

Annual Report 2024-25

Celluloid, the film society of Miranda House, is a flourishing fraternity for all film lovers with more than 100 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: Amrit W.; Vice President: Chandrika Gogoi; Treasurer: Varunika Pathak

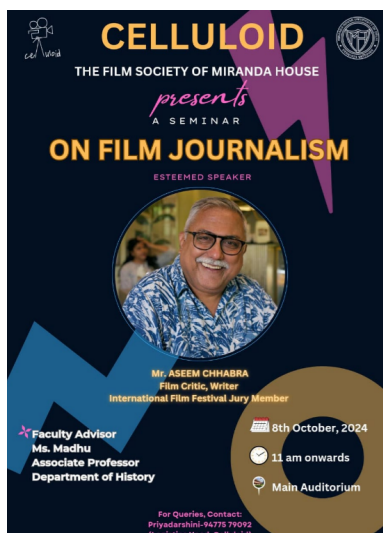
Staff Advisors:

Ms. Madhu (Convenor); Dr. Bilasini Naorem, Dr. Kevilenuo Tapa, Prof. Smriti Sharma Bhatia, Dr. Sushmita Banerjee

Activities of Celluloid, The Film Society of Miranda House (2024-25)

In the academic year 2024-25, Celluloid, The Film Society of Miranda House instilled a deep sense of appreciation of cinema as an art form and through commentary, the society lined up a unique calendar of events, collaborative projects and speaker sessions. 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 a seminar "On Film Journalism" led by esteemed film critic Mr. Aseem Chhabra on 8th October, 2024. Recognized for his authorship of various biographies on stars such as Priyanka Chopra and Irrfan Khan, and articles in major outlets such as BBC, the director of the New York Indian Film Festival, Mr. Chhabra presented a unique perspective on film criticism and the journalism industry. This session, attended by around 100 students, elicited an eye-opening response and further into a stimulating discussion.



Offering a different perspective, an online session entitled "Exploring Independent Filmmaking" was held on 15th October, 2024 by Mr. Bidit Roy, an award winning filmmaker and entrepreneur. The session informed students, offering creative insights into the logistical, financial, technical and creative aspects of independent filmmaking. This interactive session, attended by around 50 students, allowed students to understand production and filmmaking, preparing them to consider independent filmmaking as a viable career option.



The third installation of events took place in November under the Celluloid banner. "Shahar Aur Cinema: Via Dilli", a book discussion by author and professor Mr. Mihir Pandya on 13th November 2024, was very engaging. Mr. Pandya, an expert in Indian popular cinema, offered insight into contemporary city life through films. The event was attended by approximately 60 students from various disciplines. The in-depth exploration of the representation of urban spaces and Delhi as a symbol proved extremely engaging and thought-provoking.



Celluloid also began its reading circle “Celluloid Reads” in this academic year, having had 3 sessions, first on *The Ways of Seeing* by John Berger and *On Photography* by Susan Sontag which served as an introduction, followed by *Towards a Third Cinema* by Fernando Solanas and Octavio Getino, thirdly *In Defense of the Poor Image* by Hito Steyerl. These sessions, attended by 15-20 members, delved into film theory and gave space for in depth discussion and understanding.

Celluloid also hosted a screening series on the Iranian New Wave, showing films that were part of the film movement in Iran, which was followed by student-led discussions and analysis of the films through history, culture, film theory, literature among other lenses.



The highlight of the year: the annual fest of Celluloid, Chalchitra 2025, was themed "Lives of Objects". The event spanned 2 days, beginning on 28th February, 2025, with the screening of Mr. Anirban Dutta's film 'We and Our Time'. Following the viewing of the experimental film set in England, was an interview and discussion with the director. The session, which garnered the interest of over 70 students from various colleges, centered around forms of media, experiences, and the process of making the film.



This was followed by a panel discussion on ‘Narrating the Inanimate and Material Realities of Modern Life in Cinema’, with Dr. Sanil V, a professor of philosophy from the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi) and Dr. Vebhuti Duggal, a professor at Ambedkar University Delhi; moderated by Dr. Abhija Ghosh, a professor at O.P. Jindal University. The discussion delved into the complexities of objects as beings, their presence, and interpretation. To conclude the day, the winners of two online competitions for scriptwriting and graphic designing were announced, where Dr. Ammu Jayakirthana provided wonderful feedback on the script submissions.



The final day of Celluloid’s annual fest, Chalchitra, began with the screening of ‘1956, Central Travancore’, followed by an interview with renowned director, Mr. Don Palathara. Moderated by Dr. N.P. Ashley, Professor at St. Stephen’s College (University of Delhi), the session was extremely engaging and insightful. The discussion around independent filmmaking, personal experiences, cultural practices and so on was enriching for the 70-80 audience members present.


CELLULOID
 The Film Society of Miranda House

Chalchitra '25
Day 1: 28th February, 2025
Venue: Main Auditorium



SCREENING | 9:30am
 Screening of We & Our Time
 (dir Anirban Dutta)
DISCUSSION | 10:00am
 with director Anirban Dutta
Q&A | 10:45am

PANEL DISCUSSION | 11:00am
 with Dr. Sanil (IIT) and Dr.
 Duggal (AUD) moderated by
 Abhija Ghosh
PRIZE DISTRIBUTION | 12:30pm
 for Scriptwriting and
 Graphics Competition

Ms. Madhu
 Assoc. Professor
 CONVENOR
Dr. Kevilenuo Tapa
Dr. Sushmita Banerjee
Dr. Bilasini Devi Naorem
 Prof. Smriti Sharma Bhatia
 FACULTY COORDINATORS

For further details contact: Vanshika (92059 57622), PR HEAD, CELLULOID


CELLULOID
 The Film Society of Miranda House

Chalchitra '25
Day 2: 1st March, 2025
Venue: Main Auditorium



SCREENING | 10:30am
 Screening of 1956, Central
 Travancore
 (dir Don Palathara)
DISCUSSION | 12:30pm
 with director Don Palathara
Q&A | 1:30pm

SCREENING | 2:00pm
 Top entries in Short Film
 Competition
PRIZE DISTRIBUTION | 2:30pm
 for Short Film, On the Spot
 Filmmaking, and Quiz
 Competition

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In collaboration with the Quiz Society of Miranda House, Celluloid also hosted a quiz competition “Prop Quiz. Hotshot!” which garnered large interest from over 12 teams (24 students), for the unique blend of quizzing and films, on 22nd February 2025. The results for the same were announced on Chalchitra. The final event, the screening of wonderful student-made films as part of Celluloid’s on-the-spot and short-filmmaking competitions, garnered enthusiastic student participation, and gave encouragement for various budding filmmakers. The winners of both competitions were judged by esteemed professors and professionals, who applauded the unique and thought-provoking films.



Through its carefully curated 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 2024-25 a landmark year in its journey.

