

2nd Best Film Competition Award given away

Academy awards films, artists for quality work

Srinagar, October 4, 2013

J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages Friday gave away the 2nd Best Film Competition Award recognizing quality work in fiction and non-fiction categories by local film makers and artists. The entries for competition, invited earlier, were judged by a committee of experts.

In all, nine awards were given including the Best Film, the 2nd Best Film and the 3rd Best Film in both fiction and non-fiction categories, the Best Director, the Best Actor (male) and the Best Actor (female).

The awards were given away by Minister for Housing, Horticulture & Culture, Raman Bhalla, at a function held at the Institute of Hotel Management auditorium here. Prominent artists, writers, students and people in large numbers were present.



The Best Film Award in non-fiction category went to '*Quality of Life*' produced by Big Fun Productions. The 2nd and 3rd awards in the category were bagged, respectively, by '*Five Chirus Flat*' produced by Public Service Broadcasting Trust and '*Caliemondy Revisited*' produced by Tricorn Odeon.

In the fiction category the 1st, 2nd and 3rd awards were respectively bagged by films '*Auqat*' produced by Krishna Productions, '*Purana Ghar*' produced by Debonair Film and Video Communications and '*Hatchu Ichdar*' produced by Nanak Video Communications.

Rahul Sharma bagged the Best Director Award for the film *Auqat*. The Best Actor (Male) was won by Pankaj Khajuria for his role in *Auqat* while Neelam bagged the Best Actor (female) Award for her performance in *Hatchu Ichdar*.



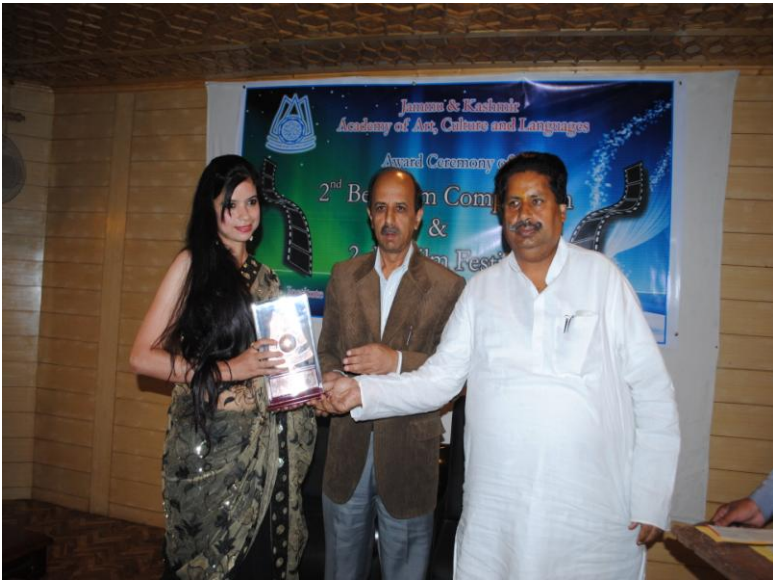
Alongside the award ceremony, a 2-day festival of the awarded films was also inaugurated at the venue. On the inaugural day, the Best Films in both fiction and non-fiction category were screened. The remaining four films would be screened on Saturday, the concluding day of the event. The festival was kick-start by the Minister.

The award in both fiction and non-fiction categories carries cash prize of Rs. 25,000 for the Best film, Rs. 20,000 for the 2nd Best Film and Rs. 15,000 for the 3rd Best Film. The award for the Best Director and Best Actor (male and female) carries cash prize of Rs. 20,000 each. Besides, a memento, certificate and a shawl is given to each awardee.

In his address, Minister for Housing, Horticulture & Culture, Raman Bhalla, said that Jammu & Kashmir has no dearth of talent in visual arts and the State government was committed to promote this talent. He said avenues would be explored to harness the talent of our artists so that they can compete with the best in the country and elsewhere.

The Minister said that the Best Film Competition started by the Academy was an important step aimed at promotion of visual art in the State. He said artists and other persons related with the production of films had worked hard and genuinely earned awards for their work. He congratulated them for their achievement and hoped they would do better in the coming years.

Earlier in his welcome address, Secretary Academy, Khalid Bashir Ahmad, said that the award was aimed at recognizing and honouring creativity in the visual media. He said the Academy provides platform to artists both in visual and performing arts to showcase their talent and also awards best works in art and literature. The Best Film Competition Award, he said, could be seen as an effort to encourage and groom local talent in film making.



Khalid said that 16 films were received for the competition including 9 in fiction and 7 in non-fiction category. He hoped that the competition would encourage local film makers to participate in large numbers in future and make it more competitive. He thanked the participating productions houses and artists for making the competition a success.

The entries were evaluated and recommended for awards by a committee comprising, among others, Kuldeep Sinha, former Director General, Films Division, Government of India and S L Balmike prominent film expert.

The Best Film in non-fiction category, *Quality of Life*, directed by Aakash Shakeel, deals with people suffering from mental ailment and highlights factors responsible for increase in the number of mentally ill people and the mental healthcare infrastructure available in Kashmir.

Auqat, the Best Film in fiction category made in Dogri language, revolves round the struggle and aspirations of an unemployed graduate from a poor family and the dreams of his father about the future of his son who ultimately lands up accepting a job of a peon in place of his father on the latter's retirement.
