

Annual Report (2023-24)

Celluloid, the film society of Miranda House, is a flourishing fraternity for all film lovers with more than 150 members having similar interests in movies, regardless of genre. The society provides the members with a rolling platform to engage in varied cultural events and intensify the artistic heritage of Miranda House, which has given way to a generation of great filmmakers like Nandita Das and Mira Nair. Following this tradition, Celluloid provides support and encouragement to its members in pursuit of their respective cinematic interests. It foreshadows the process of filmmaking, public relations, sponsoring, designing, blogging, and finally managing logistics. The society emboldens creativity and personal development throughout the entire process of cinema.

Student Office Bearers:

President: Shyambhavi K.; Vice President: Jannat Johal; Treasurer: Manisha;

Staff Advisors:

Ms. Gorvika Rao (Convenor); Dr. Shweta Sachdeva Jha;

Activities of Celluloid, The Film Society of Miranda House (2023-24):

The academic year 2023-24 would be a remarkable one panoply Celluloid, The Film Society of Miranda House. To instill a deep sense of appreciation of cinema as an art form and through socio-political commentary, the society lined up a unique calendar of workshops plus events along with collaborative projects. The activities were run in such a way that students had the opportunity to learn, create, and engage their faculties of seeing films and cinematic viewpoints, rendering it quite a fruitful year for everyone involved.

The year started with an online session on "Ethics of Documentary Film-making," led by filmmaker Surabhi Dewan on 25th September 2023. Recognized for her short creative documentaries that won accolades at international film festivals, Surabhi presented a perspective on the moral and ethical dilemmas documentary filmmakers have to face. This elicited an eye-opening response and further into a stimulating discussion.



Enthused by this, a workshop entitled "The Vocabulary of Cinema: From Lens to Screen" was held on 20th October 2023 by Professor Vishesh Azad, an accomplished filmmaker and faculty at the National Institute of Fashion Technology. The session informed students about the technical aspects of film while also offering creative insights about bridging theoretical and practical aspects of filmmaking. An interactive workshop that offered special benefit to students who wish to explore the technical depth of visual storytelling.

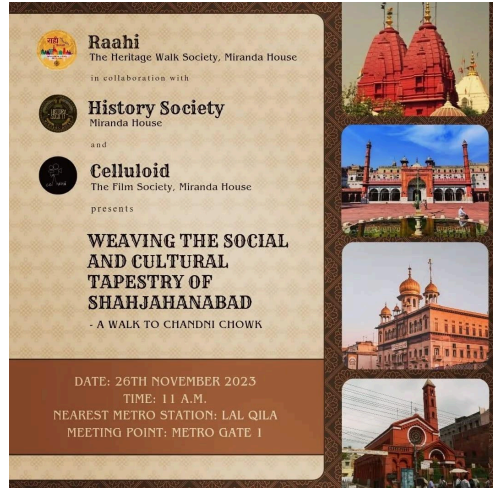


A series of exciting events took place in November under the Celluloid banner. "Film Analysis and Writing Workshop," hosted by national award-winning film critic Tanul Thakur on 7th November 2023, was very engaging. Thakur, known for his piercing reviews and widely published pieces in GQ and The Wire, offered invaluable tips on how to critique and write a film.

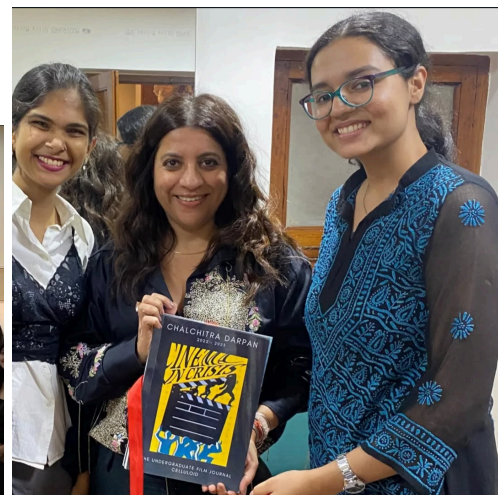
On 22nd November 2023, Professor Ranjani Mazumdar of Jawaharlal Nehru University led a session titled "Representation of Urban Life in Cinema." This workshop was exploratory by nature, emphasizing movie representations of urban spaces, especially how directors portray cities as characters in films. A workshop followed up on 23rd November 2023: in it, Dr. Rashmi Doraiswamy analyzed diasporic and transnational narratives in Asian cinema. The exploration of identity, migration, and cultural exchange was discussed and touched a deep chord with the participants.



Collaborations came as further enrichers for the whole society. On 26th November 2023, Celluloid partnered with Raahi, the Heritage Walk Society, for a heritage walk to Shahjahanabad (Chandni Chowk). Under her command, the participants were introduced to the multicultural history of the Old City and the religious spaces therein, enabling them to understand the socio-cultural fabric of Delhi from a local's perspective. This collaboration led to the making of the student documentary "Where Do the Gods Meet?" Under the direction of Irom Linda Chanu, it explored common spaces of faith within Chandni Chowk and was shown on 29th April 2024. These six months hosted a myriad of narratives on coexistence and multiculturalism. The department of History, Raahi, and Celluloid are proud to present the official poster of this student documentary. This film casts its attention on Chandni Chowk's multicultural spaces through religious spaces. Moving with Raahi, the Heritage Walk Society, through one of their special curated walks into Chandni Chowk, it seeks to unlock the many layered histories of this space and to interrogate the hard-hitting concept of shared space and coexistence.



The year turned out to be highlighted by the annual fest of Celluloid, Chalchitra 2024, themed "Bhasha aur Chalchitra". The fest presented films from the Parallel Cinema Movement, showcasing such legendary figures as Satyajit Ray, Govind Nihalani, and Mrinal Sen. The fest began on 4 March 2024, with the screening of Achal Mishra's film *Dhuin*. Following a heart-warming tale about a young street-theater actor's aspiration to make it big was a discussion with the director, facilitated by Professor Mihir Pandya. Competitions such as the Film Poster Redesigning Competition and Screenwriting Competition continued throughout the day, with much focus given to retelling cinematic narratives interacting with regional languages and cross-cultural storytelling. The day was capped off with a discussion featuring celebrated filmmaker Chaitanya Tamhane of the internationally acclaimed films *Court* and *The Disciple*. Led by Professor Harish S. Wankhede, this discussion provided the attendees with great insights into the language-culture-cinema nexus.



Apart from thrust events, the Celluloids did extremely well in other competitions, too, snagging the First Position in an On-The-Spot Filmmaking Competition organized by St. Stephen's College. This showed that they can create interesting narratives on the fly. One of the members also brought home the First Position in the Online Scriptwriting Competition: QuickQuill, organized by Gargi College, signifying the strength of the society in narration and scriptwriting. This was in itself a testament to the society's dedication to academic as well as creative excellence.

Celluloid also featured the films produced internally, which constitute the bulk of activities for the society. This year, the society provided *Miranda mein*, the visual memoir by Vaishali Grewal, portraying student life at Miranda House through ten women's experiences, which merges the experiences of the protagonists with a more general commentary on the college's unique culture. The film was screened on 29 April 2024 and proved as an emotionally poignant testament to that very spirit.

Through its carefully curated workshops, collaborative projects, and creative productions, Celluloid has succeeded in forging a vivacious community of cinephiles and storytellers. The society's activities this year not only enriched cinema but also inculcated the joy of viewing this medium as a means of critical exploration and cultural expression. The diversified initiatives and conspicuous achievements continue reflecting Celluloid's commitment to integrating academic rigor with creative exploration and making 2023-24 a landmark year in its journey.

