



Newsletter

January – March 2016

25th ANNIVERSARY HONOURS AND TRIBUTES FOR ARUNA VASUDEV AND NETPAC

Over the course of 2015 and in early 2016, to mark 25 years of its founding, NETPAC and Founder-President Aruna Vasudev were honoured with numerous awards and citations of achievement.

- **HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, November 2015**

- **Vision in Film Award to Aruna Vasudev**

The citation read: “In celebration of NETPAC’s 25th anniversary, the Festival is honored to present the Vision in Film Award to Ms Aruna Vasudev in recognition of her vision and tireless efforts to promote an appreciation of Asian cinema. Aruna Vasudev is the Founding President of NETPAC and has been involved in promoting Asian cinema as a filmmaker, author, film festival director, journal publisher and jury member for four decades”.



Aruna Vasudev receives the 2015 Vision in Film Award from HIFF Executive Director Robert Lambeth.

- **BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, October 2015**

The Achievement Award to Aruna Vasudev and NETPAC to mark NETPAC's 25th anniversary

The festival noted NETPAC's role in discovering the potential of Korean films by giving the NETPAC Award to the best Korean film annually at the Busan International Film Festival and contributing to the promotion of Korean films worldwide. Notable Korean films that have won the award at BIFF are *Three Friends* by Yim Soonrye, *The Power of Kangwon Province* by Hong Sangsoo, *3-Iron* by Kim Ki-duk, *Dooman River* by Zhang Lu, and *King of Pigs* by Yeon Sangho. In addition, numerous NETPAC board and committee members have promoted Korean cinema widely through their own festivals and programmes in Asia, Europe, Australia and the US.

The award for NETPAC and Aruna Vasudev was presented by Kim Dong-ho, BIFF founder and honorary executive director.



Kim Dong-ho presents the award to NETPAC founder and President Aruna Vasudev at BIFF.

- **CINEMALAYA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL, Manila August 2015**

A special award to NETPAC on its 25th anniversary for promoting Asian cinema

NETPAC was given a special award for championing Asian cinema over 25 years, notably through the presentation of the NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at over 30 film festivals throughout the world, including Berlin, Rotterdam, Warsaw, Moscow, Busan, Jeonju, Jogjakarta and Hawaii.



Max Tessier and Philip Cheah jointly receiving the award on behalf of NETPAC at the close of Cinemalaya 2015.

- **AHVAZ INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL, Iran February 2015**

Lifetime Achievement Award for Aruna Vasudev

The award was given in recognition of Aruna's untiring efforts in promoting Asian cinema through NETPAC. The occasion was the inaugural Ahvaz International Science Film Festival in Ahvaz, the capital of Iran's Khuzestan province (regarded as the 'birthplace' of Iran and one of the most important regions of the Ancient Near East).



The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Aruna by renowned Iranian actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya ('Simin') in the form of a gold and enamel necklace, a specialty of the goldsmiths of Ahvaz.

- **INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF COLOMBO, Sri Lanka November 2015**

Lifetime Achievement Award for Aruna Vasudev

The citation read: "The Lifetime Achievement Award is conferred on Aruna Vasudev for her spirited and ceaseless endeavour to focus on Asian cinema at a time when this cinema was little known to the world. She spared no effort to locate films, connect with the film fraternity, including writers, and founded *Cinemaya*, *The Asian Film Quarterly*, and Cinefan, the Festival of Asian Cinema. She also founded the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC). Her

relentless work in encouraging this cinema began yielding fruit in the 1990s, as international festivals turned their gaze on Asian cinema and began curating Asian films [which] garnered awards and accolades.”



After conferment of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Aruna poses with (from left) Max Tessier, Nai Renhua, Ashley Ratnavibhushana and Fatemeh Motamed-Arya.

- **AADHI AABADI WOMEN ACHIEVERS AWARD, Mumbai December 2015**

“The objective behind this award is to reward the women of substance who have done excellent work for the society and made India proud...this is also for the motivation and inspiration of all women in the world”.

- **OSIAN’S CINEFAN FILM FESTIVAL OF ASIAN, ARAB AND AFRICAN CINEMA, Mumbai March 2016**

First Osianama Lifetime Achievement Award to Aruna Vasudev for Nurturing Cinematic Culture

At the ceremony, Shyam Benegal, Swarna Mallawarachchi, Anurag Kashyap, Latika Padgaonkar and Indu Shrikent paid tribute to Aruna Vasudev’s achievements in promoting Asian cinema. The event was also a reunion for Aruna and friends Latika Padgaonkar and Indu Shrikent, who helped to run the Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema, founded and directed by Aruna for some years. It was later handed over to Osian’s, an art auction house founded by Neville Tuli, and renamed Osian’s-Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema.



Aruna Vasudev (centre, with award) poses with Latika Padgaonkar, Neville Tuli, Anurag Kashyap and Indu Shrikent. At the back is an iconic visual of Indonesian actress Christine Hakim in the role of the Acehese nationalist hero *Tjoet Nja Dhien* (dir Eros Djarot, 1989) that adorned the cover of an issue of *Cinemaya*, the pioneering Asian film quarterly founded by Aruna.

OTHER EVENTS HONOURING ARUNA VASUDEV AND NETPAC'S 25th ANNIV

- **FCCT hosts NETPAC's 25th anniversary celebration in Bangkok October 2015**

NETPAC's 25th anniversary celebration in Bangkok was hosted by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT). Highlights were the screening of Brillante Mendoza's NETPAC Award winning film *Foster Child* (2007) and the presentation of a *benjarong* (painted porcelain) to Aruna Vasudev by the Thai Vice Minister for Tourism and Sports, Chavanee Tongroach. The event was organized by NETPAC member Lekha Shankar, a freelance writer and film programmer based in Bangkok. Lekha has organized numerous NETPAC events in the Thai capital.



Aruna receiving the *benjarong* from the Thai Vice Minister.



Aruna flanked by Thai Vice Minister Chavane Tongroach (left) and Brillante Mendoza (right); Lekha is third from left.

- **NETPAC India's 25th Anniversary Celebration, Delhi July 2015**

Screening of NETPAC Award winning films; Q & A with the directors.

Films: About Elly (Iran, 2009; Asghar Farhadi); A Poet (Indonesia, 2000; Garin Nugroho), Summer Kyoto (Japan, 2014; Hiroshi Toda), 11 Flowers (China, 2013; Wang Xiaoshuai), A World Not Ours (Palestine, 2012; Mahdi Fleifel); Night of Silence (Turkey, 2012; Reis Celik); The Bet Collector (Philippines, 2006; Jeffrey Jeturian) and Sell Out! (Malaysia, 2008; Yeo Joon Han).

Panel Discussion – Celebrating 25 Years of NETPAC: The Rise of Asian Cinema

Panellists: Aruna Vasudev (President of NETPAC) with NETPAC Award winning filmmakers Jeffrey Jeturian and Yeo Joon Han; Sri Lankan actress Swarna Mallawarachchi, directors Jahnu Barua and Anup Singh, and UNESCO representative and NETPAC supporter Moe Chiba.

The Panellists



Jeffrey Jeturian



Yeo Joon Han



Swarna
Mallawarachchi



Jahnu Barua



Anup Singh



Moe Chiba



Moderator Aruna Vasudev introduces the theme and members of the panel.

- **ICONGO (INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF NGOs) India 2015**
Lifetime Achievement Award for Aruna Vasudev
- **GLOBAL FILM FESTIVAL NODIA, Uttar Pradesh, India 2014**
Lifetime Achievement Award for Aruna Vasudev



Aruna receives the award from Ved Marwah, President of Marwah Studios.

Ved Marwah, President of Marwah Studios: “It is a great honor to present the Life Time Achievement Award to Aruna Vasudev. She has been a source of inspiration for many. She is one of the first to give shape to international film festivals in Delhi”.

- **TRIPOLI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, Lebanon 2015**
Annual Aruna Vasudev Life Achievement Award

- **DEHRADUN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, Uttarakand, India 2015**

Aruna Vasudev was appointed a Patron of the festival, together with Om Puri and Sushma Seth.

CHANGES TO NETPAC'S BOARD, ADMINISTRATION, SCOPE AND STATUS

NETPAC was founded in 1990 to promote a greater awareness and a deeper appreciation of Asian cinema. Over 25 years, NETPAC has grown into the largest single organisation devoted to the promotion of Asian cinema. Its coverage has expanded outside mainstream Asia to include the cinemas of the Arab world, Western and Russian Asia, and (from 2016) the Hawaiian and Pacific islands. The search for new cinemas in this vast area continues, as many people find the imperative to examine and document their past, explore their contemporary identity and culture, and vocalise their experiences, ideas and feelings through the medium of cinema.

NETPAC's name has also acquired respectability and wide recognition. The NETPAC Award has proven an efficacious tool to encourage and spur new filmmakers to greater creativity; it is now installed in over 30 film festivals in 4 continents. New channels of nurturing filmmakers have been instituted (eg the Asia Pacific Screen Lab project based in Brisbane, Australia), and NETPAC itself is involved in the organisation of film festivals and film programming (the Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival (JAFF), based in Jogjakarta, Indonesia; NETPAC-India's Inner Path Buddhist Film Festival based in Delhi; and a compilation of NETPAC Award Winning Films which will be offered to film festivals or arts and cultural centres in the world interested to show little known but critically acclaimed gems of Asian cinema.

NETPAC has also been registered as a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) in Australia, to provide it with a formal organizational identity and to facilitate the pitching and receipt of funds for its work and its programmes.

Recognising the importance of the cinematic output from Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, the Board also expanded NETPAC's geographic coverage and amended NETPAC's name to stand for Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema, while retaining the NETPAC acronym.

To cope with NETPAC's expanded scope, geographic reach and administrative functions, and to facilitate communication and dissemination of news and information in the ever productive and dynamic arena of Asian cinema, the Board has revised the composition of the Board of Directors, Advisory Council and Executive Committee. This will position NETPAC to play its role more effectively as it rises to the challenge of spotlighting Asian cinema talent in a world that is becoming more inter-connected as boundaries are blurred through the medium of film.

Composition of NETPAC

Executive Committee

President

Aruna Vasudev (India)

Vice-Presidents

Anne Demy-Geroe (Australia; Administration)

Bina Venugopal (India; Finance and Projects)

Executive Director and Jury Coordinator

Ashley Ratnavibhushana (Sri Lanka)

Honorary Secretary

Wong Tuck Cheong (Malaysia)

Treasurer

Ranjanee Midigaspage (Sri Lanka)

Board Members

Gulnara Abikeyeva (Kazakhstan)

Mohammad Atebbai (Iran)

Nick Deocampo (Philippines)

Jocelyne Saab (Lebanon)

Sun Shaoyi (China)

Yuka Sakano (Japan)

Park Sung-ho (Korea)

Herman van Eyken (Australia)

Ngo Phuong Lan (Vietnam)

Advisory Council

Kim Dong-ho (Korea)

Xie Fei (China)

Garin Nugroho (Indonesia)

Philip Cheah (Singapore)

Jeannette Paulson Hereniko (USA)

Fatemeh Motamed-Arya (Simin) (Iran)

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