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## German band enthralls audience as film fest ends

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THE 10<sup>TH</sup> edition of Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) concluded to the sprightly strains of the Top Dog Brass Band from Dresden, Germany. Specially invited for the event, the eight-piece jazz and marching band even did an enthusiastic duet with a city-based tutari player on the stage.

The chief guest for the evening ceremony was Minister of State for Culture, Fauzia Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, film-maker Jabbar Patel and director of this edition of PIFF, said the festival is important for improving the travel possibilities to the city. Patel announced two additions that will be made to next year's edition of PIFF — the introduction of another category of awards for Indian

cinema debut and going beyond the current reach of the festival and touch the Pimpri-Chinchwad area as well.

Kannada director and jury member, Girish Kasaravalli, said that PIFF has helped Marathi cinema make inroads into international film festivals. "The past seven days have been about just cinema, cinema and more cinema. I helped organise film festivals for three years, and I was so tired that I bid goodbye to it. The festival continuing for 10 years is a commendable job," he said.

The Government of Maharashtra 'Prabhat' Best International Film, which carries a cash prize of \$20,000, was won by the German film, *Wer Wenn Nicht Wir (If Not Us, Who?)*. The Best International Film Director was won by Iranian film-maker, Asghar Farhadi for the film, *Nader & Simon: A Separation*.

Marathi films stole the spot-

light at the award ceremony with *Ha Bharat Majha* winning the best Marathi film award, Uttara Bavkar won the best actor trophy which she shared with actor Subodh Bhavde (*Balgandharva*). Umesh Kulkarni won the Best Director award for *Deool* while *Shala* won the specially-constituted audience popularity award.

Students of the Film and Television Institute of India had a heyday at the stakes, picking up multiple awards. Under the Whistling Woods International Student Film Awards, Nikhil Mulay won the Best Audiographer award for *Shankamama*; Sylvester Fonseca won the Most Promising Indian Cinematographer Award for his work on *Open Cafe V2.5* while final-year student Renu Sawant was honoured with the Best Student (Direction) award that has been specially introduced for FTII direction students.