

Girl power on screen

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



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HAVING worked as a film festival curator for over 20 years, June Givanni has experience organising festivals and has written about film and television. She is currently involved with the ODU/Samsung Women's International Film Festival (SWIFF) in the city that ends tomorrow, after a week of movies, debates, and workshops. Meeting Cherrin's talent in theatre, photography, visual arts, etc. "made it an interesting experience," she says, she 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 opportunities, exchanging and connections between filmmakers and women festival organisers across the Asian continent and the rest of the world — especially with the representatives from the NAWFF Circuit and the Asian 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 whom do get involved in the talks after the screenings and mingle with the international guests informally. The festival compares well with other small specialised festivals of this nature.

Popular new-age film trends.

The use of technology and wider skills in film; more cross-over between authors and making the genre to develop new aesthetics in cinema.

Notes on female directors in Africa.

Some of the women, particularly in West Africa, are taking an introspective 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 vision in their films, which is often a struggle.

Your take on mainstream vs independent filmmaking in India.

From what I've seen of independent films, they are to be encouraged. Independent films are made in less of a hurry to a different way and don't explore the filmmaking process.

—BY

