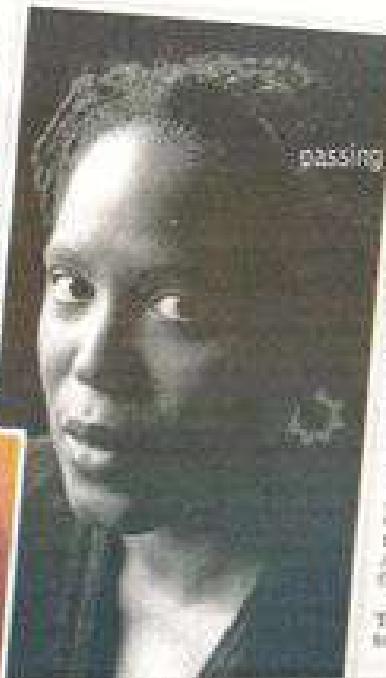


Girl power on screen

With the Samsung Women's International Film Festival coming to a close, the international curator for the African Diaspora, June Giovani, shares her experience



passing by

June Giovani worked as a film and television programme controller for over 22 years. June (Giovanni) has experience of curating festivals and has written about film and television. She is currently involved in thematic Curating Women's International Film Festival (SWIFF) in the city that ends tomorrow after a week of movies, debates and workshops. Meeting Chenna's talent in theater, photography, visual arts, etc. "made it an inspiring environment," she says. We caught up with her to talk about what went right at the festival and plans for next year.

What worked at the festival?

It was particularly rich in networking format, encouraging exchanges and connections between filmmakers and women. Individual organizations across the African continent and the rest of the world — especially with the representatives from the SWIFF, Curators of Africa Women's Film Festival and the filmmakers competing for their prizes.

The audience and festival compared to other parts of the world.

The audiences at SWIFF are appreciative and have been growing. They seem to come from various sectors, all of which are involved in the arts after the screenings and mingle with the international guests informally. The festival compares well with other small specialized festivals of this nature.

Popular new-age film trends.

The use of technology and older skills in film; more cross-over between narrative and making film pieces to develop new aesthetics in cinema.

Notes on female directors in Africa.

Some of the women, particularly in West Africa, are taking an entrepreneurial approach to filmmaking, and are involved as producers, as well as writers and directors of their own films, to try to ensure the integrity of their choices in their films, which is often a struggle.

Topic talk on multilevels via independent filmmaking in India.

From what I've seen of indigenous cultures, they are to be educated about independent films are made in look at times in a self-forgiving way and can't believe the filmmaking process.

—BP

