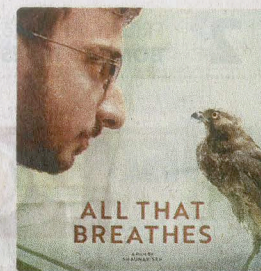


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Bombay Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024
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**ALL THAT BREATHES AND
WHILE WE WATCHED
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I started performing on international tours due to Lataji: Big B



Lataji said 'Amitabhji, I have heard you have sung a song in one of your films... and the song was Mere Angne Mein

Amitabh Bachchan received the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

On Wednesday, Amitabh Bachchan received the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award. Remembering the late legend, Bachchan shared how it was Lataji who led him to start performing at international shows. He said, "In 1981, I was in New York and a friend of mine said 'Lataji was here too and she wants to meet you'. When I met her, she told me, 'I am set to perform at the Felt Forum stage at the Madison Square Garden and I want you to do a presentation before me. Presenting for Lataji! I couldn't wrap my head around it, but since she was Lataji, I agreed.'"

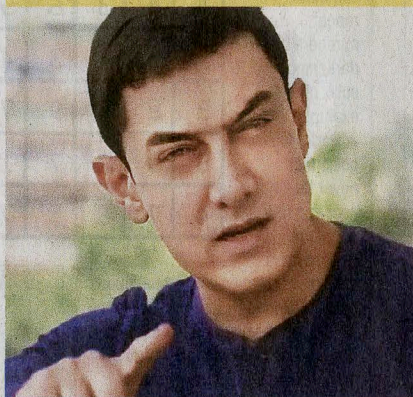


Lata Mangeshkar

"As I was leaving, she said, 'Amitabhji, I have heard you have sung a song in one of your films.' I told her it was nothing, it was just like one of those teasing songs that are sung at weddings. Our director had heard the song on Holi and said we will put it in the film," he recounted. The song was the popular track *Mere Angne Mein* from the 1981 film *Laawaris*. "Some in the audience started clapping, some started dancing. When that friend of mine saw all that, he said, 'You will now perform at such programmes every year.' And, that's how I started performing on international tours and the credit of this goes to Lataji," the actor said. PTI

Buzzstop

INVESTIGATION IS GOING ON: MUMBAI DCP ON AAMIR, RANVEER'S DEEPFAKE CASES



Days after actors **Aamir Khan** and **Ranveer Singh** lodged complaints regarding their AI-generated deepfake videos, Mumbai DCP Datta Nalawade on Wednesday said the investigation into it is underway while urging all to not forward such videos. "Two-three cases have been reported to us and cases have also been registered and investigation is also going on. So far, five such complaints have come and investigation is being done in all these cases," said the Mumbai DCP, adding, "I would appeal to people to be alert and report such videos and not forward them." Agencies

Pics: Film Heritage Foundation

BENEGAL'S RESTORED MANTHAN SELECTED FOR CANNES SCREENING

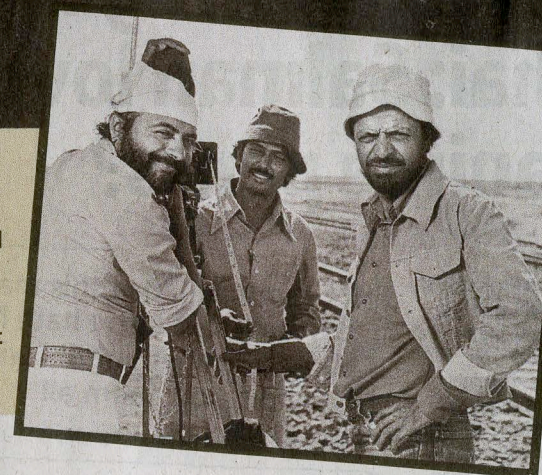
Niharika Lal

The restored version of Shyam Benegal's 1976 film *Manthan* will be screened at Cannes in the Cannes Classics section this year. Naseeruddin Shah, who began his career with Benegal's 1975 film *Nishant* (which was in the competition at Cannes), and played the role of Bhola in *Manthan*, will present the film on the red carpet at the festival.

Manthan starred Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah and Girish Karnad. This is the third consecutive year when a restored Indian film has been selected for screening at Cannes, following *Thampu* (2022) and *Ishanou* (2023)

Manthan reminds the world of the power of cinema: Benegal

"*Manthan* is very close to my heart as it was funded by 500,000 farmers and was instrumental in the growth of an extraordinary cooperative movement that was aimed at breaking the shackles of economic inequality and caste discrimination whilst empowering the farmers. It will remind the world of the power of cinema as a vehicle of change."



I will be at Cannes to present Manthan: Naseeruddin Shah

"I started my career as an actor with *Nishant*; it was followed by *Manthan*. *Manthan* was a runaway success when it was released almost 50 years ago and it is a film that is remembered even today. The film will premiere in its second life, as it deserves to be, at the Cannes Film Festival and I am so glad that I will be there to present it myself."



Govind Nihalani was the cinematographer for the film

CONTINUED ON 3

Unveiling the story behind Manthan

Shyam Benegal shares how *Manthan* was brought to life and how Dr Verghese Kurien made it happen

Shyam Benegal

Around 1972-73, I got to make two of the three documentaries on Operation Flood, called *Operation Flood I and II*, which led to the White Revolution - all because of Dr Verghese Kurien and his rural marketing initiative Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), which was a pioneering institute. While doing these documentaries, I used to travel around the country and I came across many beautiful places. And I said to Dr Kurien that these documentaries will be seen largely by those who have already been converted to the cause. What about the larger public? He agreed with me but said there was no money for a larger project.

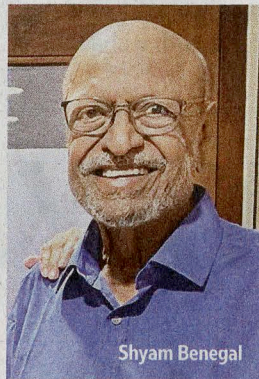
Dr Kurien did not take any money from the farmers. He told the collection centres that when they come for their daily morning and evening collection, ask them not to take ₹2 and they can all become producers of a film! Then came Vijay Tendulkar who was blown away by the cooperative and wrote several scripts. I chose one and that was how *Manthan* was made.

Dr Kurien released the film first in Gujarat before its all-India release. The film did brilliantly because its largest audience were also the film's producers. Everyday, we had this incredible sight of truckloads of people coming in from all over to see the film. The film's success gave Dr Kurien another idea - to use the film to woo other parts of the country into the movement. So prints of 16 mm would be used by spearhead teams to persuade farmers to create cooperatives of their own. Like in *Manthan*, a vet, a milk technician and a fodder specialist, who can explain the value of crossbreeding, would go and help set up cooperatives. That is how this man made India the largest milk-producing nation in the world.

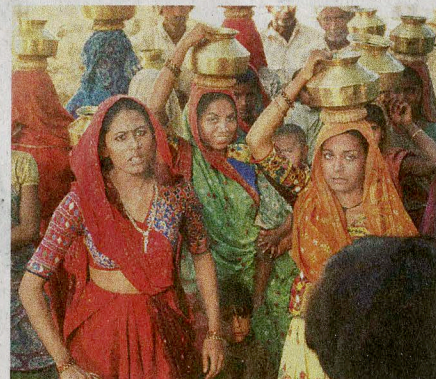


Stills from Manthan

Pics: Film Heritage Foundation



Shyam Benegal



Govind Nihalani and I have been following the progress of the restoration closely and I am amazed by the meticulous approach to the restoration. It is wonderful to see the film come back to life almost like we made it yesterday

- Shyam Benegal

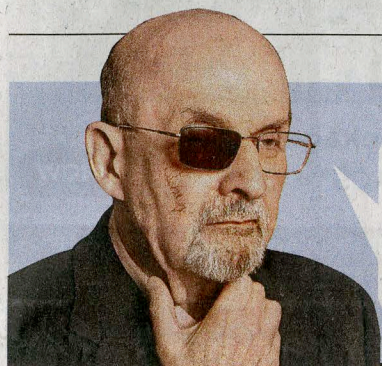
It was on our wishlist to restore a Shyam Benegal film: FHF Director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur

"The restoration of a Shyam Benegal film has been on our wish list for years. The restoration process has been an incredible experience, especially working so closely with Shyam Benegal and Govind Nihalani to painstakingly bring the film back to life. Almost half a century later, the power of the narrative and the compelling performances of the actors, especially Smita Patil, remains undiminished. I wish she was here to see the beauty of the restoration."



If (Tiger Pataudi) could face up to the ferocious speed of Hall and Griffith, I should be able to pour water into a glass without spilling it..and in general succeed at being functional as a one-eyed man in a two-eyed world

- Salman Rushdie on why Tiger Pataudi is his role model now



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