

Press Release

Rahul Bose's *The Whisperers* generates a lot of interest at the 10th Osian's-Cinefan Film Festival

New Delhi, 13 July: Addressing a press meet at the 10th OCF, Actor Rahul Bose said today that though he is against censorship of any kind and that there is an inbuilt self-censorship that makes filmmakers retain a certain integrity to ensure that morality codes are not broken.

However, he said this may not apply to some films where it is necessary to break certain codes keeping the overall concept of the film in view, as it happened in the case of 'The Bandit Queen'. Rahul further added that everything in the film industry is governed by the economics and that is the reason for the general standard of the films today.

Rahul Bose not only stars in the film '*the Whisperers*'; but has also written the screenplay of the film, his second since '*Everybody says I am fine*'. Directed by Rajiv Virani the film was screened at the ongoing Osian's-Cinefan festival in Delhi.

He said in answer to a question that filmmakers often had to compromise and make films that people could understand, and had therefore to 'lower the IQ bar' to reach the people. However, he admitted that there was an audience that understood better cinema and patronized the multiplexes which gave opportunities for different kinds of cinema to flourish.

Referring to his own career, he said 'the nucleus of everything I do is world cinema'. At the same time, he candidly admitted that the choices he made were cynical. Asked about films like 'Maan Gaye Mughal-e-Azam' which is a comedy, he said these led to stretching the acting muscles.

Answering another question, he said that it was fruitful to make films made on books at a time when very little research went into a majority of the films being made. Films made on books had some authenticity since a whole lot of research had already gone into them, adding these also brought a certain sense of texture.

Asked about the effect of film festivals on films, he said festivals gave exposure to good films but it was necessary that there should be a theatrical release since the number of people attending festivals was still only a handful.

Rajiv Virani said the film '*the Whisperers*' was a dark psychological thriller where everything appears to be happening in the mind of one individual. The screenplay had been written by Rahul Bose based on a story idea by Rajiv himself, but Rahul added that he found writing very tough and would rather stick to acting. But he added that the medium of cinema was an important tool to show what went on in people's minds.

On being asked about his characters taking to negative roles, Rajiv said it was very difficult for individuals to always take the morally right path and so people often took the easy way out.

Ashok Rao, who has produced the film, added that if a character has been shown as a negative person all through, he could not be turned into a good human being just to give a happy ending.

Rajiv said he had initially written the story of this film for a short film he made as a film student, but it underwent changes when adapted by Rahul for the big screen.

He said in reply to a question that the 'end game of a film lies in its distribution' and that is what determined the failure or success of the films.