

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF Pune Taxes



05th January 2012

Screening talent



City-based FTII students' films have been selected for the Whistling Woods International Student Film Competition

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With names like Naseeruddin Shah, Smita Patil, Shabana Azmi and other stalwarts to its credit, Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) has done itself and the city proud yet again! City students Renu Savant, Naveen Padmanabha, Tanushree Das and Saurabh Shankar from FTII and their works have been selected for various categories at The Pune International Film Festival.

The fest to be held between January 12 and 19 selects student films for the Whistling Woods International Student Film Competition. *Airawat* directed by Renu Savant, *Open Cafe v2.5* directed by Naveen Padmanabha and *Shankamama* directed by Tanushree Das and Saurabh Shankar will com-



v2.5 has also been nominated for the Sound and Cinematography category. "The film was a second year end project. Filmed for 10 minutes on 35 mm colour made in the studio itself, the film explores the dialogue aspect of movie-making. It was an honour to have Kamal Swaroop play the protagonist in my film," says Naveen as he adds that the film explores and experiments with the different aspects of filmmaking like sound, camera work, studio lights and technicalities. The movie was also screened at the 9th Kalpanirjhar International Short Fiction Film Festival, Kolkata 2011, it won the Gold Award in the documentary category and the Sound Gold and Camera Silver in Technical Awards at the 4th Cut.In Students' Video Festival, Mumbai 2011.

Renu Savant's *Airawat* is a narrative set against the '80s background and talks about a girl with her father in Mumbai. "Filmed in the lane they live, the movie has woven in different imaginations, mental spaces, and plots. The movie tries to create an imaginary scene where in an elephant will enter the lane, which however doesn't happen. The narrative is about creating anticipations, imaginations, dreams and expectations. It also experiments with the dialogues."

Her 11 minute film has also won a Special Jury Mention at the 4th International Short and Documentary Film Festival of Kerala '11



and Selected at the River to River, Florence Indian Film Festival, Florence, Italy '11. *Shankamama* directed by Tanushree Das and Saurabh Shankar is the story of an old hard-working potter in a village.

The students were unaware of their achievements till *Mirror* called to speak to them. Expressing her anticipation, Renu says, "There is some pretty amazing work going around. It would be a fair round of screenings." For third year students Renu and Navin, the movie-making process was a part of their curriculum with special emphasis on the dialogue aspects, while the movie made by Tanushree comprised as a part of her diploma at the institute.

The films will be screened on Saturday, January 14 at the festival, along with other 15 students' films selected for the competition.



(Clockwise from top) Stills from *Airawat*, *Open Cafe v2.5* and production stills from *Shankamama*