

Name of the Activity: Shakespeare and Cinema

Category: Departmental Seminar

Organising Unit: Organised by Department of English and Film Studies.

Date, Duration, Time and Venue: September 20, 2022. Two hours, New Building Auditorium.

Speaker : Prof. Ashoke Viswanathan, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata.

Special Talk on --- Shakespeare in Cinema

No. of Beneficiary : 70.

Brief Discussion and Outcomes:

1. Nature and character of cinema discussed--(the ontology of the photographic image as elucidated by Andre Bazin).
- 2.The relationship between literature and cinema: while the one moves from the abstract to the concrete, the other moves from the tangible towards either the abstract or a more concrete narrative flow.
3. Shakespeare as the source of a content that is amenable to different media.
4. How does one adapt Shakespearean texts to the screen? Major techniques of cinematic transformation.

Excerpts from King Lear (by Godard), Macbeth (by Akira Kurosawa) and Othello (Orson Welles) screened.

Reference texts discussed: a) "How to read a film" by James Monaco

b) "Film art" by Bordwell and Thompson

c) "Shakespeare and world cinema" by Mark Thornton Burnett.

Ashoke Viswanathan's Profile/CV

Ashoke Viswanathan is a multiple national and international award-winning filmmaker who is currently Professor and Dean at Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata.

He has directed more than 150 film projects including feature films ('Sunya Theke Suru', 'Kichu Sanglap Kichu Pralap' etc), documentaries, shorts and television shows.

Apart from the national awards, he has had 6 Indian Panorama entries at the International Film Festival of India (Goa) in 1994, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2021. He is a Charles Wallace scholar at Downing College, Cambridge (1997) and has won the Dishari, BFJA, Kalakar and Jaycees awards besides the Silver Torchlight award at Pyongyang (1994).

His films have been shown at Dhaka International Film Festival, New Jersey International Film Festival, Commonwealth Film Festival (Manchester) among others.

He has been the Chairman of the jury, National Film Awards on two occasions (2007, 2014) besides being on the International Netpac jury at Kolkata International Film Festival (2014) and the Chairman of the jury at the Kerala International Short & Documentary Film Festival (2016) and a jury member at the Goa International Film Festival (2008).

He has been a Visiting Professor at Tufts University, Boston and Monmouth University, New Jersey.

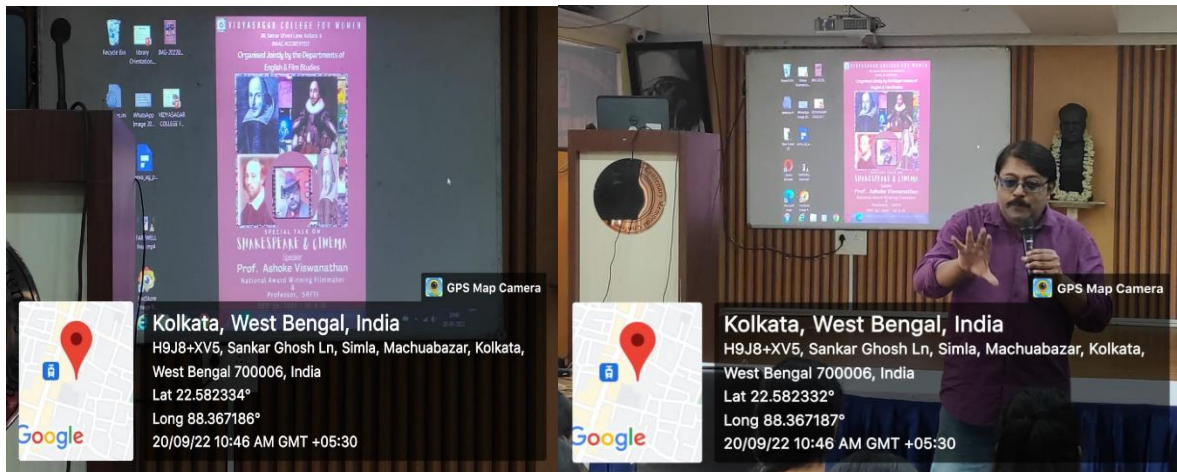
Viswanathan is an active theatre worker with performances and drama direction in more than 40 plays.

Viswanathan has also acted in nearly 30 films besides television and OTT productions in English, Bangla, Malayalam and Hindi languages.

He is a prolific public speaker and debater, having lectured widely in India and abroad, and a political commentator on several news channels.

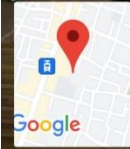
Viswanathan writes regularly in mainstream media as well as in academic journals like EASTERN REVIEW, LENSIGHT and TAKE ONE on Literature, Film and Theatre. He is a published poet and an author with one book (BENGAL IN THE CENTENARY OF CINEMA AND BEYOND) and one volume of

verse (MURMURS OF SILENCE) to his credit besides numerous contributions to anthologies of poetry. He is the President of Poetry Paradigm, the leading society for poets in Eastern India.

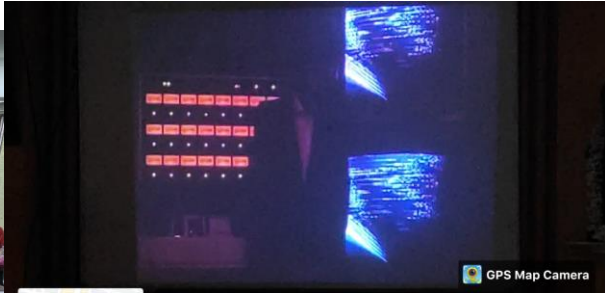




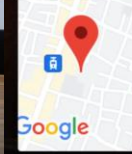
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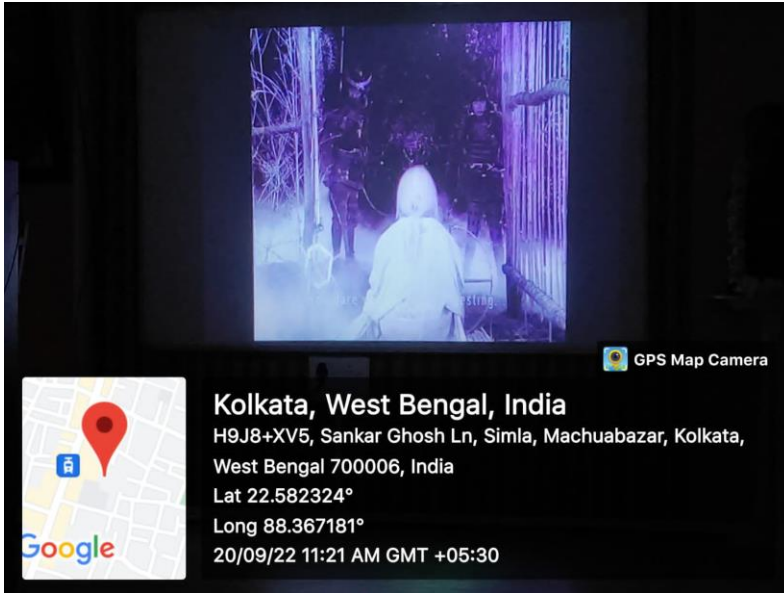
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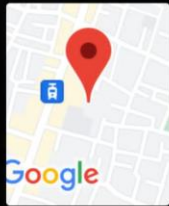
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