



26th March 2012

A first, FTII to conduct course in film curation

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MARCH 25

FOR the first time ever, the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) will be conducting a four-day course in Film Curation: Theory and Practice. Indranil Bhattacharya, Professor Film Appreciation, and coordinator of the course said, "The course will look at the science behind the packaging of films for the film festivals."

Bhattacharya said the field is an emerging one in India and it has generated interest ever since the digital age was ushered into film making.

"The course will aim to re-frame, re-contextualise and clear the space for new inter-

pretations of films. The idea to conduct the course came after a lot of our ex-students, who had been to festivals around the world, came to us asking about film curation and the science behind it. Hence, we asked professionals to conduct the course," he said. It is learnt that there are plans to make this course a permanent fixture in the FTII curriculum.

During the course, Italian film curator Italo Spinelli, Aashish Rajadhyaksha, authority on silent Indian films and curator and filmmaker Meenakshi Shedde will be speaking on the various aspects of film curation. As many as 20 participants including senior students and faculty members will be attending the course.



Italian film curator Italo Spinelli, Aashish Rajadhyaksha, authority on silent Indian films, and curator and filmmaker Meenakshi Shedde will be speaking on various aspects of film curation at the course

The course will cover topics such as the job of a film curator, the idea behind it, and its practices. In addition, it will have debates on cultural context in film cura-

tion, film history and theory relevant to the curator, research, writing and building networks, the understanding of film laws and bylaws, rights related issues and the

many challenges that are there in front of curators.

"Spinelli will also be showcasing some of his films. The challenge for curators arise when they have to develop a comprehensive package of films for a festival," he said.

Interestingly, there is a lot of work that is happening in India in this field. Bina Paul, one of the coordinators of the Kerala Film festival, is assisting the Dr Ambedkar University in Delhi to develop a full time course on Film Curation.

"Universities abroad now offer full time courses under film studies. Also, more and more cities in India are hosting film festivals that require curators to compile the packages for them. It is about time that we also start thinking on similar lines here at FTII," said Bhattacharya.

