



Just like the previous years, Rainbow Film Society is expecting numbers of women filmmakers, actors and personalities from all over the world to attend our very important segment- **“Ninth Dhaka International Conference on Women in Cinema 2023”**. This conference will be held on Sunday 15 January and Monday 16 January, 2023 during the festival.

This will also serve the purpose of a platform that will address issues concerning women through the work being done by the invited panel of women guests. Given that women compose half of humanity and the inherent importance and relevance of women's issues in global progress; it is high time that such a conference is convened in a country like Bangladesh, more so as the world is going through enormous changes on all fronts having both positive and negative implications for women. Having said this, I would also mention that this conference will serve as the heart of our upcoming festival.

West Meets East Screenplay Lab will return in 2023 for its second edition where selected filmmakers from South Asia will be given an opportunity to network with professionals including producers, distributors and programmers from the global industry. After mentoring at the Lab, the successful participants will pitch to potential international collaborators through the program's market section- Film Haat.

West Meets East, which began in 2019, is a special section of Dhaka International Film Festival aimed at bridging the gap between the Western film industry and filmmakers from the East. Any filmmaker from this region (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, Maldives, Bhutan and Sri Lanka) can submit a feature length fiction project with the following documents-

- Logline (maximum 50 words)
- Synopsis (maximum 400 words)
- Director's statement (maximum 400 words)
- Treatment (maximum 2000 words)
- Director's profile.

Only the selected projects will be asked to submit a complete screenplay. Submissions will be open from **April 30, 2022**. The above documents must be submitted to diff.filmhut@gmail.com by **June 30, 2022**. Shortlisted applicants will be notified by **August 31, 2022**. They will be required to submit the full script by **October 31, 2022**.

Mentoring of the finalists will be done during the West Meets East Screenplay Lab and pitching will take place at the Film Haat, both during the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival in January, 2023. After successful pitching, three projects will be awarded cash prizes: 1st Prize being USD 5000, and 2nd and 3rd Prizes being USD 3000 and USD 2000 respectively.

West Meets East Screenplay Lab was introduced in 2021. Scripts from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka were shortlisted from an amazing pool of submissions. Even though few participants and mentors couldn't join Diff in the flesh due to covid, most were present physically and some even joined virtually from USA, UK and India.

Kishwar Kamal
Chairman

Md. Shahriar Alam MP
Chief Patron

Festival Ec Committee

Ahmed Muztaba Zamal
Baishaki Somadder
Jalal Ahmed
Kishwar Kamal
Mofidul Hoque
M. Hamid
Md. Shahriar Alam MP
Mokammel Hossain
Dr. Nazmul A Kalimullah
Rafiquzzan
Samia Zaman