

## ADOOR GOPALAKRISHNAN

Adoor Gopalakrishnan was born in Kerala, India in 1941 into a family that patronized Kathakali and other performing arts. He started acting on the amateur stage at the early age of eight. He wrote and directed several stage plays during his student days.

Adoor graduated from the Gandhigram Rural University in 1960, specialising in Economics, Political Science and Public Administration. He left the governmental job of a statistical investigator to study cinema at the Film Institute of India, Pune in 1962. Graduating from the Film Institute of India in 1965 with specialisation in Screenplay writing and Advanced Film Direction, he pioneered the film society movement in Kerala. The same year, he took the initiative to form India's first film co-operative for production, distribution and exhibition of quality films. He has scripted and directed eleven feature films and about 30 Shorts and documentaries. Notable amongst the non-feature films are those on Kerala's performing arts.

His debut feature, *Swayamvaram* went on to win the national awards for best film, best director, best cameraman and best actress.

All his films have won national and international awards (National award for best film twice, best director four times, and best script two times. His films have also won his actors and technicians several national awards). Adoor's third feature, *Elippathayam* won him the coveted British Film Institute Award for 'the most original and imaginative film' of 1982. He won the International Film Critics Prize (FIPRESCI) six times successively for *Mukhamukham*, *Anantaram*, *Mathilukal*, *Vidheyan*, *Kathapurushan* and *Nizhalkkuthu*. Winner of several international awards like the UNICEF film prize (Venice), OCIC film prize (Amiens), INTERFILM Prize (Mannheim) etc, his films have been shown in Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Toronto, London, Rotterdam and every important festival around the world.

In consideration of his contribution to Indian cinema, the nation honoured him with the title of Padmashri in 1984.

His collection of essays, *Cinamayude Lokam* (The World of Cinema) was given the national award for the Best book on Cinema in 1984. *Cinemaanubhavam* (The Experience of Cinema), a collection of articles dealing with the art and practice of cinema won the Kerala State award (2004) for best book on Cinema.

His third book on cinema, *Cinema, Saahityam, Jeevitham* (Film, literature and Life) was published in 2005.

In 2002, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington honoured him by holding a complete retrospective of his work. Other major retrospectives of his films include those at the Cinematheque in Paris, La Rochelle, Pesaro, Lincoln Centre- New York, Fribourg, Alexandria, Helsinki, Figuera de Foz, Brussels, Madrid, Lyons etc. Tributes and homage were paid at Cinematheque, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Cleveland Cinematheque, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Denver Film Festival, Festival of Manosque etc.

He has served on the juries of various film festivals including those at Venice, Singapore, Hawaii, Alexandria, New Delhi, Sochi and Shanghai.

In recognition of his contribution to international cinema, the French Government bestowed on him the title of 'The Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters,' the top French honour for culture in 2005.

In 2006 he received the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, India's highest national honour for Life-time achievement in cinema. The same year Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala conferred on him the honorary degree of D. Litt.

He recently received India's top civilian award, Padma Vibhushan for his contribution to the Arts (Cinema).

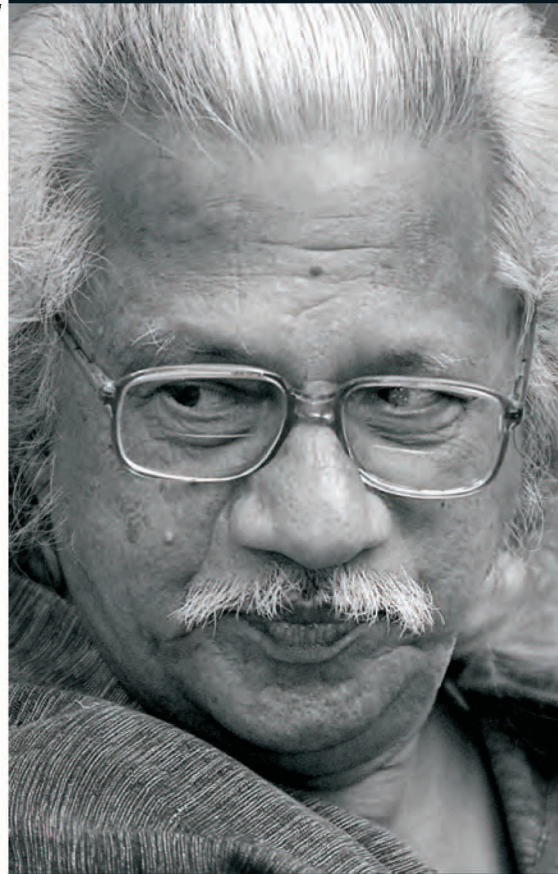


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## **LAURENCE KARDISH**

Laurence Kardish is the Senior Curator of Film at New York's The Museum of Modern Art. Since 1968, when he joined the staff to initiate a program for avant-garde and independent film artists, Cineprobe, Kardish has organized hundreds of film exhibitions covering the whole history and culture of this ever expanding medium. These exhibitions included monographic exhibitions devoted to filmmakers such as John Cassavetes, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Jean-Luc Godard, Satyajit Ray, Agnes Varda, Melvin Van Peebles and Raoul Walsh, to name a few but also synthetic exhibitions about trains in cinema, the cinema of the Weimar Republic, surveys of French comedies and British documentaries.

Since 1972 Kardish has been on the selection committee of the prestigious annual spring film festival in New York, "New Directors/New Films", and has been a member the jury of many international film festivals including Adelaide, Cannes, Edinburgh, Sarajevo, and Sundance to name a few.

Kardish is the author of many catalogues including, more recently, "Aernout Mik", which accompanied a multi-gallery exhibition of the sculpted moving-image installations of the Dutch artist, and "Weimar Cinema: Daydreams and Nightmares, 1919-1933",

Among the many honours he has received is the "Bundesverdienstkreuz", the highest award a non-German may receive from the Federal Republic of Germany (2004) and he was promoted from "Chevalier" to "Officier" in 2004 within the French Order of Arts and Letters. In 2010 he was given an Honorary Doctorate from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, the university from which he graduated.



## **LEE YONG KWAN**

Lee Yong Kwan, born 11 August 1955 is the Director of the Busan International Film Festival in Korea.

After graduating in films, he went on to pursue a Postgraduation in Arts from the Chung-Ang University, where he is a Professor of Cinema from 1995. He also holds the chair of Emeritus Professor in The Central Academy of Drama in China.

Lee Yong Kwan's academic credits includes several writings including 'Commentary for Film's Terms' (1991), 'Hollywood: Film Industry & Ideology in Hollywood' (1992), 'History & Practice of Film Auteur theory' (1997), and 'The Excuse for Korean Films' (1998).

He has also written and edited the volumes 'Korean New Wave', 'KIM Ki-Young, Devilish Desires & Film of Death', 'A Beautiful Human Being, Yoo Young-ki', and 'Yu Hyun-Mok, Find the Road of Korean Realism'.

He has been awarded the 7th Seoul Culture and Art Criticism Award in 1991 and The Cultural Medal in 2005.



## TAHMINAH MILANI

Tahmineh Milani was born in Tabriz, Iran in 1960 and graduated in architecture, but embarked on a career in filmmaking, beginning with a screenwriting workshop in 1979. She apprenticed as script girl and assistant director on several films, and then authored a screenplay for Mohammad Reza Alami's *Love and Death*.

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Tahmineh Milani has taken on touchy topics, from women's struggles in a male-run society to misconceptions about the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Her most recent film, *The Hidden Half*, landed her in jail, in 2001, after the Tehran Revolutionary Court took exception to her depiction of the events in '79 and charged her with supporting counterrevolutionaries. The film features a woman's memories of working with leftist rebels in her university days after the victory of revolution. She's also portrayed a young girl's love of an older man before marriage, which raised an ethical issue. Khatami's reformist government, which approved the film before it was made, leapt to her defence and she was consequently released from jail after two weeks.

"One of the most important problems that we are faced with in Iran's society is that we are unable to express our true personality....," she says. "For men and women, their lives inside their homes where it is private is one way and outside of their homes where they have to observe social regulations it is another way... Our women also have two faces inside their homes: the image of what their spouses or their spouses' families want them to have, and what is inside them."



## DAN WOLMAN

Born in Jerusalem in 1941, Dan Wolman spent the first years of his life in Ethiopia. After finishing high school in Jerusalem Dan studied film in the US. Completing his studies at The Film Institute of City College New York and at New York University, Dan returned to Israel and shot his first feature - *The Dreamer* (1970), which was an official entry at Cannes Film Festival. Over the years Dan Wolman wrote and directed personal feature films, commercial films and Short films, besides teaching cinema at Tel Aviv University, New York University, School of Visual Arts and other schools. He was also on the Jury of Jerusalem, Haifa, Chicago, Cine-Manila, Istanbul, Bratislava, DocAviv and EBS (Korea).

Dan Wolman is a consummate independent filmmaker. He belongs to a generation of filmmakers such as Uri Zohar, Abraham Hefner, Yehuda (Judd) Ne'eman, Yitzhak (Tseppel) Yeshurun and Yigal Borstein, who created their first films in the 1960s, influenced by the changes that took place in European and American cinema during those years.

There is something mysterious, even inexplicable, in Wolman's work. He is a filmmaker who chose to focus on old age, even in his youth: his first film, *The Dreamer*, describes the relationship between a young man who works in a nursing home in Safed, and one of the elderly inhabitants of the home. Wolman returned to this subject in his next movie, *Floch* and in a few of his later films.

His 1979 *Hide and Seek*, which screened at the Berlin Film Fest, won in Israel, "The Silver Rose" award for best film, best director, and best script. In 1994 *The Distance* bagged the first prize at the Jerusalem International Film Festival, which also honoured him with "Life time achievement award" in 1999.

Wolman creates his films with a simplicity and modesty which are deceiving; beyond these qualities there is also a great stubbornness, and above all great courage.

