



THE TIMES OF INDIA

KOLKATA | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010

'Vorai' to revel in the Festival spirit

Director Subhrajit Mitra's short film, 'Vorai', will be screened at the forthcoming Kolkata Film Festival 2010

Amrita RoyChoudhury | TNN

Director Subhrajit Mitra's short film, "Vorai", will be screened for the first time in India at the forthcoming Kolkata Film Festival 2010, scheduled to begin on November 10. The director, obviously, is elated.

Ask him about it and he says, "This is like getting back my lost child. "Vorai" was my first fiction work, which I directed a few months before "Mon Amour-Shesher Kobita Revisited". I had forgotten about it to be reminded only recently by a friend, who called up to tell me that it will be screened twice (November 11 and 13) at the Festival. Though this awareness film was canned by me, the concept, script and music were by Dr Kedar Ranjan Banerjee. He was the brains behind this project."

This short film has snapped up quite a few prestigious awards and has got recognition in international festivals like Golden Gate Fiction & Documentary Festival, Festival Du Cinema De Bruxelles, Festival De Cine De Granada and Busho Film Festival. Talking about the project, Dr Banerjee, a psychiatrist, says, "The film is based on my real-life experiences. I, as a doctor, visit places like Sunderbans quite often, where I attend mental health camps. In fact, the story is real and even the characters are real in the film. Though this awareness film will have a public screening for the first time in India at the Kolkata Film Festival 2010, I carry the same with me to villages that I visit and show it to villagers, blinded by superstition."

The story of the film is set in a remote village in Dooars. Bhagirath, the protagonist (essayed by Banerjee himself) is a deaf and dumb farmer, who otherwise, happens to be perfectly normal in every possible way. But villagers make fun of him because he can neither hear nor speak. At the receiving end of the villagers' wrath is yet another schizophrenic man. A doctor comes to the village health centre and tries to change the popular mindset.



A still from 'Vorai'