57th IFFI makes a new beginning with festival's first-ever 'Films About Films' section

Five international productions spanning ten countries to screen in Goa from November 20 to 28

Curated on the suggestion of renowned filmmakers, the debut line-up explores the lives, legacies, and creative journeys behind cinema

Goa, 18 November 2026

Cinema has always been about stories that travel across borders, generations and cultures. But behind every film is another story waiting to be told, that of the filmmaker, the creative process, the struggles and the people who shape it.

Bringing these stories into focus, the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), under this year's theme, "Stories Without Borders", introduces a new section that turns the spotlight on cinema itself. Through stories of legendary filmmakers, actors and films that were never made, the section offers audiences a chance to explore the many journeys that make cinema what it is.

Stepping behind the camera to explore the stories, storytellers, and creative journeys that bring a motion picture to life, the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) introduces a curated space where cinema becomes both the storyteller and the story. Debuting for the very first time in the festival's history, the new 'Films About Films' segment invites audiences at the 57th IFFI, scheduled to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28 2026, to look closely at the art and craft of filmmaking itself.

Added in response to suggestions from renowned filmmakers with the objective of bringing the art and craft of filmmaking to the forefront, this inaugural segment features five international productions. Spanning productions and co-productions across ten countries, UK, USA, Russia, Georgia, Estonia, Turkey, Switzerland, France, Germany, and Italy, the line-up offers cinephiles a rare look at the lives and legacies that shape world cinema.

The journey begins with a filmmaker whose work has left an enduring mark on the language of cinema.

Directed by Barnaby Thompson, **Maverick: The Epic Adventures of David Lean** (UK, USA | 2026 | English | 105 minutes) explores the life and career of legendary filmmaker David Lean. The documentary looks at his creative vision, ambitious projects and determination to push cinematic boundaries, while also examining the personal struggles behind his professional achievements and his lasting influence on modern cinema.



Moving from the legacy of a celebrated filmmaker to the lives and relationships that shape the stories we tell, the selection turns to a more intimate exploration of human experience.

From Russia, **Raul Geidarov's Sidney Lumet's Birthday** (Russia | 2025 | Russian | 92 minutes) follows Dato, a 17-year-old Georgian boy living with his grandmother amid the remains of a once-large family. When his mother unexpectedly returns after a long absence, their quiet routine is disrupted in a story that explores family relationships, growing up and the struggle to remain human through difficult circumstances.



The relationship between life and performance takes centre stage in the next film, where the boundaries between an actor and the character he portrays begin to blur.

Ana Urushadze's **Supporting Role** (Meorekhariskhovani Roli) (Georgia, Estonia, Turkey, Switzerland, USA | 2026 | Georgian, Armenian | 139 minutes) centres on a celebrated Georgian actor who returns to acting after a long break and auditions for a young director's first film. Offered an unusual supporting role instead of the heroic characters he is accustomed to playing, he gradually connects with the character in an experience that begins to transform him.



From the personal journey of an actor, the selection moves to a story about a film that never made it to the screen, revealing how cinema is also shaped by the political and historical circumstances surrounding its creation.

In **The Mad Dog of Europe** (France, Germany | 2026 | English | 83 minutes), director Rubika Shah revisits an unproduced screenplay written by Herman J. Mankiewicz in 1932 about a German-Jewish family facing the rise of Hitler and Nazism. Never made by Hollywood studios due to political pressure and commercial interests, the documentary examines the reasons behind its suppression and its relevance in the present context.

Completing this journey through the lives, creative struggles and legacies that shape cinema is a tribute to one of its most influential masters.



Rounding out the lineup, **Francesco Zippel's Vittorio De Sica - Staging Life** (Italy | 2026 | Italian, French, English, Russian, Farsi | 100 minutes) presents an intimate portrait of Vittorio De Sica, one of the great masters of world cinema. Drawing on rare archival material, family access and testimonies from filmmakers and contemporary artists, the documentary traces his life, work and cinematic legacy.



Together, these five films offer more than a glimpse into the making of cinema. They explore the people behind the camera, the lives that inform performances, the stories that remain untold and the legacies that continue to influence generations of filmmakers. By bringing these diverse journeys together, the new section adds another dimension to IFFI's theme of “Stories Without Borders”, reminding audiences that cinema's reach extends beyond the stories on screen to the creative journeys, historical contexts and human experiences that bring them to life. With its debut, ‘Films About Films’ also creates a space for audiences to engage with the art and craft of filmmaking from a fresh perspective.

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to be held in Goa from 20th to 28th November 2026, will bring together filmmakers, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from India and across the world under the theme “Stories Without Borders.”

The newly introduced ‘Films About Films’ section embodies this theme by bringing together stories of filmmakers, actors and cinematic legacies from across countries and cultures, demonstrating how the art of filmmaking itself transcends geographical boundaries.

By exploring the people, ideas and experiences behind cinema, the section highlights the universal creative journeys that connect filmmakers and audiences across the world. With a diverse line-up of Indian and international films, special country showcases, premieres, competitions and industry engagements, IFFI 2026 continues its tradition of celebrating cinematic excellence and promoting cross-cultural exchange through cinema.

* * *

PIB IFFI Team | Rajith Chandran/ Lekshmi Priya S S/Sasmita /Darshana Rane | IFFI 57 - 027