



CINE CENTRAL CALCUTTA FILM BULLETIN

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Bengali Cinema's uncertain future amid COVID-19

While the audience of step into the movie doors of cinema halls capacity during Durga audiences during Durga thought the 'lack of of the Bengali films and multiplexes, while audience coming into much on.



Maharashtra had to wait till November 5 to theatres, back home in West Bengal, the were thrown open with 50 per cent seating Puja. More than 10 films were offered to the Puja. Some directors and producers Bollywood releases' will work in the favour they will get better show timings at others were apprehensive about the the theatres when the pandemic is still very

And how did the films really have their smile the picture isn't that rosy. Bengali films —Debaloy Bhattacharya and Mimi *RawktoRawhoshyo*

decent footfalls. Barring these two, Mimi Chakraborty, NusratJahan and YashChakraborty's *SOS Kolkata* and Swastika and ApritaChatterjee-starrer *Guldasta* had few enthusiastic film audiences.

However, for the rest of the films —*Shironam*, *CholoPotoTuli*, *Saheber Cutlet*, *DoodhPitherGachh*, *Ebhabei Golpo Hok*, *Love Story*, and Aritra Mukherjee's re-released *Brahma JaanenGoponKommoti* and IndrasishAcharya's *Parcel*, it has been quite a dry run in the era of 'new normal' at the box office. In fact, among all these releases, it is *Dracula Sir*, which pulled the maximum crowd and even managed a few repeated 'houseful shows' at Navina, though the seating capacity is limited to 50 per cent owing to COVID-19.

But now that the pujas are over and there's no new release, theatre owners are looking at an uncertain future. Reportedly, ArijitDutta, the owner of Priya cinema, has shut down all his single screens (he owns four single screen theatres and three plexes), barring Priya. Also, the lack of any new Bollywood release has crippled the theatre owners even further to keep the business going. Dutta decided to screen Satyajit Ray's *Goopy GyneBaghaByne* at Priya to pull the audiences back to the theatres after Maharashtra government announced to reopen the plexes.

Exhibitor and distributor SatadeepSaha, who is also the co-owner of Ajanta, said, "Every year the business around Durga Puja is humongous, but this year we knew it wouldn't be great. But *Dracula Sir* fared comparatively well in this pandemic. However, we need new content to keep the business running, especially big films. After puja, we don't have any new releases... how we can run the theatres."

As of now, in Kali Puja, AbirChatterjee and RukminiMaitra-starrer *Switzerland* is the only big film that will hit theatres and the cinema hall owners are looking at Bollywood to release some big films to bounce back in business.

সকল সদস্যকে জানাই

শুভ শারদীয়া ও দীপাবলির প্রীতি ও শুভেচ্ছা।

Impact of COVID-19 on film industry



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a substantial impact on the film industry in 2020, mirroring its impacts across all arts sectors. Across the world and to varying degrees, cinemas and movie theatres have been closed, festivals have been cancelled or postponed, and film releases have been moved to future dates or delayed indefinitely. The Chinese film industry had lost US\$2 billion by March 2020, having closed all its cinemas during the Lunar New Year period that sustains the industry across Asia. North America saw its lowest box office weekend since 1998. Cineworld, the world's second-largest cinema chain, closed its cinemas in October, 2020. In early March 2020, it was predicted that the global box office could lose US\$5 billion as a result of the pandemic.

Countries that are pandemic hot-spots have closed or restricted cinemas and movie theatres, negatively affecting film revenue. Attendance has also been lower in other regions. Following the pandemic in mainland China, 70,000 cinemas were closed in January 2020. Later, as a result of the pandemic in Italy, on March 8, 2020, the Italian government ordered all cinemas to be closed. Because of the growing pandemic in

France, cinemas operated at half capacity, leaving strategic seats unavailable to reduce proximity in the screens, a move followed days later by the Irish and Northern Irish cinema fraternity. On March 12, Qatar also closed all cinemas, as did the US, Malaysia, Thailand, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. After a state of emergency was declared in Tokyo and six other prefectures in Japan, over 220 cinemas were closed.

Awards

Two award ceremonies were held after the coronavirus became widespread: the 45th César Awards on February 28, and the 43rd Japan Academy Film Prize on March 6. The Japanese Academy Prize ceremony went ahead on March 6. However, the ceremony was conducted without any guests or journalists. The 40th Golden Raspberry Awards were initially intended to take place as planned on March 14. However, it was ultimately cancelled. The International Indian Film Academy Awards, planned to take place on March 27, was cancelled, while the Italian Academy's David di Donatello ceremony was postponed from April 3 to May 8. The American Film Institute's lifetime achievement ceremony to honor Julie Andrews was pushed back from April to the summer. The 2020 Platino Awards were also postponed.

The Academy Awards and Golden Globe Awards modified their eligibility criteria for their 2021 editions. On June 15, it was announced that the Academy Awards would be pushed back by two months from February 28 to April 25, so that the cutoff for eligibility could likewise be extended from December 31, 2020 to February 28. The Academy Governors Awards and Scientific and Technical Awards have been postponed indefinitely. The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) subsequently announced that it would follow suit and postpone the 74th British Academy Film Awards to April. On June 22, the Golden Globe Awards were also delayed from early January to February 28, 2021.

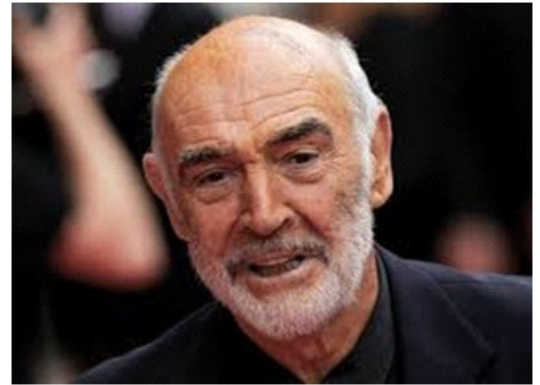
Festivals

Many festivals and events have been cancelled or postponed. Postponements include the [Thessaloniki Documentary Festival](#), the [Beijing International Film Festival](#); the [Prague International Film Festival](#); the [Bentonville Film Festival](#), the [Istanbul International Film Festival](#), and the [Tribeca Film Festival](#). The [20th Beverly Hills Film Festival](#) scheduled for April 1–15 was postponed indefinitely. The 38th Fajr International Film Festival had been postponed. The [2020 Metro Manila Summer Film Festival](#), originally scheduled for April 11–21, was also postponed. Cancelled events include the [Swiss International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights](#), the [Red Sea International Film Festival](#), the [South by Southwest \(SXSW\)](#). The 22nd edition of [Ebertfest](#) and the 44th edition of the [Cleveland International Film Festival](#) were cancelled. New Jersey's global film festival, [Garden State Film Festival](#), cancelled their in-person Asbury Park-based festival. The 55th [Karlov Vary International Film Festival](#) was cancelled and postponed to 2021. At the start of March, the [James Bond film No Time to Die](#), which was scheduled to premiere in March was postponed to November and then subsequently to April, 2021. The heavily promoted Polish slasher film *W lesiedziszniezasnienikt* (Nobody Sleeps in the Woods Tonight) was postponed.

Gradually, we are moving towards normalcy. However, spectre of second or third wave of COVID-19 looms large. Millions of people connected with cinema industry have been affected worldwide. We can only pray for normal days in future.

Tribute

Sean Connery (25th. August, 1930 - 31st. October, 2020), the tall, handsome and muscular Scottish actor is best known as the original actor to portray James Bond in the hugely successful movie franchise, starring in seven films between 1962 and 1983. Some believed that such a career-defining role might leave him unable to escape it, but he proved the doubters wrong, becoming one of the most notable film actors of his generation, with a host of great movies to his name. This arguably culminated in his greatest acclaim in 1988, when Connery won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role as an Irish cop in [The Untouchables](#) (1987), stealing the thunder from the movie's principal star [Kevin Costner](#). Connery was polled as 'The Greatest Living Scot' and 'Scotland's Greatest Living National Treasure'. In 1989, he was proclaimed as 'Sexiest Man Alive' by *People* magazine, and in 1999, at age 69, he was voted 'Sexiest Man of the Century'.



Thomas Sean Connery was born on August 25, 1930 in Fountainbridge, Edinburgh. He was of Irish and Scottish descent. Before going into acting, Sean worked as milkman, lorry driver, laborer, artist's model for the Edinburgh College of Art, coffin polisher or bodybuilder. He also joined the Royal Navy, but was later discharged because of medical problems. He was knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 2000. Some of Sean Connery's noteworthy performances are - Alfred Hitchcock's *Marnie* (1964), *The Wind and the Lion* (1975), Steven Spielberg's *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974), *Highlander* (1986) and *The Rock* (1996) to name a few.



Fernando Ezequiel 'Pino' Solanas (16th February, 1936 – 6th November, 2020) was an Argentine [film director](#), screenwriter, and politician. He was [National Senator](#), representing the [Autonomous City of Buenos Aires](#) for six years, from 2013 to 2019.

Solanas studied theatre, music and law. In 1962, he directed his first short feature *Seguirandando* and in 1968 he covertly produced and directed his first long feature film *La Hora de los Hornos*, a documentary on neo-colonialism and violence in [Latin America](#). Solanas won the [Grand Jury Prize](#) and the Critics Award at the [Venice Film Festival](#) and the [Prix de la mise en scène](#) at the [Cannes Film Festival](#). In 1999 he was the President of the Jury at the [21st Moscow International Film Festival](#). He was awarded a special [Honorary Golden Bear](#) at the 2004 [Berlin Film Festival](#). He

collaborated with [tango](#) composer and musician [Ástor Piazzolla](#) on the soundtracks for various movies.

Solanas was at the forefront of the [Grupo Cine Liberación](#) that shook Argentine [cinema](#) in the 1970s, developing its social conscience and political voice. Together with [Octavio Getino](#), Solanas wrote the manifesto *Toward a Third Cinema*. The idea of a political [Third Cinema](#) inspired film-makers in many so-called developing countries. Solanas went into exile in [Paris](#) in 1976, only returning to [Argentina](#) with the arrival of democracy in 1983.

He continued to make political films and was an outspoken critic of [Carlos Menem](#), the Argentine President. Three days after such a public criticism, on 21 May 1991, Solanas was shot six times in his legs. Despite dealing with the attack and disability, Solanas became even more involved in politics and stood to be a [Senator](#) for [Buenos Aires](#), receiving 7% of the votes in 1992. A year later, he was elected a [National Deputy](#) for the [Frente Grande](#) list, although he left the party after a year.

Solanas continued to write and direct, including the 2005 film *La Dignidad de los Nadies* and the recent 2008 film *La última estación*. His son, [Juan Solanas](#), is also a noted film director. In October 2007, Solanas was a [presidential](#) candidate in the [2007 Argentine general election](#) for the [Authentic Socialist Party](#). He became the 5th most voted candidate with 1.58% of the votes.

In 2009, Solanas was elected as National Deputy for the city of [Buenos Aires](#) on the [June 28th parliamentary elections](#), as his party [Proyecto Sur](#) became the 2nd force in the city by collecting 24.2% of the votes. In [2013](#), Solanas was elected [National Senator](#), representing Buenos Aires City in the 2013-2019 period.

Films directed by him are *Seguirandando* (1962), *Reflexión ciudadana* (1963), *La hora de los hornos (The Hour of the Furnaces)* (1968), *Perón, la revolución justicialista* (1971), *Perón: actualización política y doctrinaria para la toma del poder* (1971), *Los hijos de fierro* (1972), *La mirada de los otros* (1980), *El exilio de Gardel (Tangos)* (1985), *Sur* (1988), *El viaje* (1992), *La nube* (1998), *Afrodita, el sabor del amor* (2001), *Memoria del saqueo* (2004), *La dignidad de los nadies* (2005), *Argentina latente* (2007), *La próxima estación* (2008), *La tierra sublevada* (2009).

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Kolkata International Film Festival

Kolkata International Film Festival 2020 has been rescheduled. It will now be held from January 8 to 15th., 2021.

Programme

Physical programmes in auditoriums will be held shortly. For further information please contact office or follow Facebook or email. Our website in a new format will be coming up shortly.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

All our Members are requested to kindly renew their Membership for the year 2020-21. The annual subscription for Ordinary Member is Rs.550/- and Couple Member is Rs.750/-. Office hours for renewal is 3.00 p.m. To 6.30 p.m., Monday To Friday. For programme updates like us on FACEBOOK or contact Society Office.

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