



Press release

For immediate release

FORBIDDEN (NISHIDDHO) **WINS BEST FEATURE FILM AT OIFFA 2022**

Ottawa, June 18, 2022—After five days of a memorable Official Competition of contemporary, independent Indian films, the all virtual 5th edition of the **Ottawa Indian Film Festival Awards (OIFFA)** comes to an end with the announcement of the winners.

The three members of **OIFFA**'s prestigious jury, formed of Mariam Hamdy (Egypt), Carlos Coelho Costa (Portugal) and Premendra Mazumder (India), elected to reward the following films and individuals among the selections from the Festival's **OFFICIAL COMPETITION**.

OIFFA is pleased to announce that the 2022 award for **BEST FEATURE FILM** goes to ***FORBIDDEN (NISHIDDHO)***, directed by **Tara Ramanujan**. The jury has also decided to grant a Special Mention to ***Nine Hills One Valley*** by **Haobam Paban Kumar**.

The award for **BEST DIRECTOR** goes to **BHARAT MIRLE** for ***The Road to Kuthriyar***.

The award for **BEST ACTRESS** goes to **GARGI ROY CHOWDHURY** for ***Mahananda***.

The award for **BEST ACTOR** goes to **PRABHAKAR KUNDER** for ***The Chicken Curry (Koli Taal)***.

The award for **BEST SCREENPLAY** goes to **DEEPANKAR PRAKASH** for ***Naneera***.

The award for **BEST SHORT FILM** goes to **TOGETHER** by **Azad Alam**.

OIFFA is looking forward to seeing what the participating filmmakers will do next—and to welcoming them back soon to the National Capital.

OIFFA's all virtual 5th edition took place from June 14 to 18, 2022, entirely ONLINE. The Official Competition included 14 feature films (fiction) and 5 short films. Not only was the Festival a showcase for several regions, ethnic minorities and languages of India, but it was a launchpad for many exciting new talents. No fewer than 8 first feature films were screened, including works from a remarkable number of female filmmakers, producers and artisans.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

OIFFA is made possible through the support of its many partners. The Festival wishes to thank its sponsors, media partners and community partners, all of whom can be found at oiffa.com on the homepage. **OIFFA** would also like to thank all of its collaborators, suppliers and volunteers as well as all participating filmmakers and artisans for their precious contributions to the success of this all virtual 5th edition of the Festival.

ABOUT OIFFA

OIFFA is the National Capital's and Eastern Canada's preeminent festival dedicated to Indian cinema and all things Indian with its **OFFICIAL COMPETITION** and **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** sections open to filmmakers from India and the Indian diaspora as well as films featuring Indian content. In its 5th year now, the Festival is extremely pleased to continue to cultivate an audience for Indian cinema and Indian culture not only in Ottawa, but throughout Canada and North American, thanks to the magic of its new online screening platform. **OIFFA** looks forward to welcoming its guests and the public in the heart of Ottawa again in 2023, at last, for its usual five-day competitive showcase of multi-genre Indian films as well as its roster of events, special screenings, contests, Q&As with artists and the popular VIP Lounge.

For more information, go to www.oiffa.com | Follow the latest **OIFFA news on Facebook and Twitter**

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