

November 20, 2015

'A world legend graces Goa at IFFI'

Gomantak Times (Print)

A world legend graces Goa at IFFI

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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'.

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!

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

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

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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

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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/>

Reviews

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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 Grimur 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*, *Uttaramunam*, *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 Jank, 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-

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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 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/>

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'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.

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>

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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/>