'Pagla Ghora' and 'Ohh My Dog' Explore the Profound Dimensions of Human Conscience and Unconditional Love at 57th IFFI

> Art Has No Borders, Only Roots: Sekhar Das on the Universal Appeal of 'Pagla Ghora'
>
> Animals Do Not Carry the Burden of Prejudice; Their Loyalty Is Absolute: Amit Rai, Director of 'Ohh My Dog'

Goa, 23 November 2026

While one story brings the ghosts of the past face to face with a restless conscience, the other celebrates a love so pure that no distance or adversity can diminish it. Exploring two contrasting yet deeply moving dimensions of the human experience, '*Pagla Ghora*' and '*Ohh My Dog*', the Bengali and Hindi selections in the Indian Panorama, took centre stage at a press conference today at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Filmmakers Sekhar Das and Amit Rai, accompanied by acclaimed Bengali actress Gargee RoyChowdhury and producer Dr. Prabir Bhaumik, interacted with the media, sharing insights into their respective films and their exploration of guilt, betrayal, empathy and unconditional devotion. Together, these narratives celebrate cinema's power to transcend linguistic and cultural boundaries through the universal language of human emotion.



***Pagla Ghora*: A Haunting Journey into Guilt, Remorse and the Human Conscience**

National Film Award-winning filmmaker Sekhar Das, along with lead actress Gargee RoyChowdhury and producer Dr. Prabir Bhaumik, shared insights into the cinematic adaptation of legendary playwright Badal Sircar's post-realist theatrical masterpiece, '*Pagla Ghora*'. Set against the eerie backdrop of a forest crematorium at night, the film follows four men who gather for the cremation of a woman who died by suicide. As her spirit confronts them, their buried secrets surface, revealing a shared history of betrayal and infidelity. What unfolds is a haunting exploration of guilt, emotional abandonment and the human conscience, underscoring the painful truth that remorse often comes too late.

Speaking about the enduring relevance of Badal Sircar's work and the universal appeal of regional cinema, Director Sekhar Das underscored the power of authentic storytelling to transcend linguistic and geographical boundaries. "Art does not have any borders; it only has roots. When a story is deeply rooted in human conscience and emotional truth, it speaks to audiences everywhere, regardless of language," he remarked.



Gargee RoyChowdhury reflected on the emotional intricacies of portraying a character whose presence becomes both a mirror to human frailty and a catalyst for moral awakening. Her role, she highlighted, demanded a delicate engagement with the film's layered emotional landscape.

Producer Dr. Prabir Bhaumik emphasized the significance of supporting literary and theatrical adaptations, noting their vital contribution to preserving India's rich artistic and dramatic heritage while introducing timeless works to contemporary cinematic audiences.

***Ohh My Dog*: Celebrating the Extraordinary Bond of Unconditional Love and Loyalty**

Moving from the complexities of human relationships to the extraordinary purity of the human-animal bond, acclaimed filmmaker Amit Rai presented his Hindi feature '*Ohh My Dog*', a heartwarming yet emotionally charged narrative celebrating empathy, courage, resilience and unconditional affection.

Amit Rai, known for acclaimed films such as *Road to Sangam*, *I-pad* and *OMG 2*, brings together two parallel journeys across India. In Assam, 14-year-old Apu embarks on a desperate quest to rescue his kidnapped dog, Momo, while in Bihar, Oscar, a fiercely loyal dog, sets out to find his kidnapped 15-

year-old owner, Prince. Separated by distance but united by an unbreakable bond, their journeys unfold into a heartwarming tale of courage, resilience and unconditional love, celebrating the extraordinary power of devotion to transcend all boundaries.



Sharing the inspiration behind the film's dual narrative, Director Amit Rai spoke about the remarkable emotional honesty of animals and their ability to transcend the prejudices and conditions that often complicate human relationships. "Animals do not carry the burden of prejudice or conditional affection; their loyalty is absolute. Through these parallel journeys, I wanted audiences to experience how empathy and devotion can bridge any distance and overcome every fear," he said.

The Press Conference was moderated by Shri Mahesh Kumar.

Watch the Press Conference here:

Press Conference | Ohh My Dog & Pagla Gho
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