans in the service of society.

On the occasion, a panel discussion on British cinema with special reference to the noted film director David Lean, who is visiting New Delhi for writing the screenplay of "A Passage to India" to be directed by him on locations in India, was also organised. The panel discussion was chaired by the well-known sitarist Debou Chaudhuri, Dean of Faculty of Music and Fine Arts and Chairperson of the Delhi University Music Arts and Drama Society.

Messages of goodwill from Lord John Brabourne and Richard Goodwin, who are producing the film, "A Passage to India", were also read out at the function organised in the Tagore Hall on the Uni-

versity Campus by Mr Sydney R. Rebeiro, the Secretary of the Delhi University Music Arts and Drama Society. Ms Ranjana Srivastava, the Treasurer of the Society and a young lecturer in Education, proposed the vote of thanks, while earlier, the membership convenor Ms Anupam Mahajan, a lecturer in Music, presented the Chief Guest with a bouquet on behalf of Conversazione.

On the occasion, a Book Exhibition on British cinema was also organised through the courtesy of the British Council Division of the British High Commission.

Participating in the panel discussion, film critic Mr John Dayal initiated the discussion with the assertion that while the British society is in ferment, British cinema had failed to reflect the crises. Conceding that David Lean had brought out the Dickensian world effectively, he yet felt that Lean essentially "stunned the senses" with the magnificent sweep of his camera but, by and large, had failed to bring depth of content and character in his films. Pointing to the sharp decline in cinema audiences and theatre earnings in Britain, he said the British film industry needs to "gear itself" to take off once again in the 1980s after due introspection.

Another participant, former Delhi Film Society president, Mr Gautam Kaul, who is a Deputy Inspector General of Police, and a well-known film society advocate, tracing Lean's directorial career begun in 1928 and marked by periodic controversies as on "Doctor Zhivago," "Ryan's Daughter" and his latest project, "A Passage to India," said that Lean is part of the romantic cinema of the West. He also referred to Lean's meetings with Mrs Indra Gandhi, whose personal intervention saved "Doctor Zhivago" from utter ruination by the Censors. Asserting that "Lean has remained very British when being British is no more good enough," Mr Kaul observed that the main cast of his films was invariably British, which may have had something to do with his war experience and his early training in the British way of life.

Widening the scope of the discussion, the noted writer Mr Hameeduddin Mahmood said Britain was the first to respond positively to Indian cinema. Dadasahab Phalke was honoured in Britain, Himansu

Rai's "Karma" had a distinguished London premiere in 1933, and two decades later, Lord Clement Atlee presided over the first world premiere of an Indian film, Mehboob's "Aan," dubbed "The Savage Princess" in London. Britain was the second country to do location filming in India, with Betty Box's "The Wind Cannot Read" and "Harry Black and the Tiger."

Mr Mahmood saw no grounds for the pessimism expressed in April 1981 by 21 leading British film industry personalities about the "bleak future" of the native industry. Although Elstree Studios is to close down in 1983, the others are flourishingly busy, especially Pinewood, which has been "the womb of 13 James Bond films in 21 years". It was at Pinewood that David Lean recreated "Doctor Zhivago" and that blockbusters like "Superman II," "Clash of the Titans" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark" were filmed.

Mr Mahmood also listed a series of proposals to sustain and strengthen British cinema, including return of the Rank Organisation to India with well-programmed interaction with Indian cinema, more imaginative production and marketing liaison with Commonwealth countries, and a new dialogue with Arab cinema.

Describing David Lean's career as a remarkable one "from clapper-litoy to 'Czar'" another participant Mr Sydney R. Rebeiro said Lean represented the style and the magnificence of British cinema over the past four decades. His 15 films in 40 years won 43 major international awards and earned an estimated 250 million dollars, making his cinema corpus an inimitable synthesis of art and commerce. Closely analysing sequences from films like "Brief Encounter," "The Bridge on the River Kwai" and "Lawrence of Arabia," Mr Rebeiro said Lean was an advocate of the big screen process yet he brought rare perceptions to the presentation of superscale actions. His scripts, on which he himself admittedly spends several months, were excellently conceived and his filming was distinguished by a keen sense of editing.

Among the participants at the session were Mr Vijay Sharma, story-writer and a leading Delhi-UP film distributor, senior professors and several students. The discussion was followed by the screening of David Lean's "Oliver Twist."

SCREEN 19 Feb 82

**SYDNEY REBEIRO**

Member  
Academic Council  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



O : 630306

R : 697081

Dear Lady Thomson

Knowing your university background and your patronage of the arts, one is approaching you to kindly help us in the setting-up of

DELHI UNIVERSITY CINECLUB  
under DU Music Arts and Drama Society, DUMADS,  
details attached.

We've planned the opening of the CINECLUB for January 82, God willing.

We've written to the British Council Division in Delhi to help us organise

AN EVENING WITH DAVID LEAN  
to mark the opening.

Could we request you to kindly use your good offices to persuade Lord Brabourne and Mr Lean to be with us on the occasion...

Looking forward to your response and with best wishes for the new year,

C 45 JANGPURA EXTENSION NEW DELHI 110014

Sincerely yours  
SRRebeiro

31 Dec 1981

*Lady Thomson was the wife of British High Commissioner Lord Thomson*

SYDNEY REBEIRO

Member  
Academic Council  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



O : 630306

R : 697081

Ms M Raghavan BCD Delhi

31 Dec 81

re: inauguration of DUMADS CINECLUB

Dear Ms Raghavan

DUMADS is Delhi University's organised forum for the arts, details attached.

At present 31 institutions/depts are active associated with the Working-Programme Committees.

A CINECLUB has been formed and we will be honoured if it is inaugurated/opened by Mr DAVID LEAN or by LORD BRABOURN on the campus.

We shall request Education Minister Ms Sheila Kaul to preside and I and B Minister Mr Vasant Sathe to ADDRESS the members.

Looking forward to your response<sup>and</sup> with very best wishes for a very good 1982 for you and yours,

Sincerely yours

S. Rebeiro

Secretary DUMADS

SYDNEY REBEIRO

Member  
Academic Council  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



O : 620306

R : 697081

Mr DAVID LEAN *Director non pariel*

21 Jan 82

My dear Mr Lean

Trust you've recieved my 19 Jan 82 letter  
Our DUMADS Delhi University Music Arts  
Drama Society has decided to start a CINECLUB  
in time to come, God willing, it will lead to the  
institution of a Film Appreciation Course with the  
help of the University Grants Commission: a little  
seed money has already been sanctioned by the  
Vice-Chancellor towards this.

What greater opening for the CINECLUB  
than AN EVENING WITH DAVID LEAN ...

Could we meet you to present our  
proposal in detail ...

Looking forward to meeting you soon  
and God bless you with greater kudos to come.

Sincerely yours  
SRR Rebeiro

Secretary DUMADS

C 45 JANGPURA EXTENSION NEW DELHI 110014

Member DU Film Appreciation Course  
Committee

