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STATEMENT

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur steps in as interim Festival Director at MAMI

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur steps in as interim Festival Director of the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival at The Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI), taking over from Anupama Chopra who in her long and distinguished tenure as Festival Director played a pivotal role in building the festival into one of the pre-eminent film festivals in Asia. Anupama will stay on as an active Board Member of MAMI.

Filmmaker, archivist, and Founder Director of Film Heritage Foundation, Shivendra Singh Dungarpur has directed over 1000 commercials and three award-winning documentaries including two National Awards under the banner of his production house Dungarpur Films. In 2014, Shivendra founded Film Heritage Foundation, a Mumbai based non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of India's film heritage. Film Heritage Foundation's film restorations have been selected for world premieres at the Cannes Film Festival for three consecutive years beginning from 2022. Shivendra is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF), the Artistic Committee of the Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna as well as of the Honorary Committee of the Nitrate Picture Show, George Eastman House's Festival of Film Conservation. He is also a member of the Advisory Council of the India International Centre in New Delhi and of the Board of Trustees of MAMI (Mumbai Film Festival).

Anupama Chopra helmed the MAMI journey from 2015 to 2023, taking the organisation and the annual homegrown independent film festival to its largest reach as Festival Director. She is now passing the baton to fellow Board Member Shivendra Singh Dungarpur while she continues to support the festival's initiatives and programmes.

Commenting on this, Anupama said, *"My journey with MAMI has been an incredible one. The festival has grown from strength to strength, and it's been a privilege to be part of this adventure. I believe it is now time to entrust the reins to the capable hands of Shivendra Singh Dungarpur. I look forward to supporting him as he continues to build the Festival and Year Round Programme consistently and steadily."*

In 2023, MAMI Mumbai Film Festival had its biggest edition ever, with 315 films screened across 20 theaters around the city over 10 days. With an audience of over 22,000 delegates, the festival hosted over 150 filmmakers from over 70 countries. The competition sections included South Asia Competition, Special Jury Prize, NETPAC Award, IMDb Audience Choice Award, Rashid Irani Young Critics Choice Award, Film Critics Guild Gender Sensitivity Award, Lights Camera Impact Awards presented by Civic Studios, Dimensions Mumbai, Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films and Best Book on Cinema.



The Year Round Programme continued a successful run with regular Preview Screenings of yet-to-be released films, Rashid Irani Young Critics Lab, Colorist Workshop-Focus North East India, Word to Screen Market and MAMI Select-Filmed on iPhone.

This year's edition of the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival will take place between October 19 and 24, 2024. Shivendra who takes over with immediate effect, will lead the organisation while it executes the 2024 Edition of the Festival and Year Round Programme.

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur shared his thoughts on taking on his new role as interim Festival Director. *"I'm happy to step in as interim Festival Director to take the first steps to gradually build and set the stage for a new beginning to make MAMI a platform for exciting and diverse cinema from India and the world, from the past, present and the future."*

The founding MAMI Board of Trustees has stated in their 1997 mission statement, "We feel it is the need of the hour to disseminate and inculcate good cinema among Indian audiences. The only way to achieve this is to celebrate cinema by hosting an international film festival in Mumbai (birthplace of Indian Cinema), India's film and entertainment capital. Mumbai Academy of Moving Image is committed to start Mumbai's first independent international film festival organized by practicing film makers."

As a part of the Board since 2021, Shivendra has ensured that the Academy does not waver from this mission statement while standing steadfastly by the MAMI teams over the years.

The MAMI Board of Directors expressed their solidarity with the incoming Festival Director. *"Shivendra Singh Dungarpur has always brought a large and varied knowledge pool to the table as a member of the MAMI Board. Now he will bring this invaluable experience and his vast network to an active role as interim Festival Director of the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival and Year Round Programme."*