

# THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY

A Life of the Genius Ramanujan

OPENING FILM



## Coverage Dossier

The following report contains an overview of the coverage received through the various promotional efforts, organized over the course of 4 days in Goa and Mumbai, for the upcoming movie, The Man Who Knew Infinity.

Report Created by:  
Weber Shandwick India  
25 November, 2015

## Preface

Over the course of four action-packed days, replete with star-studded press conferences and focused media meet-and-greets, glitzy get-togethers and exclusive events with an eclectic gathering of stalwarts from industry, art, film & theatre and sports, *The Man Who Knew Infinity* has become a familiar talking point among Indian film buffs and critics.

The promotional events for the film kicked off with a press conference in Goa on the eve of the International Film Festival of India, which saw members of the press from print, TV and radio in attendance to hear from the talented cast and crew. At the IFFI press conference which was organized on 20 November, more than 30 journalists were present from all over the country at the Kala Academy Black Box and actively interacted with the cast of the film, which was the inaugural film at the festival. The opening film saw a full house at the 900-seater of Kala Academy and was well received and appreciated.

To give the media, and finally, the Indian audiences a deeper & closer look at the various nuances of the film, interviews were strategically set-up for each member of the film team including actors - Devika Bhise, Dev Patel and Toby Jones, Director - Matthew Brown and Producer - Ed Pressman. In all more than 20 media interacted with team. Through these interviews, which took place over the course of the next few days, at IFFI, supplemented through timely press notes, features and reviews of the film have appeared across key national as well local publications including print, online and broadcast. Radio Mirchi also featured a mother-daughter radio show with Swati and Devika Bhise.

The after-party hosted at the palatial residence of the Bhises, saw renowned Indian film personalities as well as prominent personalities from Goa.

Sir Garfield Sobers whose legendary contributions to cricket reverberate Ramanujam's genius also endorsed the film at IFFI. He was the guest of honour at the next event in Mumbai as well, which celebrated genius in the esteemed company of leading corporate honchos, yesteryear cricketing stars, celebrated thespians, social influencers and columnists.

These events further stirred the captured the imagination of Indian media and audiences alike. Stories about Sir Garfield Sobers visiting India and further endorsing the film at the city events have generated buzz, sustaining interest in the movie. The subsequent features from the events have already appeared across key mainline publications, amplified online and are still trickling in.

The report that follows chronicles the coverage, segregated as per the various media initiatives. Print clips, online stories and screen grabs of broadcast coverage have been included. Please note that the most recent clips appear first.

## Celebrating Genius with Sir Gary Sobers, Mumbai, 22 November

November 24, 2015

'Players will realize that Test cricket is ultimate: Sobers'

Times of India (Print)

### LEGENDSPEAK

# Players will realise that Test cricket is ultimate: Sobers

G. VISWANATH

**MUMBAI:** "I don't know much about genius. They keep telling me that I am. I don't know what I have done, how I have become a genius. All I know is whatever I have achieved is through the ability I was probably born with. And ability alone doesn't work. You have to work hard to make it work. You don't have to work as much as the other person who does not have the same natural ability," said Sir Garry Sobers, one of the greatest cricketers of all time, during a private function to celebrate the film *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, a biopic on the celebrated Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

Eight months away from turning 80, Sir Garry said with a sharp and clear mind: "I think that is where I have probably capitalised because as a young boy growing up, I used to have many spectators. You think that when I made the world record score of 365, I had spectators? No. When I was 13 and 14, I had a lot more spectators."

"I think geniuses are born. I don't think they are made. They have to recognise what they have and they have to work hard to achieve whatever they want to achieve. Nothing is given to you on a platter."

"I have known a lot of players I have played with. They had the ability, but did not recognise that they not only had the ability, but they were geniuses. And they thought everything will fall into place. No. You have to work hard. Once you have done that, you will achieve."

The Barbadian said it's very difficult to make an assessment of things that has changed cricket. "Of course, there's got to be changes. I think some of the changes are for the better. I believe that the players who are playing the game should be able to accept what they think is



right and what is wrong.

"Like in the West Indies, it is very difficult to criticise the players who want to play the IPL because most of them come from very humble backgrounds. And, if they find an opportunity where they can better themselves, then you can't blame them for that."

"I think the changes have been good but the players have to learn to know how to accept and never to forget their countries because Test cricket will always be the utmost and they should always strive to be better at that. Once you are good in that situation, you will be able to produce results. If you work hard, you will be able to perform and you will find that your country will also benefit."

"Players these days are retiring before their time to retire because their whole idea is to go and play in the IPL. I can't blame them. They pay well and one doesn't know how long they will be in the game."

"When you see an opportunity where you can help yourself, and then by all means do that. But look at the game in its right perspective. And I believe that in time to come, a lot of players will recognise that Test cricket is still the No. 1 cricket in the world and Twenty20 is entertainment."

**November 24, 2015**

**'Players will realize that Test cricket is ultimate: Sobers'**

**Times of India (Online)**

"I don't know much about genius. They keep telling me that I am. I don't know what I have done, how I have become a genius. All I know is whatever I have achieved is through the ability I was probably born with. And ability alone doesn't work. You have to work hard to make it work. You don't have to work as much as the other person who does not have the same natural ability," said Sir Garry Sobers, one of the greatest cricketers of all time, during a private function to celebrate the film *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, a biopic on the celebrated Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

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**LINK:** <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/players-will-realise-that-test-cricket-is-ultimate-sobers/article7910036.ece>



# Hard work only route to success: Sobers

K. Shrinivas Rao  
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**Mumbai:** There are only two kinds of sportsmen and women in the opinion of Garfield Sobers. Those born with a natural ability to achieve something special and those who have to put in a lot more effort to achieve the same result because they lacked the natural ability.

But, in either case, says Sobers, hard work is the only route to success. "People call me a genius. I don't know much about geniuses. But I do believe that what I achieved was not just because of the ability that I was born with but also because I worked hard," said the Barbadian, addressing a select gathering of ex-cricketers and connoisseurs in Mumbai on Sunday.

Ability alone, he says, will never work because one's got to work hard to make it work. "And I think that is where I think I capitalized. I worked hard," he said, conversation drifting from his career in cricket to new-found love golf, movies and more.

Sobers has been touring India this week as a personal guest of his good friend and entrepre-



Gary Sobers with Farokh Engineer, Madhav Apte and Dilip Vengsarkar

neur Anand Bhise, who's daughter stars in the upcoming Hollywood movie 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' - on the life and times of math wizard Srinivas Ramanujan. "If you were an Indian or West Indian in England, they always felt their cricketers were better although they knew you were as good as them. It's just that you had to endure a lot more to prove yourself," he said, drawing a parallel between Ramanujan's struggle in the United Kingdom and the challenges he faced before the west started to believe

in his genius and the West Indies of the 50s and the 60s faced on their travel to the United Kingdom, their sole aim to earn respect of their opposition.

Sobers went down the memory lane on a pleasant evening by the Arabian Sea, recounting days as a young cricketer who was in awe of his elder brother Jerry. "When I tell people that I was not as good a batsman as my brother Jerry, people don't believe it. He was better than Seymour Nurse and those who've seen Seymour will know what I'm saying," he

## Vengsarkar gifts Sobers Mumbai tie

Former India batsman and Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) vice-president Dilip Vengsarkar presented the legendary Garfield Sobers with a MCA tie on Sunday, making him aware of Mumbai's contribution to the Indian domestic circuit the last 40 years just the way Barbados had retained its aura in Caribbean cricket years ago. "While presenting the Mumbai tie, I told him that it's the only team in the world that has won the national championship a record 40 times. Farokh Engineer was also quick to point out to Sobers 'what Barbados cricket was to the West Indies, Mumbai has been to India'," Vengsarkar said.

said, speaking to a crowd that had ex-cricketers Madhav Apte, Ajit Wadekar, Dilip Doshi, Farokh Engineer, Dilip Vengsarkar and others in the audience.

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**LINK:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/top-stories/Hard-work-only-route-to-success-Garfield-Sobers/articleshow/49902424.cms>

November 24, 2015

'Golf is the best sport I've ever played: Sobers'

DNA (Print)

AN EVENING WITH A LEGEND | Former West Indian all-rounder says that while IPL has brought in money for players in cricket, Tests should still be priority

# Golf is the best sport I've ever played: Sobers

G Krishnan @Gkspts

Mumbai: It was quite an evening on Sunday, one that sent some of the yesteryear greats in Indian cricket down memory lane.

When legendary West Indies all-rounder Garfield Sobers was in the city, his Indian contemporaries including the captain of that 1970-71 successful tour of the West Indies, Ajit Wadekar, wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer, Kenia Jayantilal, former Test cricketers Nari Contractor, Madhav Apte, Karsan Ghavri, Dilip Doshi and Dilip Vengsarkar cannot be far behind.

"Captain, captain, how are you?" Engineer tried to catch Sobers's attention as the West Indian great was exchanging pleasantries with other known faces at a south Mumbai hotel on Sunday evening.

And, when Wadekar greeted his rival captain, Sobers could not hide his joy. "Ajit Wadekar, how are you? Good to see you," said Sobers before giving him a hug.

Sobers was in the city to support the movie, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, a biopic on mathematics genius Ramanujan.

Holder of many records during



WI great Garry Sobers (centre) and his partner Jackie (left) with former India captain Ajit Wadekar in Mumbai on Sunday, (inset) Sobers with ex-India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer -G Krishnan/dna

his playing days including the epic 365 not out in Tests that has since been broken, Sobers said that records did not matter to him.

"My moment in the game of cricket is not records, not want to do things to be the greatest. My goals were built around my team.

What the team wanted me to do, I did. I could bowl in three different ways, could field anywhere, could bat anywhere," he said.

Sobers also gave a thumbs up to Twenty20 cricket, and the Indian Premier League, which features a lot of West Indies cricketers.

**It is very difficult to criticise the players who play in the IPL because most of them come from very humble backgrounds. If they find an opportunity where they can better themselves, then you can't blame them**

—Garry Sobers



"It is very difficult to criticise the players who want to play in the IPL because most of them come from very humble backgrounds. If they find an opportunity where they can better themselves, and their family, then you can't blame them for that. I also

believe that it's good addition for the game of cricket for many countries," Sobers said.

Sobers added that changes in modern-day cricket are good.

"The changes have been good but the players have to learn to know how to accept and never to forget their countries because Test cricket will always be the utmost and should always strive to be better at that.

"Players these days are retiring before their time to retire because their whole idea is to go and play in the IPL. I can't blame them. They pay well and one doesn't know how long they will be in the game of cricket."

Sobers, who played in 93 Tests between 1954 and 1974, and had dream statistics of 8,032 runs with 26 hundreds besides 235 wickets and 109 catches, said Test cricket is the "utmost" form of the game.

"I believe that in times to come, a lot of players will recognise that Test cricket is still the No. 1 cricket in the world and Twenty20 is entertainment," he said.

For someone who achieved a lot in cricket, Sobers said golf "is the best sport I have ever played".

Sobers initially did not love cricket. When he first tried his hand at the sport in the early 1960s, he missed hitting the ball.

He recounted: "On the last day in Australia when we had that fantastic series in 1960-61, we were playing in Canberra. Sonny Ramadhin took me along to play golf. I swung at this little ball, and you would not believe it, I missed it. I look up at myself and said: 'Bloody hell, you hit all the moving ball and you miss the still ball?' I tried again and missed again.

"Wes Hall showed me how to hit it. He was making sure that he was not going to miss it and took 10 pounds of the turf out of the ground and the ball was still flying in the air (laughs). I started to take the game up and I found it to be a beautiful game.

"To me, golf is the best sport I have ever played. I don't think there is a better sport. It brings out the character in you. When I am home (in Barbados), I play golf six days a week. If I don't find a partner, I play alone. It keeps me fit also," Sobers added.

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For full story, visit dna.in/4225



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'Golf is the best sport I've ever played: Garry Sobers'

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Sobers was in the city to support 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', a biopic on mathematics genius Ramanujan.

Genius is the middle name of Sobers. The legend from Barbados, still regarded as the finest all-rounder the game has ever seen, said "geniuses are born and not made".

"I don't know much about genius. They keep telling me that I am one. I don't know what I have done, how I have become a genius," the 79-year-old said in a conversation with Devika Bhise, who plays the wife of Ramanujan in the movie.

"All I know is whatever I have achieved, I have achieved through the ability I was probably born with. I believe geniuses are born with ability. And, ability alone doesn't work. You have to work hard to make it work. I think geniuses are born. I don't think they are made. They have to recognise what they have and they have to work hard to achieve whatever they want to achieve. Nothing is given to you on a platter. I have known a lot of players I have played with. They had the ability but did not recognise that they not only had the ability but they were geniuses. And, they thought everything will fall into place. No. You have to work hard. Once you have done that, you will achieve."

#### **'NOT FOR RECORDS'**

Sobers's records speak for himself, and the genius that he was. He played in 93 Tests between 1954 and 1974, and had a dream statistics of 8.032 runs with 26 hundreds and took 235 wickets besides holding 109 catches. He held the record for the highest individual Test score – 365 not out – before it was broken by Brian Lara.

“My moment in the game of cricket is not records. I did not want to do things to be the greatest. My goals were built around my team. What the team wanted me to do, I did. I could bowl in three different ways, could field anywhere, could bat anywhere. If they needed an opening bat, I'd go and open. If they needed someone to open the bowling, I'd open the bowling though I started as a left-arm spinner. I did all those things,” he said.

“Records, to me, is not the way to go. If they come in the way of helping your side to be successful, then I am all for it. People set records and break them. To me that is not part of the game. That is trying to make you proud and forget the team. Throughout my career, whether I played for the Police, Barbados, Nottinghamshire, South Australia, West Indies, you will find I always performed when the team was down. Not when it was up. I was a team man. And whatever I achieved, I achieved through that. And, I think a lot of people did recognise that. Whatever genius I had, I worked hard to make it that way.”

### **'BROTHER MORE TALENTED'**

Hard work, Sobers did. But he insisted that his elder brother Gerry was more talented than he was but was unlucky not to play for the West Indies.

He narrated: “As a young boy, I believed in sport. My whole life was built around sports. In Barbados, I must have played seven different sports for the island. I was not an academic. I believed sports was very very important. And that was the way I was brought up.

“My father died when I was five. My mother had six of us. My eldest brother (George) was 11 and he had to leave school early and go to work to help the family. Therefore, we were not exposed to the kind of education that the boys of today and the people of today are. You had to play in those days. When you have six kids, and when mother is not working, it was very difficult to find money to pay.

“I recognised that sport was the thing that I wanted to do, as did all my brothers. As a matter of fact, when I tell people that I was not as good a batsman as my brother Gerry, they still don't believe it. He was very good. He was even better than Seymour Nurse. And, you have seen Seymour Nurse because Gerry and Seymour Nurse were on par and they always chose Nurse because he was an opening batsman. But Gerry came at the wrong time.

“I was very fortunate. I came at the right time. I came when it was a little bit easier to get into the West Indies team. Or even a Barbados team because in those days Barbados was so strong that they could have taken the world on. The 3Ws (Worrell, Walcott and Weekes) were all from Barbados. We had Roy Marshall, Denis Atkinson, Conrad Hunte, they were all top class. I was fortunate and I worked hard at the game because a lot of people used to admire me. And, they let me know. I have heard people talking about 'that little boy, he has got a lot of ability'. I worked very hard to achieve what I achieved.”

Sobers also gave thumbs up to Twenty20 cricket, and the Indian Premier League, which features a lot of West Indies cricketers. In fact, West Indians are a regular in the Twenty20 leagues the world over.

### **'CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR PLAYING IN IPL'**

Speaking about the changes that the game is currently seeing, Sobers said they were good for the game.

“It is very difficult to make an assessment of those things. Of course, there's got to be changes. I think some of the changes are for the better. I believe that the players who are playing the game should be able to accept what they think is right and what is wrong.

“Like in the West Indies, it is very difficult to criticise the players who want to come and play in the IPL because most of them come from very humble backgrounds. And, if they find an opportunity where they can better themselves, and the betterment of their family, then you can't blame them for that. I also believe that it's good addition for the game of cricket for many countries.

“For instance in England, without the Twenty20, many counties would have closed their doors. Also even in our country, without Twenty20, the West Indies cricket would have folded up because when we have Test matches on, we have nobody come and watch the game. Unless it is against England and Australia. And with England, they have something like 10,000 spectators. You find, particularly in Barbados, a crowd of 12000, 10,000 will be English and the other 2,000 will be Barbadians.

“I think the changes have been good but the players have to learn to know how to accept and never to forget their countries because Test cricket will always be the utmost and should always strive to be better at that. Once you are good in that situation, you will be able to produce results. If you work hard, you will be able to perform and you will find that your country will also benefit.

“Players these days are retiring before their time to retire because their whole idea is to go and play in the IPL. I can't blame them. One doesn't know how long they will be in the game of cricket. When you see an opportunity where you can help yourself, then by all means do that. But look at the game in its right perspective. And, I believe that in times to come, a lot of players will recognise that Test cricket is still the No. 1 cricket in the world and Twenty20 is entertainment.”

### **GOLF, THE BEST SPORT EVER**

For someone who has achieved so much in cricket, Sobers said that golf “is the best sport I have ever played”.

Looking at photographs, there is not much difference between Sobers's bat swing and that with a golf club.

However, Sobers said that initially he did not love golf. When he first tried his hand at the sport in the early 1960s, he missed hitting the ball. But gradually, he fell in love with it. And now, it has become an integral part of his life.

He recounted his love affair with golf. "Golf is a wonderful game. When I got into the West Indies team, Sonny Ramdhin, the great little mystery bowler, started off his life as a caddie. He said to me one day, 'why don't you go play some golf?'. I have never been to a golf course. In Barbados, there was one golf course and it was built by the merchants. It was a nine-hole. The only way you could go there was if you were going to be a caddie. And I did not want to be a caddie. "I said to Sonny, 'That stupid game, you hit the ball, and when you lose it, you find it and you hit it again'.

"The last day in Australia when we had that fantastic series (1960-61), we were playing in Canberra. We were staying at a hotel with a golf course. Because I was not playing, Sonny told me to go along with him for a game of golf. He put this little ball down. I swung at this ball, and you would not believe it, I missed it. I look up at myself, 'bloody hell, you hit all the moving ball and you miss the still ball?' I tried again and missed again.

"Wes Hall showed me how to hit it. He was making sure he was not going to miss it. He took 10 pounds of the turf out of the ground and the ball was still flying in the air (laughs).

"I started to take the game up and I found it to be a beautiful game. To me, golf is the best sport I have ever played. I represented my country in table tennis, basketball, soccer and cricket. And, I loved golf. I don't think there is a better sport. Because, it takes only one person. It is the only sport in the world where you can play by yourself. If you are honest, you will say, 'I have had a 65 or a 110, whatever'. It brings out the character in you. I am very glad I play golf. When I am home, I play golf six days a week. If I don't find a partner, I play alone. It keeps me fit also."

**LINK:** <http://www.dnaindia.com/sport/report-golf-is-the-best-sport-i-ve-ever-played-garry-sobers-2148229>



# An evening with Sir Garry

Sobers enthalls audience with anecdotes aplenty during an event to promote the film, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*

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THE word 'genius' was mentioned ad nauseam at the Taj on Sunday evening. The chief guest of the evening — Sir Garfield Sobers, a cricketing genius, was at the venue to promote a film about a genius — Ramanujan.

However, in the course of his on-stage conversation with Devika Bhise, the actress who plays Ramanujan's wife in the to-be-released film, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, the 79-year-old West Indies legend admitted that although he was a naturally gifted cricketer, he had to burn the midnight oil, as it were, to perfect his skills.

### Those Australia days

Not that he mentioned it on Sunday, but it is a fact that when Sobers played for South Australia from 1961 to 1964, he would sometimes take a nap on the masseur's table in the dressing room and would be woken by South Australian cricket's head honcho Sir Donald Bradman with the words, "South Australia are in trouble today, son. You will

**Sobers revealed that his elder brother Gerry was a better batsman than him: "People still don't believe it, but he was very good.**

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have to go out there and make a hundred".

In his autobiography, Sobers revealed that each time Bradman woke him up, he would come back with a hundred against his name.

If this is no work of a genius, nothing is. "Ability and ability alone, doesn't work. You have to work hard to make it work (although) you don't have to work as hard as the other person, who doesn't have the same natural ability," he said to an audience which included India Test cricketers who he had played against like Madhav Apte, Nari Contractor, Farokh Engineer Kenia Jayantilal and of course his opposing captain in 1971 series, Ajit Wadekar. Engineer played against Sobers in county cricket as well.

They were all thrilled to see the greatest all-round cricketer again. Dilip Vengsarkar, former India captain and current vice-president of Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), presented Sobers the MCA tie and Sobers was told by Engineer that Mumbai is to Indian cricket what Barbados is to West Indies cricket.

In the course of his conversation with Devika Bhise, Sobers revealed that elder brother Gerry was a better batsman than him. "People don't believe it, but he was very good.

### My brother Gerry

"As a matter of fact, Gerry was better than Seymour Nurse (former West Indies batsman). He and Seymour were at par but they (selectors) always gave him (Seymour) the nod.

"Gerry came in at the wrong time. I was very fortunate. I came in when it was a bit easi-



**IT'S A TIE:** Dilip Vengsarkar, Mumbai Cricket Association vice-president, presents Sir Garfield Sobers the MCA tie as fellow former Mumbai captains Ajit Wadekar (extreme right) and Madhav Apte look on. Erstwhile wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer is on the extreme left. **PICTURE BY BIPIN KOKATE**

er to get into the West Indies team," said Sobers.

### 'Can't blame players'

Before the great Barbadian advised some members of Mumbai's under-19 team while on the dinner table, Sobers put the Twenty20 monster in perspective on stage: "It is very difficult to criticise players who want to play the IPL (Indian Premier League) because most of them come from

humble backgrounds.

"If they can get the opportunity to be better off, you can't

blame them. Players are retiring before their time because they want to play Twenty20

and I cannot blame them. But I believe there will come a time when a lot of players will recognise that Test cricket is the No 1 form of the game. Twenty20 is entertainment and that is all it is... entertainment!"

**It is very difficult to criticise players who want to play the IPL because most of them come from humble backgrounds. If they can get the opportunity to be better off, you can't blame them** — Sir Garry Sobers

For the full story, log on to [www.mid-day.com](http://www.mid-day.com)

November 24, 2015

'Ability alone, doesn't work, you have to work hard: Sir Garry Sobers'

Mid-Day (Online)

***Legendary all-rounder stresses that natural ability without labour won't make cricketers successful***

The word 'genius' was mentioned ad nauseam at the Taj on Sunday evening. The chief guest of the evening — Sir Garfield Sobers, a cricketing genius, was at the venue to promote a film about a genius — Ramanujan.

However, in the course of his on-stage conversation with Devika Bhise, the actress who plays the wife of Ramanujan (played by Dev Patel) in the to-be-released film, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, the 79-year-old West Indies legend admitted that although he was a naturally gifted cricketer, he had to burn the midnight oil, as it were, to perfect his skills.

**Those South Australia days**

Not that he mentioned it on Sunday, but it is a fact that when Sobers played for South Australia from 1961 to 1964, he would sometimes take a nap on the masseur's table in the dressing room and would be woken by South Australian cricket's head honcho Sir Donald Bradman with the words, "South Australia are in trouble today, son. You will have to go out there and make a hundred".

In his autobiography, Sobers revealed that each time Bradman woke him up, he would come back with a hundred against his name. If this is no work of a genius, nothing is.

"Ability and ability alone, doesn't work. You have to work hard to make it work (although) you don't have to work as hard as the other person, who doesn't have the same natural ability," he said to an audience which included India Test cricketers who he had played against like Madhav Apte, Nari Contractor, Farokh Engineer Kenia Jayantilal and of course his opposing captain in 1971 series, Ajit Wadekar. Engineer played against Sobers in county cricket as well.

They were all thrilled to see the greatest all-round cricketer again. Dilip Vengsarkar, former India captain and current vice-president of Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), presented Sobers the MCA tie and Sobers was told by Engineer that Mumbai is to Indian cricket what Barbados is to West Indies cricket.

In the course of his conversation with Devika Bhise, Sobers also revealed that his elder brother Gerry was a better batsman than him. "People still don't believe it, but he was very good.

**My brother Gerry was better than me**

"As a matter of fact, Gerry was better than Seymour Nurse (former West Indies batsman). He and Seymour were at par but they (selectors) always gave him (Seymour) the nod. Gerry came in at the wrong time. I was very fortunate. I came in when it was a bit easier to get into the West Indies team," said Sobers.

### **Can't blame players for T20**

Before the great Barbadian advised some members of Mumbai's under-19 team while on the dinner table, Sobers put the Twenty20 monster in perspective on stage: "It is very difficult to criticise players who want to play the IPL (Indian Premier League) because most of them come from humble backgrounds. If they can get the opportunity to be better off, you can't blame them. Players are retiring before their time because they want to play Twenty20 and I cannot blame them. But I believe there will come a time when a lot of players will recognise that Test cricket is the No 1 form of the game. Twenty20 is entertainment and that is all it is... entertainment!"

### **Never craved for records**

Sobers ended his Test career in 1973-74 as the highest run-getter with 8032 runs. His unbeaten 365 against Pakistan in 1958 was the top individual score until fellow West Indian Brian Lara surpassed that magic figure at Antigua against England in 1994. He was emphatic in his reiteration that he never played for records: "Records to me, is not the way to go. When people set their stalls on breaking or setting records, to me, that is not part of the game. That is just trying to make yourself and forget your team.

"Throughout my career be it for West Indies, Barbados, Police, Nottinghamshire, South Australia... you will notice I always performed when the team was down – and not when it was up."

**LINK:** <http://www.mid-day.com/articles/ability-alone-doesnt-work-you-have-to-work-hard-sir-garry-sobers/16708165>

November 24, 2015

'Tailpiece'

Mumbai Mirror (Print)

## Tailpiece

**WHAT** is common between Mumbai and Barbados? No brainer. Their rich cricketing culture, of course. Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ajit Wadekar can find their match in Wes Hall, Malcolm Marshall, Clyde Walcott, Joel Garner. There is no dearth of legends from either place. So when word got out that Gary Sobers was in town – to promote the forthcoming Hollywood biopic

Ramanujan – a host of Mumbai cricketers lined up to meet him. Vengsarkar presented him with a Mumbai tie saying it represents a team that has won the national championship an unprecedented 40 times. Farokh Engineer, another Mumbai legend, quipped, “What Barbados (won its national championship a record 22 times) cricket is to West Indies, Mumbai cricket is to India – legend factory.”



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**LINK:**

<http://www.mumbaimirror.com/columns/mumbai-001/Volley-of-the-dolls/articleshow/49899662.cms>

November 24, 2015

'Hard work only route to success: Sobers'

Cricbuzz (Online)

There are only two kinds of sportsmen and women in the opinion of Sir Garfield Sobers. Those born with a natural ability to achieve something special and those who have to put in a lot more effort to achieve the same result because they lacked the natural ability.

But, in either case, says Sobers, hard work is the only route to success. "People call me a genius. I don't know much about geniuses. But I do believe that what I achieved was not just because of the ability that I was born with but also because I worked hard," said the Barbadian, addressing a select gathering of ex-cricketers and connoisseurs in Mumbai on Sunday (November 22).

Ability alone, he says, is never sufficient because one's got to work hard to make it work. "And I think that is where I think I capitalized. I worked hard," said the legendary all-rounder who has 8032 runs and 235 wickets from 93 Tests.

Reminiscing, Sobers said that the West Indies of the 50s and the 60s travelled to the United Kingdom with the sole aim of earning the respect of their opposition. "If you were an Indian or West Indian in England, they always felt their cricketers were better although they knew you were as good as them. It's just that you had to endure a lot more to prove yourself," Sobers said about the challenges faced before the 'trueconnoisseurs' of cricket acknowledged his ability.

Recounting his days as a young cricketer who was in awe of his elder brother Jerry, Sobers added: "When I tell people that I was not as good a batsman as my brother Jerry, people don't believe it. He was better than Seymour Nurse and those who've seen Seymour will know what I'm saying," he said, speaking to a crowd that had ex-cricketers Madhav Apte, Ajit Wadekar, Dilip Doshi, Farokh Engineer, Dilip Vengsarkar and others in the audience.

**LINK:** <http://www.cricbuzz.com/cricket-news/76044/hard-work-only-route-to-success-sobers>

November 23, 2015

'A view from behind the wicket'

Mid-Day (Print)



### A VIEW FROM BEHIND THE WICKET

Cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (left) and former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer reminisce over a 1961 photograph of Sobers and West Indies teammates Wesley Hall, Rohan Kanhai and Seymour Nurse with India's spin great Subhash Gupte and a few Indian journalists including Mumbai's GK Menon (extreme right of the 1961 photo). Sobers is in town to promote the upcoming film, 'The Man who Knew Infinity'. Devika Bhise, who acts in the film, interviewed Sobers on stage at the Taj yesterday. Read all about what Sobers said in tomorrow's **mid-day**. PIC/BIPIN KOKATE

November 20, 2015

'A world legend graces Goa at IFFI'

Gomantak Times (Print)

# A world legend graces Goa at IFFI

BY ETHEL DA COSTA  
[etheldacosta@gmail.com](mailto:etheldacosta@gmail.com)



**Panaji:** One of world's greatest cricketers and former West Indies Captain Gary Sobers has arrived in Goa to support the opening of film at the 46th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2015. Based on the non-fiction book 'The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan' by Robert Kanigel, the



**GT EXCLUSIVE**

film charts the career of Srinivasa Ramanujan Iyengar, a self-taught mathematical genius who, despite having no formal training, would make amazing contributions mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions. Says Sir Gary Sobers, "I am delighted to be in Goa for IFFI to promote the 'Man Who Knew Infinity,' and I am looking forward to seeing this film tomorrow about an Indian Genius." Excited? See you at the movies, Goa!

**Sir Garfield Sobers (R) with lead actor, Devika Bhise of IFFI opening film 'The Man Who Knew Infinity'.**

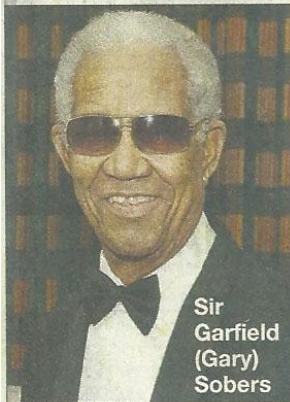


November 19, 2015

'Cricket legend Gary Sobers to visit India'

Bombay Times (Print)

## Cricket legend Gary Sobers to visit India



Sir  
Garfield  
(Gary)  
Sobers



Dev  
Patel

**F**ormer West Indies cricketer Sir Garfield (Gary) Sobers, one of the finest all-rounders, is slated to visit India. He will unveil Dev Patel's upcoming Hollywood film, in which the actor essays the role of renowned Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at a film festival in Goa this week.

— Renuka.Vyavahare@timesgroup.com

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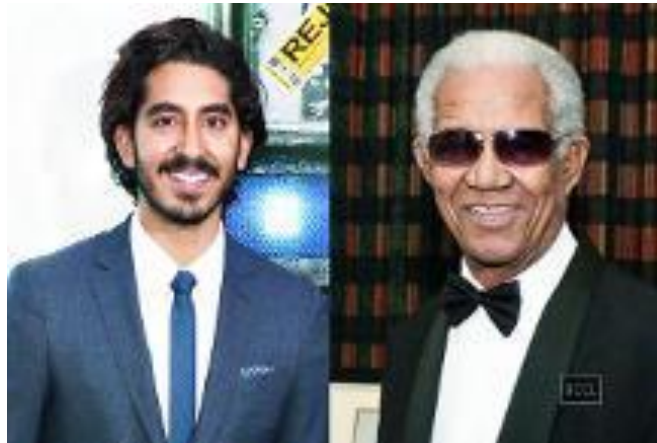
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November 19, 2015

'Cricket legend Gary Sobers to visit India to unveil Dev Patel's film'

Bombay Times (Print)

*Former West Indies cricketer Sir Garfield (Gary) Sobers, one of the finest all-rounders, is slated to visit India.*



He will unveil Dev Patel's upcoming Hollywood film, in which the actor essays the role of renowned Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at a film festival in Goa this week.

**LINK:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/english/hollywood/news/Cricket-legend-Gary-Sobers-to-visit-India-to-unveil-Dev-Patels-film/articleshow/49831137.cms>

## Focused Interviews with the cast & crew

November 23, 2015

Interview with Ed Pressman

'No Indian Producer for Ramanujan Bio-pic, says Producer Edward Pressman' – Samyukta Iyer

Pune Mirror (Print)

### NO INDIAN PRODUCER FOR RAMANUJAN BIO-PIC, SAYS PRODUCER EDWARD PRESSMAN

Matt Brown's gripping biopic, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, based on the life of Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan, was the opening film at the 46th International Film Festival of India in Goa last evening. It received a standing ovation, just like it had at the Toronto International Film Festival and Zurich International Film Festival earlier this year. And the entire unit, including *Slumdog Millionaire* actor Dev



Patel, who plays the title role and New York-based actress Devika Bhise who plays Ramanujan's wife, were teary-eyed by the response in Panjim.

Owing to the positive buzz, several Indian distributors have demanded that the film be re-released here one week prior to its international release on May 6, 2016. But the film's producer, Edward R Pressman,

the filmmaker behind Leonardo DiCaprio's 2010 drama, *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, is still shattered by the earlier response to the film.

"I visited India 10 years ago looking for financiers. I visited every major film production house and studio in Mumbai. Everyone I met wanted me to produce a *Star Wars* for them. My business trip turned into a vacation and I flew back to London. My wife has visited India several times since but I waited till I was ready to show the reel 'Ramanujan' to India," says Edward.

Edward who had the rights to Robert Kanigel's book, *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan*, revived the project in 2012. There were a dozen producers wanting the distribution rights across continents. "In the last few

months, I even received funding from Indian filmmakers, but that was too late," he sighs.

The film follows the journey of Ramanujan, growing up in a poor family in Chennai, going to Cambridge University during the First World War and becoming a pioneer in mathematical theories under the guidance of his professor GH Hardy, played by Jeremy Irons.

Edward, who has produced over 80 films, hasn't given up on Indian filmmakers and looks at IFFI as a great platform to find new talent and partners. "It's a mix of what I really want to do and what can realistically be done. I wish I could have stayed here longer to explore more cinema," says Edward who flies back to the UK on Sunday.

— Samyukta Iyer

**November 23, 2015**

**Interview with Ed Pressman**

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November 23, 2015

Interview with Dev Patel

'My mom is the special one I my life' – Samyukta Iyer

Pune Mirror (Print)

# 'My mom is the special one in my life'

Dev Patel is back in Goa, this time for the Ramanujan biopic which was the opening film of the International Film Festival of India



Jeremy Irons and Dev Patel in *The Man Who Knew Infinity*

Samyukta Iyer  
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Dev Patel cannot sit still. He takes short walks between interviews, his hands turn fidgety while answering questions, he runs his fingers through his mop of curly black hair and taps his feet constantly. "I hate sitting for too long. I just can't do it," he admits.

His big, black eyes twinkle when he laughs, which he seems to be doing 24x7 while he's in Goa promoting his upcoming film, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. "A while back I was in Goa on a holiday and it was so much fun. I want to go shopping and body surfing, explore the place. And there's no harm in knocking back some Feni while I'm here either," he guffaws.

Since, he's already watched the film, the 25-year-old Hollywood star is giving the screenings of his upcoming film a miss, but is sure his Indian-origin parents will cry when

they see the film. "My mom keeps saying that I look like my great grandfather because of the hair and the period costume. She was quite nostalgic when she saw the stills," he reveals.

The actor who has a pronounced British accent owing to his upbringing in the UK worked on the Indian accent for months before he mastered it. "I have dabbled in an Indian accent in *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* in which I played Sonny, but that was slapstick. This is serious. My best friend, Raghu Veer Joshi, became my dialect coach and we spent a lot of time working on my accent together," he reminisces.

There wasn't much research to be done since there was no audio footage on the genius mathematician who gave the world the 'zero'. Being inside the University of Cambridge

helped him understand the man. "Being part Indian-part British helped me and I managed to get my own selfie moment with Ramanujan," he smiles, remembering a shoot in a chapel with Toby Jones who plays his friend and fellow mathematician Littlewood.

"Inside the chapel was a large statue of Isaac Newton and beside it on a wall golden plaques of the men who became fellows at Cambridge. At the bottom was Littlewood and below him Ramanujan. We did the 'yeah man, selfie thing', it was so cool!"

However, Dev candidly admits that he is really poor in maths but is a master prankster. "I had a chemistry teacher in school who had a cactus on her table which she adored. One day, when she wasn't looking, I poured sulphuric acid in it and it went from

a lovely green to a horrible grey," he laughs.

The actor who swayed between American films and TV, appearing in three seasons of Aaron Sorkin's TV drama *The Newsroom*, in which he plays a blogger, Neal Sampath, confides that he hates television. "It moves fast, and you don't have the indulgences you have when you're shooting movies of many takes because of tight deadlines. And Aaron, he's a tough guy to please," sighs Dev.

Another revelation: He loves cooking and does a lot of it these days. He has bought a little home for himself in Los Angeles and the Goa-shopping he mentioned earlier is for his new home. He refuses to allow even the mention of ex-girlfriend Freida Pinto in the conversation but prod him on the special woman in his life and he says, "I'll be shopping for my mom, she's the special one." With that he jumps out of his chair to take a quick walk. This interview, unfortunately, was never going to be infinite!

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**November 23, 2015**

**Interview with Dev Patel**

**'My mom is the special one I my life' – Samyukta Iyer**

**Pune Mirror (Online)**

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**LINK:** <http://www.punemirror.in/entertainment/bollywood/My-mom-is-the-special-one-in-my-life/articleshow/49883099.cms>

November 23, 2015

Interview with Matt Brown

'The world needs more stories of people coming together'

The Hindu (Online)

***Matthew Brown talks of his film that explores the friendship between mathematicians Ramanujan and Hardy.***

Film-maker Matthew Brown's *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, which was recently launched at the International Film Festival of India, is a film that showcases the friendship between mathematicians Srinivasa Ramanujan and G. H. Hardy at Cambridge, in the backdrop of World War I – the clash of their belief systems set off against their common passion for numbers. The director spoke to Shubashree Desikan about how he made the film.

**Q. Writing and directing *The Man Who Knew Infinity* has taken you ten years, nearly. Please describe this process.**

A. When you say ten years – that's how long it's taken to make it. One person does not work on the same thing for ten years. It's gone through different incarnations, you know. As a writer you go through different drafts. Then you show it to other people who say, we'd be interested if you do this and this...then you have to decide whether "this and this" is something you want to do. It's a constant transformation. [Every year or two] I would evaluate whether or not the film was still something I felt strongly about. But I did a pretty solid reworking of the script the last time. And that's what we shot.

**Q. What was the most difficult part of deciding what goes in and what stays out?**

A. When, as a writer or director, you grow to love a scene or aspect of it, and you realise even if you love it, you have to cut it, that's a sad day. The other hard part was that you don't get to do the things you wanted to do... I am also a young director and I have not done very many projects. As a director there were a lot of things I wish I could have accomplished on this film that we did not have the money or the time to do. That was hard.

**Q. What aspect of the story impressed you?**

A. It's an amazing story of friendship, and I think that the world, if I may say, needs more stories of people coming together. That's what this story is about.

**Q. In adapting a book to film, you have to choose carefully. Can you describe this process?**

A. I just followed my instincts really. I read the book that Robert [Kanigel] wrote, a few times. I went through it and made notes. The book covers birth to death. And then it goes into the background of all the characters. I can't tell a movie that's from the day he [Ramanujan] arrives to the day he dies. I always knew that for the first act of the film, it was important to show him in his homeland, because if we don't know what he is giving up to leave, then we don't know his character. That was a trick — how much of India do you show? I focussed on the year before he goes to Trinity and the time at Trinity and a little bit on his return.

**Q. Was tackling the math difficult?**

A. It was difficult, but I had wonderful help in Ken Ono. And Robert Kanigel laid so much groundwork for me. It was difficult in the sense that you don't want to alienate your audience. But with the actors that we chose and the performances they gave, we were able to show the passion for mathematics and it was not so important what we were saying as much as the subtext about their relationship and the passion that they have for the work they're trying to accomplish.

**Q. Hardy says religion, except in the most practical way, played no role in Ramanujan's life, whereas Kanigel talks about Namagiri ... which one did you chose?**

A. I went with Kanigel. I don't think that Hardy got to know Ramanujan until he was sick, until much later in life, from the research that I saw. And when he did get to know him, maybe he told himself that. I don't know, there are different schools of thought on that, but, from everything that I have read, aside from Kanigel, from Indian writers, it was very clear that Ramanujan was deeply religious. He came up with so many ideas... different theorems that were religiously based. So I disagree with Hardy... We never tried to show in the film that he is having this religious awakening and all of a sudden Namagiri puts formulas in his tongue. He worked really, really hard, in many ways. But he was also very intuitive. He didn't like the idea of intuition... not for nothing did he [Ramanujan] say a formula has no meaning unless it expresses a thought of God. That's his words, not anybody else's. I think we show someone who is deeply religious but who also breaks his caste to chase a dream, to be understood, to be able to share his knowledge and to be able to produce more with the help of others.

**Q. Interesting anecdotes from the making of the film...**

A. My elephant walked off the set. He had to go to a wedding! No, really! I had an elephant at the temple, we were shooting, and I went away to shoot something else, when I came back and I needed to shoot the elephant, the elephant walked out on us. Broke my heart. (Laughs) Trinity College allowed us to shoot at the University. It was the first film that has ever been given permission to shoot there. That was humbling and incredible and it's because of how much they cared about this story being told. They'd read the script, they knew there was racism, that they perhaps originally did not do right by Ramanujan, but they embraced this film and the story being told.

**Q. What was shooting in India like?**

A. Shooting in India was amazing. It felt like the opposite of what Ramanujan must've felt in going from India to England. But I did not find it easy, because... we had fireworks going off on Saturday nights in Chennai because of weddings, and we had to shoot on roads that were blocked off by police because of strike.... It was tricky.

**Q. Tell us about your earlier work.**

A. My existence over the past 14 years has been as a screenwriter. I have written a number of screenplays for Hollywood and for other directors, all in different stages of development. This is really in many ways my first film. I will be very happy if people connect with the film. That's all I want.

**Q. In this film, you said you tried to err on the side of authenticity...**

In trying to make a movie about an Indian mathematician at the turn of the century, essentially you are dealing with a period piece. You are dealing with mathematics! You are dealing with all these things that are incredibly unsexy to financiers. Over the years I have been asked to have him fall in love with a white nurse from Trinity, have an affair there. I can't do that. That's not the story. I've got to honour the man and his story. As a result it took longer, but I think it happened in the right way. Now is everything perfectly accurate? We had to cut down on some characters, shorten things in places, had to make changes that you have to make! But overall, I feel very, very proud and I can hold my head up that we honoured this story.

**LINK:** <http://www.thehindu.com/webexclusives/the-world-needs-more-stories-of-people-coming-together/article7905925.ece?homepage=true&w=ma446>



November 22, 2015

Interview with Swati Bhise

'Swati Bhise - The artiste who dances to her own tunes'

The Goan Everyday (Print)

## Swati Bhise - The artiste who dances to her own tunes

Swati Bhise, the Executive Producer of *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, talks about promoting culture and traditional sensibilities

### KURT BENTO

There's this grace that Swati Bhise embodies, a grace that can only come from living a life full of creative expression. When she talks, her gestures give her away. It's then that you know that this is a lady who has graced a stage somewhere in her life. Swati Bhise, however, has graced much more than just 'a' stage. She is an exponent of Bharatnatyam, a dancer who has used her skills and her art to enthrall audiences across the country and across the oceans. Today, there are people in the



Bronx, in New York, who don't just know her, but can tell you a thing or two about Indian classical dance. All thanks to her.

But, this is not the reason why Swati Bhise sits in her dance studio at her fabulous home in Dona Paula, overlooking the ocean. This time she's not here to put her feet up (although, by her own

admission she's pretty much a workaholic). Swati Bhise is an Executive Producer on *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, the Ramanujan biopic that is the opening film at the International Film Festival of India. At first she was reluctant to be a part of it, because her daughter Devika was cast in a leading role. "Her producer, I guess, looked me

### BHISE: ESSENCE OF CULTURE

- An exponent of Bharatnatyam, a dancer who has used her skills and her art to enthrall audiences across the country and across the oceans
- Executive Producer on *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, the Ramanujan biopic that is the opening film at the IFFI
- Teaches at the Lincoln Centre in New York and at different universities across America
- Propagates in India the arts and has even brought stage products to Goa

up online and asked Devika to request me to read the script. At first I was reluctant. But she convinced me to at least read it. I liked it, but I found a few things missing," she says.

She goes on to elaborate on the intricacies of life when Ramanujan was growing up in India, in a Tamil Brahmin family. "He

was an Iyengar boy," she says, by way of differentiation to how someone else from the neighbourhood or a neighbouring state would have acted and behaved at the time. "I took the script and suggested changes. He didn't grow up in a slum, it was a simplistic lifestyle," says Bhise. She helped the producers and directors

understand not just the mindset at the time but also the cultural and traditional sensibilities that would have prevailed then.

That's how a traditionalist would normally act. Swati Bhise is not your run of the mill traditionalist though. She may still extol the virtues of hard work, a good upbringing and learning dance the way it has been taught for centuries, but she has crossed the oceans to teach dance in America, host a television show where she interviewed proponents of different cultural traditions, perform 65 shows a year back then in the eighties and nineties, but still harks back to a beauty of the sounds of the temple, where dance traditions were at their most pure. "I grew up in a

Continued on P4

November 22, 2015

Interview with Dev Patel

'Ramanujan is the Jackson Pollock of mathematics: Dev Patel'

Hindustan Times (Online)

From a 'slumdog' to essaying the character of Srinivasa Ramanujan, actor Dev Patel has made a big leap. On the second day of IFFI, Goa, he talks of multiculturalism, his method of acting and why, to him, Ramanujan is the Jackson Pollock of mathematics. The Man Who Knew Infinity, on the relationship between Cambridge don G.H. Hardy and Ramanujan, was the opening film of the festival.

**Q: You don't look like Srinivasa Ramanujan at all. Did you throw a 'why-me' question at your director?**

A: Not me. The film wasn't a documentary so mimicking was not necessary to capture Ramanujan's essence. We had not much to go by except for some old black-and-white photographs. There was no stock footage to show the quality of his voice, or the way he moved. What we wanted to capture was the nobility of his personality in the face of immense prejudice.

**Q: Victor Banerjee had said that to portray Dr Aziz in The Passage to India he had to speak Indian English. But in The Man Who Knew Infinity you are, of course, mannerism-less.**

A: The film is dialogue-heavy. You can't carry long dialogues for very long with a South Indian accent. So, I opted for a subtle accent that would not overwhelm my expressions.

**Q: What helped you capture Ramanujan?**

A: Ken Ono, one of the best young mathematicians, was involved in the project. He helped us break down complex theories. He showed us the symmetry in these things, which helped me remember as I chalked a few of them on the classroom blackboard for scenes in the film.

**Q: You are a London boy. Is multiculturalism fraying in England? One hears from time to time that the English feel they must review this tradition.**

A: Multiculturalism is a good thing. I was very lucky to have grown up in the England that I have. Never faced the racism that Ramanujan did. The Cambridge of Ramanujan's era was a stiff community unwelcoming to others. Ramanujan was seen as a man with a brown skin. But there were other factors as well. He was the Jackson Pollock of mathematics. He was a man trying to break into a rigid field.

**Q: From 'slumdog millionaire' to Srinivasa Ramanujan – quite a leap. How does the pressure of a single-hero project help the acting?**

A: That pressure makes me want to give 110 per cent. Those are big shoes to fill.

**Q: Do you even like the word 'slumdog'? I have always found it a little weird.**

A: How do you like the word millionaire? I mean if you break the title down, or say, replace it with 'rich millionaire' instead, that's boring. The beauty is in the juxtaposition. The people of Dharavi have seen the film, they didn't seem to mind.

**Q: Do you have an acting method?**

A: I am technically a better actor now. I OCD on myself during a project -- memorising and constant repetition helps the acting process. People close to me understand that they will have to lose their friend for a little while.

**Q: Do emotional risks taken during acting impact your actual life? Did they have an impact on your relationship with Freida Pinto? Are you seeing anyone else now?**

A: No. And this is not a Bollywood no. There is no 'special friend', I mean

**LINK:** <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-cinema/ramanujan-is-the-jackson-pollock-of-mathematics-dev-patel/story-4rPKM4BUNVLTjocnInSCSJ.html>

November 22, 2015

Interview with Dev Patel

'Striking the right equation with Ramanujan's mien'

The Hindu (Online)

***Actor Dev Patel, who plays mathematician Ramanujan in The Man who Knew Infinity, has grown to deeply admire the character that he plays.***

"The amount of sacrifices Ramanujan might have had to do to become a trailblazer is incredible. He put so much at stake. He was a strict Brahmin, he broke his caste, he left his young wife at home and travelled across the sea. People think that's a small thing, but... And then he faced an incredible amount of prejudice because of the colour of his skin and his approach to the medium of mathematics. He was seen as an abstract mathematician, someone who was like the Jackson Pollock of mathematics. He was very radical in a field that was very rigid..." Dev said at the International Film Festival. The actor has managed a sensitive portrayal of the character, treading carefully emotions bordered by silence.

Looking back on the making of the film, he recalls, "One of the funniest things that happened on set was a scene that was unfortunately cut from the film. In Cambridge... the two characters [Hardy and Ramanujan] are looking at the boat races [from the river bank]... one of the British students pushes Ramanujan into the water. He is holding his book in his hand, full of equations, it's like gold. And he falls in and the only thing they're worried about is this book staying dry. And the river, with students drinking all night, peeing on it — not to be rude — it's filthy. It was one of those days when I had to swallow my pride and fall into this sewage. It was very cold and I had to do it again and again. And in the end it got cut. But it was very funny, me and Jeremy, he's helping me get out of the water and I go back in... Chaplinesque."

In the film, Ramanujan's mathematics is not foregrounded, but it's always there. It is more like a landscape over which the story purposefully drives along.

### **Important pieces**

Yet, some singularly important pieces of Ramanujan's work are highlighted gently and without detracting the focus on relationships. Also each and every prop associated with the math has carefully prepared, with inputs from Ken Ono, mathematician from Emory University.

**LINK:** <http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/striking-the-right-equation-with-ramanujans-mien/article7905214.ece>

November 21, 2015

Interview with Devika Bhise

'Devika Bhise and 'The Man Who Knew Infinity''

The Navbharat Times (Print)



# Devika Bhise and 'The Man Who Knew Infinity'

Indian American Hollywood actress **Devika Bhise** portrays the role of Janaki, wife of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan in the Hollywood movie 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', which is the opening film of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). In a chat with **NT BUZZ**, Bhise speaks about her character, qualities that many are not aware of and shares why portraying this role came naturally to her



**NT BUZZ:** Devika Bhise, Indian American Hollywood actress is part of the opening film of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Titled 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', the film is a biopic based on Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Devika plays the role of Janaki, Ramanujan's wife.

Devika while speaking about the depiction in the movie says that they have not based a generic dialect in the movie as opposed to the South Indian dialect. Also, the movie is in English, and, for a fact, Janaki never spoke English in real life.

Devika further says that she took utmost care in presenting herself as it is a period drama. "I wore traditional saree for this role. As it was a period film, I gave attention to the way I walked, sat or even how I spoke. But, it was interesting with that culture," says Devika. She is also happy to be in a film, and is portraying the role of Ramanujan.

When asked about acting with Dev Patel she says, "It was fun working with him and I don't get star-struck." Unlike Ramanujan there is not much research done on the life of Janaki, who according to Devika was the pillar of strength behind Ramanujan and his success story. Devika did read the author of the book Robert Kanigel on whose book 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' the movie is based. "Robert had said, Janaki wrote the way, very old. I introduced with him to learn more about the character," says Devika.

Speaking about the sacrifices Janaki made, Devika says, "Janaki had amazing strength. She didn't understand mathematics, but she understood the passion her husband had for the subject. She also encouraged him to take his career forward. She gave up many things for Ramanujan. She knew it was a long shot, she had to live without her husband and not have children. It was a hard decision in those days during 20th Century. Don't forget film is a man's world," says Devika.



Devika Bhise as Janaki in the movie, 'The Man who knew Infinity'

She further mentions that her mother is known about the character, and Janaki did in her lifetime. "She accepted children and didn't have an education. She even carried a trust in her husband."

While speaking about IFFI 2015, she says she is quite excited as a movie like 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' has been selected as the opening film of the 46th IFFI. "The movie tells an important and true story."

It is a very choice as an opening film. This is my first at IFFI, so I am not expecting too much. I heard that it is an honour to be here, says Devika.

Devika has also signed for movie 'The Boy Who Swam Across the Ocean' opposite to M. Mohanlal in the role of a 10-year-old survivor who has to come to terms with his past. "I can't remember, it is a foreign movie. I think, it is a woman's story. It's an honour to be part of it," says Devika.

"This role is completely different from the role of Janaki. I am playing a college girl who is smart, precocious and is into search of answers," says Devika.



November 21, 2015

Interview with Ed Pressman

'No Indian Producer for Ramanujan Bio-pic, says Producer Edward Pressman' – Sanyukta Iyer

Mumbai Mirror (Print)

## NO INDIAN PRODUCER FOR RAMANUJAN BIO-PIC, SAYS PRODUCER EDWARD PRESSMAN

Matt Brown's gripping biopic, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, based on the life of Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan, was the opening film at the 46th International Film Festival of India in Goa last evening. It received a standing ovation, just like it had at the Toronto International Film Festival and Zurich International Film Festival earlier this year. And the entire unit, including *Slumdog Millionaire* actor Dev



Patel, who plays the title role and New York-based actress Devika Bhise who plays Ramanujan's wife, were teary-eyed by the response in Panjim.

Owing to the positive buzz, several Indian distributors have demanded that the film be released here one week prior to its international release on May 6, 2016. But the film's producer, Edward R. Pressman,

the filmmaker behind Leonardo DiCaprio's 2010 drama, *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, is still shattered by the earlier response to the film.

"I visited India 10 years ago looking for financiers. I visited every major film production house and studio in Mumbai. Everyone I met wanted me to produce a *Star Wars* for them. My business trip turned into a vacation and I flew back to London. My wife has visited India several times since but I waited till I was ready to show the reel 'Ramanujan' to India," says Edward.

Edward who had the rights to Robert Kanigel's book, *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan*, revived the project in 2012. There were a dozen producers wanting the distribution rights across continents. "In the last few

months, I even received funding from Indian filmmakers, but that was too late," he sighs.

The film follows the journey of Ramanujan, growing up in a poor family in Chennai, going to Cambridge University during the First World War and becoming a pioneer in mathematical theories under the guidance of his professor GH Hardy, played by Jeremy Irons.

Edward, who has produced over 80 films, hasn't given up on Indian filmmakers and looks at IFFI as a great platform to find new talent and partners. "It's a mix of what I really want to do and what can realistically be done. I wish I could have stayed here longer to explore more cinema," says Edward who flies back to the UK on Sunday.

— Sanyukta Iyer

**November 21, 2015**

**Interview with Ed Pressman**

**'No Indian Producer for Ramanujan Bio-pic, says Producer Edward Pressman' – Samyukta Iyer**

**Mumbai Mirror & Pune Mirror (Online)**

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**LINK:** <http://www.mumbaimirror.com/entertainment/bollywood/No-Indian-producer-for-Ramanujan-bio-pic-says-producer-Edward-Pressman/articleshow/49865124.cms>

November 21, 2015

Interview with Dev Patel

'My mom is the special one I my life' – Samyukta Iyer

Mumbai Mirror (Print)

# 'My mom is the special one in my life'

Dev Patel is back in Goa, this time for the Ramanujan biopic which was the opening film of the International Film Festival of India



Jeremy Irons and Dev Patel in *The Man Who Knew Infinity*

Samyukta Iyer  
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Dev Patel cannot sit still. He takes short walks between interviews, his hands turn fidgety while answering questions, he runs his fingers through his mop of curly black hair and taps his feet constantly. "I hate sitting for too long, I just can't do it," he admits.

His big, black eyes twinkle when he laughs, which he seems to be doing 24x7 while he's in Goa promoting his upcoming film, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. "A while back I was in Goa on a holiday and it was so much fun. I want to go shopping and body surfing, explore the place. And there's no harm in knocking back some Feni while I'm here either," he guffaws.

Since, he's already watched the film, the 25-year-old Hollywood star is giving the screenings of his upcoming film a miss, but is sure his Indian-origin parents will cry when

they see the film. "My mom keeps saying that I look like my great grandfather because of the hair and the period costume. She was quite nostalgic when she saw the stills," he reveals.

The actor who has a pronounced British accent owing to his upbringing in the UK worked on the Indian accent for months before he mastered it. "I have dabbled in an Indian accent in *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* in which I played Sonny, but that was slapstick. This is serious. My best friend, Raghu Veer Joshi, became my dialect coach and we spent a lot of time working on my accent together," he reminisces.

There wasn't much research to be done since there was no audio footage on the genius mathematician who gave the world the 'zero'. Being inside the University of Cambridge

helped him understand the man. "Being part Indian-part British helped me and I managed to get my own selfie moment with Ramanujan," he smiles, remembering a shoot in a chapel with Toby Jones who plays his friend and fellow mathematician Littlewood.

"Inside the chapel was a large statue of Isaac Newton and beside it on a wall golden plaques of the men who became fellows at Cambridge. At the bottom was Littlewood and below him Ramanujan. We did the "yeah man, selfie thing", it was so cool!"

However, Dev candidly admits that he is really poor in maths but is a master prankster. "I had a chemistry teacher in school who had a cactus on her table which she adored. One day, when she wasn't looking, I poured sulphuric acid in it and it went from

a lovely green to a horrible grey," he laughs.

The actor who swayed between American films and TV, appearing in three seasons of Aaron Sorkin's TV drama *The Newsroom*, in which he plays a blogger, Neal Sampath, confides that he hates television. "It moves fast, and you don't have the indulgences you have when you're shooting movies of many takes because of tight deadlines. And Aaron, he's a tough guy to please," sighs Dev.

Another revelation: He loves cooking and does a lot of it these days. He has bought a little home for himself in Los Angeles and the Goa-shopping he mentioned earlier is for his new home. He refuses to allow even the mention of ex-girlfriend Freida Pinto in the conversation but prod him on the special woman in his life and he says, "I'll be shopping for my mom, she's the special one." With that he jumps out of his chair to take a quick walk. This interview, unfortunately, was never going to be infinite!

I managed to get my own selfie moment with Ramanujan. It was so cool!

**November 21, 2015**

**Interview with Dev Patel**

**'My mom is the special one I my life' – Samyukta Iyer**

**Mumbai Mirror (Online)**

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**LINK:** <http://www.mumbaimirror.com/entertainment/bollywood/My-mom-is-the-special-one-in-my-life/articleshow/49864668.cms>



November 21, 2015

Interview with Matthew Brown

'The Man Who Knew Infinity' director 'thrilled' to be part of IFFI 2015'

NDTV (Electronic and Online)



LINK: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEcMs4Li\\_8g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEcMs4Li_8g)

November 21, 2015

Interview with Matthew Brown

'In Search of Infinity'

Pioneer (Online)

***Director Matthew Brown has documented the life and work of mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan in The Man Who Knew Infinity. He shares with Shrabasti Mallik that he has left no stone unturned while digging for facts on his life and is glad that the actors fit the roles perfectly Srinivasa Ramanujan Iyengar achieved at 32 what most people take a lifetime to accomplish.***

Then again, no one can match his genius. Born to a poor Brahmin family in Madras in 1887, he went on to become the Indian who amazed scholars across the world with his mathematical theories. What piqued their interest was the fact that Ramanujan was an autodidact — he was self-taught and had no formal training or practice in mathematics whatsoever.

Like David Attenborough showed the world the life and struggles of Mahatma Gandhi through his movie Gandhi, director Matthew Brown has captured on camera the story of Ramanujan. The movie, titled The Man Who Knew Infinity, is a poignant and moving documentation of how a young boy, driven by his love for mathematics, grows to become one of the greatest mathematicians in the world.

It was some time ago that Brown read a book by Robert Kanigel called The Man Who Knew Infinity. “I found the book incredible, there was so much to the life of this man that many people do not know about. I knew then that I had to make a film based on his life and his amazing work in the field of mathematical research,” said the independent director.

Thus began the arduous task of digging up facts and sifting through loads of research work. The first thing on his agenda was to get in touch with Kanigel, who gladly opened up his research for Brown. “It was an extensive amount of research that he did for his book and it was incredible — the amount of information that he had on Ramanujan’s life. I was also able to read up on a few Indian biographer’s account on Ramanujan,” said the director who also made quite a number of research trips to India and Cambridge to understand the place and the people more closely. “I even came across a few transcripts of Ramanujan’s work during one of my visits to Trinity College,” the director shared.

And that was not all. He sat with mathematicians Ken Ono and Manjul Bhargava for long hours trying to identify himself with the theories and formulas. Needless to say, he has paid a lot of attention to every aspect of the film. Brown might lack the cinematic prowess that Attenborough had but he just might have made up for that with an eye for minute details and emotions.

In a very subtle way, he has depicted the problems that the young Brahmin boy faced during his stay in England. He hailed from a pure vegetarian family and the movie captures very realistically his yearning for food and his longingness for his own culture and home. "Ramanujan made a huge sacrifice in the pursuit of knowledge, that too at a very young age," said Brown.

Ramanujan's partnership with British mathematician GH Hardy in Cambridge resulted in the formulation of many theories and formulas. "Hardy was a great mentor and was instrumental in getting Ramanujan to England. They were of very different natures and that brought out the best in each other. They had a strong bond and always found a way to come over their differences and publish many papers together," the director added.

Indian actor Dev Patel plays young Ramanujan, while Jeremy Irons will be seen stepping into the shoes of GH Hardy in the movie. According to Brown, like Ramanujan and Hardy, Patel and Irons are radically different from each other. "They have never played such intense characters and I am glad that my casting director chose them. They have delivered a fabulous performance," Brown pointed out.

The Man Who Knew Infinity is opening at the 46th edition of the International Film Festival of India in Goa. And Brown cannot be more proud. Why wouldn't he be? He is bringing back the legacy of Ramanujan back to India.

**LINK:** <http://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/in-search--of-infinity.html>

November 21, 2015

Interview with Matthew Brown

'No Love Story? Then no money' – OPED by Aseem Chhabra

Hindu (Online)

***Funding films is hard — even if it happens to be on Srinivasa Ramanujan — unless a love story is thrown in, says Director Matt Brown***

Making films is not an easy business. That is a given. But it takes a lot more to be as dedicated as Matt Brown, who put in 10 years of his life in making a film based on the life of Srinivasa Ramanujan, the genius mathematician from Chennai. Brown was one film old — he had directed a small comedy Ropewalk in 2000 — when he was handed a copy of Robert Kanigel's biography *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan*. At that time Brown was taking care of a friend undergoing cancer treatment, and started reading the book in the hospital. "I connected with the themes of isolation," said Brown while promoting his film, based on Kanigel's book, at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Aseem Chhabra *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, with Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons in the lead, premiered in India yesterday at the 46th edition of the International Film Festival of India in Goa.

"It directly spoke to me at that time," Brown said about Kanigel's book. "And I started writing the script in the oncology ward." But, despite all his good intentions, Brown found it impossible to raise finances for the film. "At one point I got so fed up that I said I am done," he said, adding that the theme of the film was a hard sell. "It is about an Indian mathematician at the turn of the century with no major love interest. I was asked at one point to show a love affair between him and a white nurse, and the film would have been financed."

While he did not reveal names, a few Indian actors were considered for the project, but that was not enough to bring Hollywood money for the film. Then, two years back, Brown considered sharing the script with Dev Patel. Patel, the star of *Slumdog Millionaire*, faced a few years of struggle too; despite the film winning multiple Oscars, he was only offered the roles of cab drivers and terrorists. But Patel's luck changed with the success of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. And by the time he was approached by Brown, Patel was in his early 20s, relatively close to the age of Ramanujan, who was 27 when he went to Trinity College in Cambridge University to study with G.H. Hardy. With Patel's name attached, there was sudden interest in the film. People were willing to fund it.

London-born Patel, who actually bears no resemblance to Ramanujan, works really hard to tone down his British accent in *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, with some level of success. But at times it seems as though he is trying too hard to transform himself into a Tamil Brahmin. The film actually belongs to Jeremy Irons, who is brilliant in the role of Hardy, a socially awkward man who believed in Ramanujan. Part of the film is set in Tamil Nadu, but it was a challenge for Brown to find authentic streets of Brahmin houses in today's Chennai. So the film crew travelled seven hours by road to find more appropriate locations in Coimbatore. The other challenge was dealing with modern signs of life in Chennai. "I can't say it was easy to shoot with fireworks going on in Chennai every two seconds," Brown said. "Saturday nights are wedding nights in Chennai. It was incredible."

**LINK:** <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/no-love-story-then-no-money/article7900745.ece>

November 21, 2015

Interview with Matthew Brown

'Great stories defy cultural boundaries'

Indian Express (Online)

*Matthew Brown says people should look beyond cultural barriers when making a movie*



*For the biopic, director Matthew Brown has adapted the biography on Ramanujan written in 1991 by Robert Kanigel.*

It is not often that Hollywood directors make a film on an Indian personality, but Matthew Brown, who has brought the life of Indian mathematical prodigy Srinivasa Ramanujan's on the big screen in "The Man Who Knew Infinity", says people should look beyond cultural barriers when making a movie. Starring "Slumdog Millionaire" star Dev Patel in the lead role, the movie is about Ramanujan, whose tutelage under the English academic GH Hardy gave rise to some of the field's more remarkable 20th-century discoveries.

"We don't have to limit ourselves. We are all human beings, we have to get past the culture and colour barriers and work toward making good movies," Brown told PTI on the sidelines of IFFI, where "The Man Who Knew Infinity" was the opening film.

For the biopic, the director has adapted the biography on Ramanujan written in 1991 by Robert Kanigel. The film touches upon the self-taught mathematician's upbringing in India, his mathematical achievements and his collaboration with English mathematician G H Hardy (Jeremy Irons).

When asked why he decided to tackle a complicated story of a mathematician's life, Brown said he didn't treat it like a "science-based film" and saw it more like a human story. "These men were pure mathematicians. But I think of them as artistes and that's how I see science. I was inspired by the book. I can't say that science led me to this but the human story led me to this."



The director said like any other biopic, this project was also an uphill task for him but he decided to hone the story for ten-long years before he thought it was accurate and perfect enough to be presented before the audience.

“Biopics are complicated. I wanted to stay true to his story and probably that’s why it took ten years to make. It was a difficult journey.”

The movie, which had its world premiere at this year’s Toronto International Film Festival, also stars Devika Bhise, who plays Ramanujan’s wife Janaki, Toby Jones, Kevin McNally, Jeremy Northam, Stephen Fry and Indian actors Dhritiman Chatterjee and Arundathi Nag.

Brown hopes that “The Man Who Knew Infinity” will release in the US next year in spring, followed by an India release.

**LINK:** <http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/great-stories-defy-cultural-boundaries-matthew-brown/>

November 20, 2015

Interview with Devika Bhise

'It was tough challenge to transform from contemporary New Yorker to Tamilian Brahmin Iyengar wife from the 1910s'

Goa Times (Print)

# It was tough challenge to transform from contemporary New Yorker to Tamilian Brahmin Iyengar wife from the 1910s



Devika Bhise

Clara.Rodrigues@timesgroup.com

Actress Devika Bhise, who is in town for the premiere of her movie *The Man Who Knew Infinity* at IFFI, based on the life of mathematician Ramanujan, says that unlike most kids, she didn't necessarily detest Math in school — "I used to do a lot of Math in high school, but once I got to college I was pretty focused on the Arts and Humanities."

Devika, who will be playing Ramanujan's wife Janaki in the film, says, "Although Janaki didn't understand Mathematics, she understood the passion and gift that her husband had, and to me, that was much more important than whether she understood the meaning of his equations and notebooks."

The film, directed by Mathew

Brown, also stars *Slumdog Millionaire's* Dev Patel as Ramanujan.

This isn't Devika's first tryst with the mathematician's story. She also happened to play the role of a Goddess in a play based on him some time back. "The play *The Partition*, and the movie *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, handle the subject matter of Ramanujan's life in entirely different ways. The play focused on the mathematics, including ghosts of dead mathematicians, that inspired Ramanujan. The movie focuses more on human relationships — his love and loss with Janaki, and his beautiful friendship with Hardy. Although entirely different lenses on the same story, both my characters (the goddess Namagiri and his wife Janaki) played important roles in Ramanujan's life. They both loved and cared for him and understood the deep importance of

I HAVE A HOUSE IN DONA PAULA, AND I COME TO GOA AT LEAST TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR. I HAVE TWO DOGS, ARIA AND MOZART, AND I TRY AND COME TO VISIT THEM WHENEVER I CAN!

his gift, and his passion for mathematics. Although playing a goddess is much different than the responsibility of playing a real person, the core emotions and motivations of both characters were very similar."

Born and brought up in Manhattan, she says that her biggest challenge in essaying the role of Janaki "was to transform from a contemporary New Yorker to a Tamilian Brahmin Iyengar wife from the 1910s."

Being an NRI, and now a part of the Hollywood scene, she says that though she doesn't watch very much of Bollywood, she's a fan of the older flicks like *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* and *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*.

The pretty actress also tells us that she is a frequent visitor to Goa. "I have a house in Dona Paula, and I come to Goa at least two or three times a year. I have two dogs, Aria and Mozart, and I try and come to visit them whenever I can! My parents also spend nearly half the year in Goa. When I'm here, I rarely leave my home. I love looking at the ocean and spending time relaxing in my gardens or pool! I come here for the peace and serenity!"

Besides her second home, Goa's also a place that indulges her artistic sensibilities — "I have performed in Goa quite a lot. I danced Bharatanatyam at the opening of the Sadir Theater Festival at Kala Academy and sang jazz at the Goa literary festival."

November 20, 2015

Interview with Dev Patel

'Dev Patel plays ambassador for his country once again'

The Herald (Online)

***A mathematical prodigy, Srinavasa Ramanujan's life and work, which has been documented in Robert Kanigel's 'The Man Who knew Infinity', has now been translated into a film by the same name by Matthew L Brown. The film which stars Dev Patel in the lead has been chosen as the opening film for IFFI 2015***

In every film that he has had a chance to highlight his Asian roots, the 'Slumdog Millionaire' star Dev Patel has seen it as an opportunity and an honour to be an ambassador for his country. Essaying the role of mathematical prodigy Srinavasa Ramanujan in his latest film 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', affords him more than just the opportunity and honour to portray this genius. "It is a great source of pride to bring this story back home," he enthuses.

As a tall, good-looking guy, Dev hardly matches the real life Srinivasa, yet writer/director Matthew Brown defends his choice of actor. "There could not have been a better actor than Dev to play the role. He is a fantastic actor who has brought many nuances to the character," he reiterates, while endorsing Dev's views. "We had a very important agenda to bring back this film to India and IFFI has done us the greatest honour by scheduling it as the opening film of the festival.

A story about a mathematician, albeit a prodigy, would hardly seem like an interesting story for audiences, but as Matthew reassures audiences, through the seven years that it took him to make the film, he stayed true to author Robert Kanigel's story to make it one worth watching.

"The human story led me to it rather than science. I tried to err on the side of authenticity and my areas of focus are the period prior to Srinavasa's time at Cambridge, his time at Cambridge and soon thereafter. But I did not shy away from the mathematics. Thanks to Robert who made the story understandable and to the volumes of research he lent me, including some minutes of a UDC meeting at the University which helped me to write the dialogues, that I was able to script a movie that will hopefully be interesting to all audiences. There are various elements that contribute to the film, but overall it's the passion of the artiste that comes through," says Matthew of the film which has opened at the Toronto Film Festival as well as Zurich and is likely to make an entrance at other international festivals before going to New York.

Romance and mathematics hardly seem to be good bed mates, but Matthew, thanks once again to Kanigel who met Mrs Janakiammal Srinavasa, was able to convincingly include this element in the film as well. Lead actress Devika Bhise was able to glean much from her interaction with Kanigel about this strong and charitable lady.

Bringing two cultures together through 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' is perhaps the biggest achievement yet for the crew and cast of the film who are honored to showcase it as the opening film of IFFI 2015.

**LINK:** <http://www.heraldgoa.in/Cafe/Dev-Patel-plays-ambassador-for-his-country-once-again/95846.html>

**November 20, 2015**

**Interview with Matthew Brown**

**'Behind Infinity'**

**The Navhind Times (Online)**

A day prior to the screening of *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, director Matt Brown is a very excited man, and for good reason too. The film is the opening film of the 46th International Film Festival of India. Based on the book by Robert Kanigel, the story has an Indian connection – mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan and his collaboration with his English counterpart G H Hardy. Brown spoke to NT BUZZ about how the film, which took ten years in the making, eventually came out.

**Q: Srinivasa Ramanujan is revered in India, but only in academic circles. How did you come across his fascinating story?**

You are right; it was a bit surprising how people don't know much about him. I was drawn to the story after reading Kanigel's book and the friendship between Hardy and Ramanujan fascinated me. They were from very diverse backgrounds, Hardy was an atheist working at Cambridge and academically he was the elite among elites. Ramanujan on the other hand was deeply religious and yet they had this incredible friendship where Hardy mentored Ramanujan.

**Q: It is a film about two Mathematicians. How difficult was it to write the screenplay based on the book?**

It is not easy to write a biopic although this is not strictly a biopic. When it comes to such stories I try to narrow it down to the most interesting parts of their lives. There is no point in telling a story from childhood to death. Ramanujan had such a short life. So in the film I focused on the part where he left his home in Chennai and came to Trinity where he lived for five years. It is not easy to condense such an incredible story into 100 minutes, but we've tried.

**Q: You had two generations of actors in the form of Dev Patel and Oscar award winning actor Jeremy Irons (Reversal of Fortune). How did the two blend?**

The relation between the two is more like that of father-son or that of a mentor and student, so they fitted perfectly. Jeremy Irons read the script and he loved the character of Hardy. There is one famous picture of Hardy sitting on a chair in a particular fashion. When we were doing the preparation with the costume department Jeremy called me and sat in the same pose and asked, "What do you, think?" He looked so incredibly alike that I couldn't tell the difference. Dev on the other hand came on board about three or four years later when we were working. He is a very intuitive actor and that is what I like about him.

**Q: You also managed to get Stephen Fry on board (who had delved into his own project on Ramanujan).**

I knew Stephen had his project so I thought I'll ask if he would be a part of this film and he generously agreed. He flew down to Chennai for a weekend of shooting and he is the first British character you see on screen.

**Q: Did you have to study and understand Mathematics, as to what Hardy and Ramanujan did, to make the film?**

Fortunately, no! But I did understand the essence of what they did thanks to Kanigel's book and I had some experts with me to work on the project. They painstakingly went through all of Ramanujan's notes to make it as authentic as possible.

**LINK:** <http://www.navhindtimes.in/behind-infinity/>



**November 19, 2015**

**Interview with Devika Bhise**

**'Devika Bhise and 'The Man Who Knew Infinity''**

**The Navhind Times (Online)**

Devika Bhise, Indian American Hollywood actress is part of the opening film of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Titled 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' the film is a biopic based on Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Devika plays the role of Janaki, Ramanujan's wife.

'The Man Who Knew Infinity' premiered at various prestigious Film Festivals like the Cannes Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival and the Zurich Film Festival. At the last it was the opening film.

Devika, daughter of Bharatnatyam dancer Swati Bhise says that getting into the skin of this South Indian character came quite easily to her owing to her background in Bharatnatyam. "I began learning Indian classical dance when I was just five-year-old. This helped me in preparing for the role of Janaki, a character who hails from Tamil Nadu, the place where this dance is geographically located," says Devika, who was talking to us at her residence in Dona Paula. Devika while speaking about the diction used in the movie says that they have followed a generic dialect in the movie as opposed to the South Indian dialect. Also, this movie is in English, and, for a fact, Janaki never spoke English in real life.

Devika further says that she took utmost care in presenting herself as it is a period drama. "I wore nine-yard saris for this role. As it was a period film I gave attention to the way I walked, sat or even held something. But, it was encompassing with that culture," says Devika. She is paired opposite Dev Patel, who is portraying the role of Ramanujan.

When asked about acting with Dev Patel she says: "It was fun working with him and I don't get star-struck." Unlike Ramanujan there is not much research done on the life of Janaki, who according to Devika was the pillar of strength behind Ramanujan and his success story. Devika did meet the author of the book Robert Kanigel on whose book 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' the movie is based. "Robert had met Janaki when she was very old. I interacted with him to learn more about the character," says Devika.

Speaking about the sacrifices Janaki made, Devika says: "Janaki had amazing strength. She didn't understand mathematics, but she realised the passion her husband had for the subject. She also encouraged him to take his career forward. She gave up many things for Ramanujan. She knew in a way that she had to live without her husband and not have children. It was a hard decision in those days (early 20th Century). Don't forget it was a matriarchal society," says Devika. She further mentions that not much is known about the philanthropic work Janaki did in her lifetime. "She adopted children who didn't have an education. She even started a trust in her husband's name as she always believed that education was extremely important," says Devika.

Devika, who is born and brought up in the USA, says that she is more comfortable working in Hollywood than Bollywood. But never say never. "If I get a better role then I would definitely like to do it," says Devika, who further adds that she didn't find that Hollywood typecast Indian origin actors, and Priyanka Chopra acting in the television series 'Quantico' has further disclaimed this concept of typecasting.

While speaking about IFFI 2015 she says she is quite excited as a movie like 'The Man who knew Infinity' has been selected as the opening film of the 46th IFFI. "The movie tells an important and true story. I think it is a very good choice as an opening film. This is my first time at IFFI, so I am not expecting much. But, I heard that it is an excellent festival," says Devika.

Devika has also signed her next Hollywood film 'Shambhala' opposite Mission Impossible-III star Jonathan Rhys Meyers. The film tells the story of a lone plane crash survivor who has to come to terms with a past he can't remember, in a foreign land. Devika plays Tamara, a woman Rhys Meyers encounters along his journey.

"This role is completely different from the role of Janaki. I am playing a college going girl who is smart, precocious and creative, and in search of answers," says Devika.

**LINK:** <http://www.navhindtimes.in/devika-bhise-and-the-man-who-knew-infinity/>

# Reviews

November 20, 2015

Review

'United Colors of Cinema'

The Indian Express (Print)

## United Colours of Cinema

As the International Film Festival of India spools out in Goa, it promises to be high on tech and plush with red-carpet Oscar entries

### EXPRESS FEATURES SERVICE

THE IMPACT of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has been debated ever since its venue shifted to Goa in 2004. Yet, it still offers India's biggest international movie feast in terms of scale, with the number of movies and ancillary activities it brings together for 10 days. Its 46th edition rolls out on Friday with a cultural evening followed by the screening of the opening film *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. One of the most anticipated movies of the year, this biopic of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan features Dev Patel in the lead.

The venue, which has been decked up with designs by Sabu Cyril, art director of *Bahubali*, opens its doors to the delegates today. A total of 289 films from 90 countries will be screened, of which 47 films are Indian.

A special attraction of the festival is the screening of nearly 26 movies, which have been official submissions to the Oscars in the foreign-language category. This includes *El abrazo de la serpiente* (Embrace of the Serpent) directed by Caro Guerra (Colombia); *Mustang* directed by Deniz Gamze Ergüven (France); *Im Labyrinth der Schweigen* (*Labyrinth of Lies*) directed by Giulio Ricciarelli (Germany); *Rams* directed by Grímur Hákonarson (Iceland); and *Enclave* directed by Goran Radovanovic (Serbia); *Que Horas Ela Volta?* (*The Second Mother*) by Anna Muylaert (Brazil); *Solnechny Udar* by Nikita Mikhalkov (Russia); *Nie Yin Niang* by Hou Hsiao-Hsien's (Taiwan) and *El botín de Indio* by Patricio Guzmán (Chile). India's official section for the Oscar, *Court* by Chaitanya Tamhane will be screened as well.

IFFI has launched #IFFI2015 Android Smartphone App to keep moviebuffs updated on trailers, schedules, reminders and events at the festival. For the first time, IFFI will stream the opening and closing ceremonies live. Celebrity interviews as well as masterclasses will also be streamed live on a dedicated



(Clockwise from above) Stills from *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, *The Danish Girl*, *The Clan*



### Festival Favourites

**MID-FEST FEAST:** *The Danish Girl*—one of favourites in the festival circuit in 2015—will be screened on November 25. This Tom Hooper-directed drama, featuring the Oscar-winner Eddie Redmayne, will be screened at Kala Academy at 4.45 pm.

**CLASSIC OPEN-AIR VIEWING:** The 'Indian Classics' section, which showcases eight films, will be unfolded

Panjim's Azad Maidan with the open-air screening of a restored print of the timeless *Pyasa* (pictured). Others films to be screened under this section are *Jail re Jail*, *Manthan*, *Bhavani Bhavai*, *Is Raat ki Subah Nah*, *Uttaraynam*, *Ek Din Achanak*, *Ajantrik* and *Do Bigha Zameen*.

**ROOT MATTERS:** The Indian Panorama opens its features section comprising 26 movies with

Sanskrit movie ever made. The first screening under its non-feature segment will be *Goonga Pahalwan*, directed by Mit Jan, Prateek Gupta and Vivek Chaudhary.

**COUNTRIES IN FOCUS:** Spain is the country in focus this year and aims to familiarise the audience with the work of Carlos Saura, Pedro Almodovar and Alejandro Amenabat. IFFI will also put the spotlight on contempo-

November 20, 2015

Review

'IFFI: United colours of cinema'

The Indian Express (Online)

*As the International Film Festival of India spools out in Goa, it promises to be high on tech and plush with red-carpet Oscar entries.*



The impact of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has been debated ever since its venue shifted to Goa in 2004. Yet, it still offers India's biggest international movie feast in terms of scale, with the number of movies and ancillary activities it brings together for 10 days. Its 46th edition rolls out on Friday with a cultural evening followed by the screening of the opening film *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. One of the most anticipated movies of the year, this biopic of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan features Dev Patel in the lead. The venue, which has been decked up with designs by Sabu Cyril, art director of *Bahubali*, opens its doors to the delegates today. A total of 289 films from 90 countries will be screened, of which 47 films are Indian.

## Festival Favourites



*Mid-Fest Feast:* The Danish Girl — one of favourites in the festival circuit in 2015 — will be screened on November 25. This Tom Hooper-directed drama will be screened at Kala Academy at 4.45 pm. Classic open-air viewing: The 'Indian Classics' section, which showcases eight films, will be unfolded on November 27, at Panjim's Azad Maidan with the open-air screening of a restored print of the timeless Pyaasa (pictured). Others films to be screened under this section are Jait re Jait, Manthan, Bhavani Bhavai, Is Raat ki Subaah Nahi, Uttaramanam, Ek Din Achanak, Ajantrik and Do Bigha Zameen.

*root matters:* The Indian Panorama opens its features section comprising 26 movies with Priyamanasam, the third Sanskrit movie ever made. The first screening under its non-feature segment will be Goonga Pahelwan, directed by Mit Jani, Prateek Gupta and Vivek Chaudhary.

*Countries in focus:* Spain is the focus country. Films include those by Carlos Saura, Pedro Almodovar and Alejandro Amenabar. In the spotlight is contemporary Argentinian cinema.

**LINK:** <http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/iffi-united-colours-of-cinema/>



November 22, 2015

Review

'A filmy tribute to 'The Man who knew Infinity''

Manorama (Online)



At a time when crossing a sea amounts to going against one's religion, you must belong to that rare sort of humans in search of truth to brave the diktats. You need not be a rebel but you must have that passion to make the maximum out of you in your capacity as a thinking being. Sreenivasa Ramanujan, the great mathematician, whom we Indians know as a calm looking person with a sense of anxiety in his eyes as his most popular image shows, was one such man. And one need to watch Matt Brown's 2015 film "The Man who Knew Infinity" to know what he had been through in his quest to tell the truth to the world.

In a nutshell, the film is an adaptation of a book by the same title, written by Robert Kanigel, which imprints the life of Ramanujan - a largely unexplored area. Just like the book, the film offers a detailed account of his upbringing in the then Madras as a pious Brahmin youth, his achievements in mathematics and his academic collaboration with English mathematician G.H. Hardy. The film showcases the life of Hardy and the academic culture of Cambridge University during early twentieth century, precisely in the years of the First World War.



The film focuses much on the life of Ramanujan at Cambridge where he had to put up with racism, its trauma, a sense of negligence and loneliness and above all, a fever which later turned out to be fatal tuberculosis. Slumdog Millionaire fame Dev Patel plays Ramanujan. Even as he manages to bring the emotional turmoil of the man, his anglicised mannerisms do not much match with the poor Aiyangar youth Ramanujan was. Jeremy Irons does a class act as G.H. Hardy, the tough Cambridge professor who turns out to be an admirer of Ramanujan. The friendly yet problematic relationship between the duo has been portrayed well on the screen. Devika Bhise plays Janaki, the wife of Ramanujan. She manages to portray the rustic young lady for whom life means her husband. At one point, she says she can only see colours or objects as they are, to which Ramanujan explains he sees a pattern in everything.

Cambridge is captured in all its beauty by Larry Smith. The film is indeed a tribute to the genius who placed India in the map of contemporary mathematics. Now, let those who have watched Gnan Rajasekharan's Tamil biopic titled Ramanujan go for the comparison.

**LINK:** <http://english.manoramaonline.com/in-depth/iffi-2015-film-festival-goa/movie-review/iffi-tribute-to-the-man-who-knew-infinity-dev-patel.html>

**November 21, 2015**

**Review**

**'The Man Who Knew Infinity review: More exotic than real'**

**Hindustan Times (Online)**

Srinivasa Ramanujan was as much a Tamil as he was a mathematical prodigy. Indeed, he was a staunch Brahmin, in his mannerisms, speech and views, and if one were to alienate him from all these traits, the very character may well suffer.

This is precisely where Matthew Brown's movie on the mathematician, *The Man Who Knew Infinity* -- which opened the International Film Festival of India here on Friday evening -- seems to ring false, especially after Gnana Rajasekaran's Tamil biopic on the genius, *Ramanujan*, had been seen in 2014.

Rajasekaran had ably captured the intimate nuances of the Tamil Iyengar community. He had brought alive quite vividly the mood and essence of Ramanujan's period, the stifling prejudices and so on. Take away all these from the man; he is as good as zero. Brown's work somehow falls short of portraying these qualities that made Ramanujan into what we knew him, and Dev Patel, despite his fairly good acting skills, does not appear like a Tamil Brahmin boy, who left his young wife and mother to cross the seas (considered a sin in the 1920's India) to study and publish his papers.

Although Abhinav Vaadi playing Ramanujan in Rajasekaran's work might not have been quite up to the mark, he looked and sounded the character, unlike Patel, who comes off more as an Anglicised example of one so essentially Indian, nay Tamil. And Bhama, who is seen as his screen wife and Suhasini Mani Ratnam as his mother were very good in infusing their characters with the all the required traits. In Brown's work, Devika Bhise as Ramanujan's wife just does not jell.

Gnana Rajasekaran's Tamil biopic on the genius, *Ramanujan*, ably captures the intimate nuances of the Tamil Iyengar community.

Yes, Jeremy Irons, who essays GH Hardy in Brown's biopic of sorts -- the man who invites Ramanujan to Cambridge -- is excellent. This is the most persuasive aspect of the movie that shows him as a cricket loving, pipe-smoking Englishman, more interested in solving complex mathematical equations than understanding fellow humans. But then Hardy, who initially insists that Ramanujan show proofs of his discoveries, begins to gradually understand that the young wizard when he says that God Namagiri comes to him with the answers.

An almost cold Hardy begins to feel a sense of responsibility towards Ramanujan as he fights the bitter British cold and the cruel racism, finally to be defeated by tuberculosis.

Brown may be a little messy and high-brow, but he does manage to put together a good narrative, a kind of story telling that reminds one of James-Ivory classics. The film is beautifully photographed, and Cambridge looks just wonderful -- most of the movie having been shot there.

But as much as Brown tries to get into a Tamil way of life in his work, he falters, with even Patel's pronunciation of some of the Tamil words going all wrong. In the ultimate analysis, Brown's work may seem more like a piece of exotica -- and this was exactly how Ramanujan was treated by students and professors at Cambridge.

Rajasekaran's film, despite not being quite up there as far production values go, had a far greater feel of authenticity that Brown's effort to create a man who knew infinity.

**LINK:** <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-cinema/the-man-who-knew-infinity-review-more-exotic-than-real/story-BkEHmdjoSpnHZsp7pMgQkL.html>

# Press Conference

November 22, 2015

'Sir Gary Sobers gushes about first film he has ever endorsed'

Times of India (Print)

## Sir Gary Sobers gushes about first film he has ever endorsed

### West Indies Cricket Legend At Iffi To Promote 'The Man Who Knew Infinity'

**Lisa Monteiro**  
@timesgroup.com

**Panaji:** Former West Indies cricketer and one of the finest all-rounders of the game, Sir Garfield (Gary) Sobers, told STOI that the 20<sup>th</sup> century mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan's struggle and humility in the face of adversity and discrimination as portrayed in *The Man Who Knew Infinity* - the opening film at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) - was remarkable and inspiring. Growing up poor in Madras, Ramanujan was treated every bit the outsider and his mathematical theories questioned when he was admitted to Cambridge University during World War I.

Sobers, down in Goa to promote the film, told STOI that he identified with Ramanujan's struggles and was taken back in time to when he first went to England as a cricketer. "If you were an Indian or West Indian in England, they always felt their cricketers were better although they knew that you were as good as them. You had to endure a lot more to prove yourself. In Ramanujan's case, they didn't expect him to have that kind of education to be able to do what he did, and do it so much better than the other students at the university. But he had confidence in himself and didn't get frustrated about the way he was questioned and treated. He was focused, prepared for challenges and held his own with dignity and pride."

**Sir Garfield Sobers | FORMER WEST INDIES CRICKETER**

he has ever endorsed.

He decided to endorse the film after meeting co-producer Swati Bhise and actress Devika Bhise in Barbados.

Looking back at his own life, the 79-year-old said he made the most of what was given to him. "I was a sportsman. I believed in sport and played every sport. I knew I had some kind of talent. I just needed the opportunity to show it. When I was given that opportunity I grabbed it with both hands and never looked back because of that wanting and that yearning to show the world what I had," he said.


Visiting the state for the first time, he confesses he has neither the time nor the inclination to go sightseeing. "I always believe my energy can be used in other different forms and fashions," he says, grinning when he adds, "I could be on a golf course in Barbados. I just love golf. I play everyday at home and even if I don't find a partner, I go and tee off. It keeps me mobile." He can't get enough of the sport and admits he is hooked to the game that fellow West Indian bowler Sonny Ramadhin introduced him to. "I told him it was a silly game where you hit the ball, find it and, like an idiot, you hit it again. Once I started I can't seem to get enough of it. What's really fascinating about golf is that you can go to any part of the world with your golf clubs and play. It's the only sport where you can play against the course and don't need a partner. I go to bed each night hoping the sun comes out the next morning just so that I can get out on the golf course again," he says.

When asked what sport he follows closely today, he replies, "Fortunately for me, cricket is played in India, Australia and South Africa during the time that I don't have to play golf. Otherwise I wouldn't be following it. Golf always takes priority," he admits.

He will move to Mumbai to promote the film and meet a few senior cricketers, after which he will head home to spend Christmas with his large family after five weeks of travelling. He has been associated with the Barbados tourism authority for more than three decades and has recently been active in attending world travel marts and exhibits.

Ramanujan's story, he says, teaches us that, "There may be certain places where we may not be wanted, but if we persist and don't show any anger and malice, we can succeed as he did." While he believes a genius has to be born with some kind of ability and then be able to identify it, nothing that is worthwhile achieving ever come easy. "You have to work hard and make that ability work for you and when opportunities present themselves, don't let them slip away. Grab them with both hands," the cricket genius advises.

**IFFI 2015**



Actress Devika Bhise and Sir Garfield (Gary) Sobers share a light moment

**Panaji:** A Television Festival of India (FTI) Patron was suspended after he signed a youth... spotted... lice... tion. A... gister... conce... protes... Tw... were... protes... remo... tion... (IFFI)... intm... han... were... turd... 7... into... utt... ope... Th... of... br... Ja... ar... ti... d... C... s... (

**November 22, 2015**

**Press Conference**

**'Sir Gary Sobers gushes about first film he has ever endorsed'**

**Times of India (Online)**

Former West Indies cricketer and one of the finest all-rounders of the game, Sir Garfield (Gary) Sobers, told STOI that the 20th century mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan's struggle and humility in the face of adversity and discrimination as portrayed in *The Man Who Knew Infinity* - the opening film at the 46th International Film Festival of India (Iffi) - was remarkable and inspiring. Growing up poor in Madras, Ramanujan was treated every bit the outsider and his mathematical theories questioned when he was admitted to Cambridge University during World War I.

Sobers, down in Goa to promote the film, told STOI that he identified with Ramanujan's struggles and was taken back in time to when he first went to England as a cricketer. "If you were an Indian or West Indian in England, they always felt their cricketers were better although they knew that you were as good as them. You had to endure a lot more to prove yourself. In Ramanujan's case, they didn't expect him to have that kind of education to be able to do what he did, and do it so much better than the other students at the university. But he had confidence in himself and didn't get frustrated about the way he was questioned and treated. He was focused, prepared for challenges and held his own with dignity and pride," the cricket genius told TOI, speaking about the first film he has ever endorsed.

He decided to endorse the film after meeting co-producer Swati Bhise and actress Devika Bhise in Barbados.

**LINK:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/Sir-Gary-Sobers-gushes-about-first-film-he-has-ever-endorsed/articleshow/49876169.cms>

**November 21, 2015**

**Press Conference**

**'46th IFFI takes off at Goa with national and international celebrities'**

**Hindustan Times (Online)**

The 46th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) today started off in Goa with a gala show held at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium. Hon'ble Minister, I&B, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley today inaugurated the film festival in the presence of Chief Guest Anil Kapoor along with Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar, Governor of Goa, Smt. Mridula Sinha, Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Laxmikant Parsekar, Minister of State, I&B Shri Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Secretary, I&B, Shri Sunil Arora among other national and international dignitaries.

The opening ceremony was graced by various national and international actors and filmmakers like Shekhar Kapur, Michael Radford, Julia Jentsch, Suha Arraf, Jeon Kyu-Hwan, Sonakshi Sinha, Kabir Khan, Sudhir Mishra and the entire team of the opening film 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' including director Mathew L. Brown, actor Dev Patel, Devika Bhise and Toby Jones. The event was compered by actors Ayushman Khurana and Aditi Rao Hydari.

The amazingly energetic performances by Indian dancer and choreographer, Terence Lewis, specializing in contemporary dance and his troupe kept the audience spell-bound.

Addressing the ceremony, Shri Arun Jaitley said, "From romance to historical to social turmoil, cinema has provided many opportunities to feel every moment of life. IFFI is most awaited event of the year where the great film talents assemble at a single platform. Goa has been the perfect venue and there cannot be any perfect destination for a film festival. The chief guest of the evening Mr. Anil Kapoor has a unique charisma that entertains millions of audience around the world. The Centenary Award winner Shri Ilaiyaraaja is an iconic figure in the music field and his work inspires the musicians all over the world. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Russian filmmaker and actor Nikita Mikhalkov."

The Honourable I&B Minister also stated that as Indian cinema is marching ahead towards global glory, the festival is enhancing, enlarging, and enriching the film viewing experience of local as well as international audience. He felicitated the International Jury and conferred the Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the Year to the ace music composer Shri Ilaiyaraaja.

The chief guest of the ceremony, Anil Kapoor said, "A film festival is great platform to promote film and reach out to large and diversified audience. IFFI is gaining huge popularity amongst the global audience with its selection of good films and different interactive sections. It is an honour to share the stage with the legendry Shri Ilaiyaraaja. He has been the music composer of my second film and I appreciate the film festival for bestowing him the Centenary Award."



The Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri. Arun Jaitley released a book 'Legends of Indian Silver Screen' at the opening of IFFI 2015 here today. The book has been brought out by the Publications Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Shri Jaitley released the book in the presence of actress Sonakshi Sinha, director Kabir Khan and actress Devika Bhise.

The 11-day film festival will bring a perfect mélange of remarkable films and celebrities from across the world. It will screen 187 films from 89 countries in World Cinema section while 26 Feature and 21 non-feature films will be screened in Indian Panorama section. The festival is all set to become more exciting internationally with 26 Oscar entries and 120 premieres to be screened in different sections. The International Competition will have 15 films from countries like Argentina, Japan, Iran, Palestine, France etc. This year Spain is the Focus Country of the festival. Organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in collaboration with Government of Goa and Entertainment Society of Goa, the festival will conclude on 30th November

**LINK:** <http://www.goainfomedia.com/46th-iffi-takes-off-at-go-a-with-national-and-international-celebrities/>

**November 20, 2015**

**'Film on Ramanujam to open 46th IFFI'**

**The Navhind Times (Online)**

The cast and crew of the opening film of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' are proud that the film based on true friendship that changed mathematics forever. Based on the book by Robert Kanigel, the film traces the life of Ramanujan, a self-taught Indian mathematics genius and his bond with his mentor, the eccentric professor GH Hardy, and his fight against prejudice to reveal his mathematic genius to the world. Present a day prior before the opening of the film festival was writer and director of the film Matthew Brown, actors Dev Patel, Toby Jones and Devika Bhise, producer Edward Pressman and executive producers.

Honoured and humbled that 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' was selected for IFFI, director Matthew said the film though meant for a global audience has an Indian and Goan connect as the story tracks the life of great mathematician Ramanujam and stars actors of Indian origin in the lead. The film has a Goan connect as the actress Devika Bhise who plays Janaki (Dev's wife) has a Goan connection.

He went on to say that while many might be averse to the subject of mathematics, the film has taken on the subject really well, especially after working on it for close to ten years and gathering as much resource as possible – documentaries, written material, etc.

"I didn't want to shy away from maths, but wanted to take it on. However, it is the passion of the artistes and the human story beneath the film that makes it very appealing to a film viewer."

Waiting for the film to be unleashed today after the opening ceremony, Dev Patel who shot to fame with Slumdog Millionaire confessed that though mathematics and he never got along well, which was embarrassing for him as his father is an accountant, he thoroughly enjoyed getting into the shoes of a great Indian mathematician for which he had to do a lot of acting.

On being asked about his journey in Hollywood being an Asian actor where many roles are typecast he said: "I'm very weary of being typecast. But, on the other hand, I have my motto where I treat every obstacle as an opportunity. While Slumdog Millionaire did open doors for Asian actors like me, I must say that I am lucky to have had a nice journey and haven't faced any discrimination."

At the same time he went on to say that there are pros and cons of being typecast in roles and that he doesn't at all mind be an ambassador of his culture. "I am young and there is a lot to learn," said the actor who was seen in the HBO TV series The Newsroom written by Aaron Sorkin, where he played writer of Will's blog and electronic media expert.

**LINK:** <http://www.navhindtimes.in/film-on-ramanujam-to-open-46th-iffi/>

November 20, 2015

'I was worst at mathematics'

Indian Express (Online)

***Speaking on his initial struggles to find producers for the movie, the director said when it came to science movies, everyone was looking for sci-fi projects like Star Wars.***



*Matthew Brown (second from left) and Dev Patel (third from left) in Goa on Thursday.*

"I was worst at mathematics," actor Dev Patel candidly admitted on being asked of his interest in mathematics.

The actor who takes on the role of Indian-origin mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan in director Matthew Brown's film *The Man who Knew Infinity* said his performance in the subject became an embarrassment since his father was an accountant.

"I was quite embarrassed... but hey, I am playing the role of the greatest (mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan). So, yes, there was a lot of acting involved (to cover up mathematics inabilities)," he said while speaking at the press meet on the 'opening film' at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The actor, while refuting being typecast over his Asian looks in Hollywood, said it opened doors for him. "People use the word typecast very loosely. But looking at it rather as a challenge than obstacle, I don't mind being an ambassador to my culture. Yes, it does require me to work hard (to fit into other roles), but there are pros and cons. In fact, it was one such project — *Slumdog Millionaire* — that opened doors of opportunity for me and, likewise, many other actors," Patel said.

Speaking on his initial struggles to find producers for the movie, the director said when it came to science movies; everyone was looking for sci-fi projects like *Star Wars*.

"A few years back, even in India, I remember, it was difficult; there were not many takers for the story of Ramanujan. But having read the great book (*The Man Who Knew Infinity*) written by Robert Kanigel, I was inspired by the characters..." Brown said.

The film is based on the life of the great Indian mathematician Ramanujan, whose research in the field of number theory took the English academia by storm during the First World War. His friendship with Cambridge Professor G H Hardy forever changed the world of mathematics. His evolving friendship with the professor, who championed his brilliance against racism and prejudice, is the real core of the film.

Highly engaging performances by Dev Patel in the lead role and Jeremy Irons as his curmudgeonly mentor gradually warm up the Cambridge story. "I even had an interaction with Robert Kanigel to understand my role as Janaki Ammal (Ramanujan's wife), since he had spoken to her while authoring his book," said the female protagonist, Devika Bhise, who plays Janaki in the film.

**LINK:** <http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/entertainment-others/iffi-2015-the-man-who-knew-infinity-involved-lot-of-acting-says-actor-actor-dev-patel/>

**November 20, 2015**

**'The Man who knew Infinity' to open 46th IFFI'**

**Times of India (Online)**

'The Man who knew Infinity', a biopic on master mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, will open the 46th edition of the ten-day International Film Festival of India, on Friday evening. The film has premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and the 11th Zurich Film Festival earlier this year.

The role of the 20th century mathematician is being played by Dev Patel of Slumdog Millionaire fame. He says it is almost sacred to bring the inspiring story back to Ramanujan's home country. The ambitious and intellectual cross cultural film set largely in Trinity College, Cambridge University, was in the pipeline for almost a decade with the producer and director refusing to waver from the authenticity of Ramanujan's story.

Edward R Pressman had a tough time convincing financiers in India about the film especially when people like "Ronnie Screwvala wanted to make Star Wars", he said. Others wanted Ramanujan to fall in love with a white nurse to make the film more commercially viable but they would have none of it.

"You rarely find a story that is so remarkable that it is worth telling. Ramanujan's life story is timeless and considering he had all the odds against him, his story is more relevant today with the refugee crisis, race and class differences arising, than it ever was," director Matthew Brown told TOI of his "passion project". More than mathematics, it is Ramanujan's relationship with his wife, mother and his mentor G H Hardy played by Jeremy Irons that touches the audience on an emotional level.

"We haven't shied away from mathematics in the film. Ramanujan wasn't a mad genius, he had to leave his family in order to feel understood and accepted. All mathematicians are artists and we can all understand them if we're invited to experience their journey including their trials and tribulations," Brown told TOI.

Actress Devika Bhise, daughter of famed Bharatnatyam dancer Swati Bhise who also co produces the film, plays Janaki, Ramanujan's wife. Born and brought up in New York, it was her Bharatnatyam roots that helped her slip into the character of the South Indian woman in the early 20th century.

The western audience, she observed drew different inferences from the film. They found Ramanujan's mother cruel when she tried to keep him away from his wife but the Indian audience understood that she was doing it to allow her son to concentrate on mathematics. "The film will be understood very well in its cultural context and resonate with Indian people," she said.

The film is gaining so much popularity that former president Jimmy Carter asked to see the film after which the producers organized a private screening for him. After IFFI-Goa, 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' will travel to the Singapore International Film festival and the Dubai International Film Festival. It will release in the US on May 6th and soon after in India."

**Link:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Goa/The-Man-who-knew-Infinity-to-open-46th-Iffi/articleshow/49851542.cms>



November 20, 2015

Goa Film festival , 46th International Film Festival of India

Mobile News 24 (Online)



Press conference by Matthew Brown  
Director of the film THE MAN WHO  
KNEW INFINITY, at the 46th  
International Film Festival of India (IFFI-  
2015), in Panaji, Goa on November 19,  
2015.

**LINK:** <http://mobilenews24.com/261-2/>

**November 19, 2015**

**'Ramanujan's Passion for Mathematics Shown in the Film will Appeal to the Masses' – Matthew L Brown**

**Business Standard (Online)**

The Director and writer, cast and crew of the opening film *The Man Who Knew Infinity* interacted with the press at the Kala Academy here today. The film is based on the true story of friendship between the Indian mathematics genius Ramanujan and his professor G H Hardy at the Trinity College, Cambridge and how Professor Hardy worked to reveal the true genius of the great mathematician.

Writer and Director of the film Matthew L Brown, Actor Dev Patel, Actor Toby Jones, Producer Edward Ramback Pressman, Producer Joe Thomas, Devika Bhise-actress playing the role of Janki and Swati Bhise, Associate Producer(India) for Cultural Authenticity and distributor for the Indian sub-continent were present at today's press conference.

In their opening brief, the celebrities felt privileged and excited to be a Part of 46th IFFI. "Slumdog kid" Dev Patel of the *Slumdog Millionaire* fame is the protagonist in the film. Actor Dev Patel said I feel lucky enough to be a part of this project and bring Ramanujan back to the people of India. Replying to a question received on PIBs twitter handle Dev Patel replied in real life, my maths is 'terrible'.

Replying to a question , Matthew L Brown, said it has been a long journey that took ten years from conceiving to writing ,directing and to be a part of the IFFI 2015 here. More than science it was the human emotions that led to the making of the film, he added. In Response to a question about the mass appeal of a subject like maths chosen for the film, Mat Brown said that the passion for Mathematics in the character Ramanujan will appeal to the masses.

Earlier, introducing the cast and crew, Swati Bhise said Matthew L Brown brings Ramanujan to India, just as Attenborough brought Gandhiji through his film 'Gandhi'. She informed that Mathew took 8-9 years to conceive and script the film as he wrote it after a lot of research on Ramanujans life and keeping in mind the sensitivities and complexities of South Indian lives.

*The Man Who Knew Infinity* is the true story of a friendship that forever changed mathematics. In 1913, Ramanujan (Dev Patel), a self-taught Indian mathematics genius travelled to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he forged a bond with his mentor, the eccentric professor G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons), and fought against prejudice to reveal his mathematical genius to the world. The film is based on the biography of the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan* written in 1991 by Robert Kanigel. The film had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival this year, and was also shown at the Zurich film festival.

**LINK:** [http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/cast-and-crew-of-the-opening-film-of-iffi-2015-interact-115111901162\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/cast-and-crew-of-the-opening-film-of-iffi-2015-interact-115111901162_1.html)

**November 19, 2015**

**'Ramanujan is my passion project'**

**Press Trust of India (News Flash)**

Matthew Brown's interest in the life of Indian mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujan and his zeal to present the story to the world took the director 10 years to make "The Man Who Knew Infinity", but he is satisfied with the outcome of his decade-long labour.

The biopic is Brown's first major release and it stars "Slumdog Millionaire" actor Dev Patel in the lead role, alongside Jeremy Irons, Devika Bhise, Toby Jones and Stephen Fry. Edward R Pressman and Jim Young have produced the film.

The story is about Ramanujan's admittance to Cambridge University during World War I, where he becomes a pioneer in mathematical theories with the guidance of his professor, G H Hardy.

"The Man Who Knew Infinity" will open the 46th edition of IFFI. The movie had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival this year.

"It is my passion project. It has been a very long journey on Ed's part and everyone's part. It is an absolutely incredible moment to be here and get this opportunity to get the film here in India. I am honoured and humbled. It is amazing moment personally and hopefully for Ramanujan's story as well," Brown told reporters.

The Indian-origin actor, who shot to worldwide fame after starring "Slumdog Millionaire", said it feels "sacred" to get the film to the India.

"It's a great honour to bring the story here. It is sacred to bring the film back home. Can't wait to see the masses' reaction to the film."

Pressman, best known for his films "American Psycho", "Wall Street", "Reversal of Fortunes", said it was initially very difficult to find financiers in India as everyone wanted him to make a "Star Wars".

"This film took nine years to come together. I came to Mumbai 8 or 9 years ago to convince financiers to back such a film but most of them wanted to do 'Star Wars'. Even though Ramanujan was a great Indian hero but it was not seen as a commercially viable film. "It was Matt's passion that convinced Jeremy, that's what convinced Dev and he has done a marvelous job. It is his first major film, I am proud of him," Pressman said.

**LINK:** [http://www.ptinews.com/news/6754800\\_Ramanujan-is-my-passion-project--Matthew-Brown.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/6754800_Ramanujan-is-my-passion-project--Matthew-Brown.html)

**November 19, 2015**

**'Ramanujan is my passion project'**

**India Today (via PTI – News Flash)**

Matthew Brown's interest in the life of Indian mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujan and his zeal to present the story to the world took the director 10 years to make "The Man Who Knew Infinity", but he is satisfied with the outcome of his decade-long labour.

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"It was Matts passion that convinced Jeremy, thats what convinced Dev and he has done a marvellous job. It is his first major film, I am proud of him," Pressman said.

**LINK:** <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/ramanujan-is-my-passion-project-matthew-brown/1/527037.html>

**November 19, 2015**

**'Dev Patel Proud of Ramanujan Legacy, But Scared of Maths'**

**New Indian Express (via IANS – News Flash)**

He may have played a young Ramanujan, India's greatest mathematician, but for 25-year-old Dev Patel, mathematics as a subject in the school curriculum has always been a scourge.

But maths or no maths, the British-born Patel, a native of the western Indian state of Gujarat, believes that by playing the genius Srinivasa Ramanujan Iyengar, the 19th century Indian wizard of numbers, in Matt Brown's "The Man Who Knew Infinity", the actor is fulfilling an almost sacred obligation of bringing the legacy of an Indian hero back to his homeland.

Patel, who is in Goa to attend the inaugural ceremony of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which opens with his film, spoke to a select audience about his role as Ramanujan, his fear of being typecast as the 'Asian guy', how Hollywood is evolving and, of course, his dread for mathematics. "As a matter of fact, I was terrible at mathematics. It was worse because my father is an accountant. Hey, thus is life. I am playing one of the greats (Ramanujan). I think there is a lot of acting that was involved," the strapping six-foot-two-inch tall actor said.

Patel leads the star cast which has the masterly Jeremy Irons, an Academy award winner, Stephen Fry, Toby Jones, Devika Bhise among others.

The film, which largely tracks down the life of Ramanujan in Cambridge and his passage to Britain and back to India after his stint at Trinity, according to Patel, is a priceless homage to one of India's greatest geniuses.

"I think it was a very important agenda for us, to always bring this story back to India. My heritage as you know, I was from Gujarat. I feel great responsibility to bring back the great Indian icon back and I am lucky enough to be able to do so," Patel said.

Asked if he felt typecast into playing 'typically' Asian roles in the West, the actor said that while his motto was to convert adversity into opportunity, he also believed that Hollywood was in the process of evolving.

"I don't mind being sort of ambassador to my culture. That being said, does it require that much hard work to get my foot in the door? Yes. Do people scrutinise the decisions I make more? Yes, one of my mottos is to see an obstacle as an opportunity. So people use the word typecast very loosely and like I said earlier on, I've turned what people see as a negative as something positive," he said.

"Hollywood's becoming more and more diverse, I am very lucky that I rode the wave of this incredible film 'Slumdog (Millionaire)', which was my first project and that kind of opened a lot of doors for a lot of actors including myself. The film was bigger than anyone that was in it really," he said.

Patel point-blank said he did not have to face the obvious rigours of discrimination.

"So you know I am lucky, but I am not one to go on about any kind of... I haven't faced any kind of obtuse discrimination in any way. It's been a good journey with positives and negatives," he said.

**LINK:** <http://www.newindianexpress.com/entertainment/hindi/Dev-Patel-Proud-of-Ramanujan-Legacy-But-Scared-of-Maths/2015/11/19/article3136692.ece>



**November 19, 2015**

**'IFFI: Its lights, camera, action from today'**

**The Goan Everyday (Online)**

***The Man Who Knew Infinity' to be opening film; Over 7,000 delegates register***

The 46th edition of the International Festival will kick off with actor Anil Kapoor doing the honours at the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Stadium at Bambolim on Friday evening.

The 12th edition of the festival to be held in Goa -- with more than 7,000 delegate registrations received -- will feature 187 films from 89 countries including 47 of the Indian Panorama section.

While 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' directed by Matthew Brown a film on the 1913 self-taught Indian mathematical genius Ramanajun and his friendship with G H Hardy who helped reveal the mathematics genius to the world will be the opening film, this year's biggest Argentinean box office hit, The Clan (El Clan) will be the Closing Film of the festival.

Academy Award winner director, Tom Hooper's film 'The Danish Girl' will be the festival's mid fest film.

"We have personally inspected and reviewed the preparations at different venues which include arrangements for the opening and closing ceremonies, opening film, Indian Panorama section and arrangements for delegates and media in terms of hospitality and logistics," Secretary Information and Broadcasting Government of India Sunil Arora said. The festival will be opened by Actor Anil Kapoor on November 20 and brought to a close by composer A R Rahman on November 30.

**LINK:** <http://englishnews.thegoan.net/story.php?id=6401>

**November 17, 2015**

**Press Note**

**'It's IFFI time again, folks!'**

**Herald (Online)**

***As the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is barely a few days away, Café takes a peek into what's in store this year for the ten-day extravaganza that starts November 20, 2015***

IFFI is back and if one has to go by the design of the almost-done props and installations and the overall vibe, it is looking much better than the 2014 edition. For those who are not clued in to what's happening this year at IFFI, veteran film actor Anil Kapoor will be Chief Guest for the inaugural event which will showcase 187 films from 89 countries. The festival will open with a film based on the life of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', written and directed by Matthew Brown, and will close with a Spanish film, 'The Clan' directed by Pablo Trapero. Check out the following highlights to know exactly what's happening at IFFI 2015.

### **Indian Panorama**

The section will have a confluence of 26 remarkable films from different languages and states out of which eight films will be from Bengal. Sanskrit film 'Priyamanasam' directed by Vinod Mankara has been chosen as the Opening Film in the Indian Panorama section. Salman Khan's 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', Cannes FIPRESCI winner 'Masaan', India's Oscar entry 'Court' and Goa's very own 'Nachom-ia Kumpasar' are some of the other films in the Indian Panorama section.

### **Special Focus**

The festival will have a special Focus on North East Cinema and will showcase the best of films and filmmakers from the region to the world. The section will have a Special Retrospective on Aribam Syam Sharma, the eminent filmmaker, actor and music composer from Manipur along with a unique segment featuring the next generation film-maker from the North East.

### **Retrospective**

IFFI will be screening eight films of veteran actor-filmmaker Shashi Kapoor under its special Retrospective section. His masterpiece film 'Junoon' will inaugurate the section at the forthcoming film festival. 'Junoon' (1978) will be screened as the opening film of special Retrospective Section followed by 'New Delhi Times' (1986), 'Utsav' (1984), 'In Custody' (Muhafiz) (1993), 'Kalyug' (1981), 'Deewar' (1975), 'Shakespearewallah' (1965) and 'The Householder' (1963). However, it will be a bummer to not have the veteran actor here in Goa due to poor health conditions, as clarified by his son Kunal Kapoor in an official statement.

## **Country Focus**

This year, IFFI will have Spain as the country focus for the festival with best of the films from the country to be presented throughout the festival. In the country focus section, the organisers have lined up the best of Spanish cinema ranging from master filmmakers like Carlos Saura and Pedro Almadovar to the young and enthusiastic director Alejandro Amenabar. The section will also feature Leticia Dolera's debut film 'Requirements To Be A Normal Person'.

## **International Competition**

IFFI 2015 will be screening 15 best films from world-class filmmakers in the International Competition Section. Kaushik Ganguly's 'Cinemawala' and Debesh Chatterjee's 'Natoker Moto' are the two Indian Films selected in this section. The section is so popular amongst the world film fraternity that this year it has attracted films and filmmakers from unconventional film regions like Argentina, Venezuela, Serbia, Bolivia and Jordan, among others.

## **Special Tribute and Contemporary Argentinian Cinema**

IFFI 2015 will see a tribute being paid through an exclusive section, to French film actress and film producer Anna Karina. Anna Karina's 1965 films 'Alphaville' and 'Pierrot Le Fou' and 1962 movie 'To Live Her Life: A Film in Twelve Scenes' will be screened at the festival. Anna Karina was a Danish-French film actress, director and screenwriter, who worked in France through her career. Karina won the Best Actress award at the Berlin Film Festival in 1961 for her interpretation of the character Angela in the film 'A Woman Is a Woman'. In 1972, she set up a production company named Raska for her film-directing debut 'Vivre Ensemble', in which she also acted.

IFFI 2015 will also have a contemporary Argentinian cinema section. The section on contemporary Argentinian cinema will see six films being screened.

## **New additions**

IFFI 2015 will also screen some of the outstanding directorial debuts of 2015 in a newly introduced segment - 'First Cut'. The section would feature emerging filmmakers including Brian Perkins ('Golden Kingdom', USA), Michael Klette ('Solness', Germany) and Piotr Chrzan ('Moskvich-My Love', Poland) among others. Also, in a special series titled 'In Conversation', the Indian filmmakers Shyam Benegal, Vettramaran, Kaushik Ganguli and Anand L Rai will be present to discuss films and the art of filmmaking with the audience. Additionally, IFFI 2015 will feature a special section 'World Cinema Restored Classics' to highlight the idea of film restoration. The Film festival will also feature a package of classics to put spotlight on National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM).

**LINK:** <http://www.heraldoa.in/Cafe/It%E2%80%99s-IFFI-time-again-folks/95746.html>