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## FTII students win National awards

### REPORTER

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**Pune:** As the news of the 59th National Film Awards came in through the wires on Wednesday, it was time for the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) to celebrate. Two of its student films bagged prestigious honours in the non-feature section at the awards.

While Gautam Nair has won the Best Audiography for '1, 2' (Directed by Prantik Basu), 'Airawat', a 10-min short fiction film directed by Renu Savant has received the Special Mention Certificate. "This award is for everybody who has worked very hard for the film. This was my 2nd year project and all the credit for whatever I've learnt in film-making goes to the FTII. More than the skills, I think it's the knowledge that you get here that makes the institute spe-

cial," Savant, now a 3rd year student of direction, said.

Nair, a 3rd year student of audiography, also expressed gratitude towards his alma mater and said it's the non-commercial and academic nature of FTII that makes it different from the rest. "As a student, this award means a lot. This film was an academic exercise I did in my 2nd year. My only aim then was to get what I studied right. To be recognised by the government is truly special," said Nair.

To see that these award-winning short films get the visibility they deserve, amidst an onslaught of big-budget Bollywood films, a conscious effort must be made by the film-makers and the audience, Savant said. "To find spaces for the distribution and exhibition of short films will need a big social commitment from the audience," she added.