2nd NAWFF AWARD in Tokyo International Women’s Film Festival

Five women’s film festivals from different Asian locales are coming together in Tokyo — In 2010, the Network of Asian Women’s Film Festivals (NAWFF) was launched to encourage inter-Asian cooperation among women’s film festivals and to support Asian women’s filmmaking, distribution and cultural movements. The members’ organisations of NAWFF, which formed friendships long before launching the official network, include: women’s film festivals from Samsung International Women’s Film Festival (India), International Women’s Film Festival Israel (Israel), Women Make Waves Film Festival (Taiwan), International Women’s Film Festival in Seoul (Korea) and Tokyo International Women’s Film Festival (Japan). An official annual meeting is held in each location on a rotating basis.

One of the most important functions of the annual meeting is to select a film for the NAWFF Award. 5 candidates are nominated by each member and the best is selected. The winner of the first year, held in Seoul in 2010, was A Brand New Life (2009, S. Korea) and the winner of the second year is being selected at the 24th Tokyo International Women’s Film Festival 23-26 October 2011. The candidate films are: Sengada (2010, India), Rolling Home with a Bull (2010, S. Korea), All to the Sea (Japan, 2009), Invisible (Israel, 2010) and Hand in Hand (Taiwan, 2010). This year, NAWFF has a symposium titled “Women’s Networking in Film and Media in Asia NOW and the Future” at the Meiji University on the 24th October.
Sengadal wins the NAWFF Award at Tokyo and will be showcased at Taipei, Seoul, Beijing and Israel followingly.
Audience appreciation the greatest award a film maker can aspire for says Director of 'Sengadal'

New Delhi, December 1, 2011 13:49 IST

Leena Manimekalai, Director of the movie 'Sengadal' has said that she is looking forward to the release of the movie in theatres as audience appreciation is the greatest award a film maker can aspire for. She was addressing a press conference at IFFI media centre here today. The film 'Sengadal' is a documentation of the travails of the fishermen of Dhanushkodi, Rameshwaram. The movie shows the importance of people’s participation since real fishermen and refugees from Dhanushkodi and Rameshwaram Mandapam camp have acted and also taken part in the script writing for the movie, the Director added.

'Sengadal, The Dead Sea', is the debut feature-fiction of Leena Manimekalai who is an independent film maker, poet and actor. The film has been officially selected in the competition section of 32nd Durban International Film Festival and 35th World Montreal Film Festival and 13th International Mumbai Film Festival, Miami. It has won NAWFF award at Tokyo for the Best Asian Film.

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Sengadal wins the NAWFF Award at Tokyo

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2011
Sengadal to be lone Indian entry at Internation Film Festival

Posted in Cinemews on October 14, 2011 / 0 Comments

Sengadal: The Dead Sea, which happens to be the debut directorial film by author Leena Manimekalai, has been chosen as the lone Indian entry in the International Competition section of the 13th International Film Festival to be held in Mumbai, the commercial capital of the country, from 13 -20 October, 2011.

Srivusan Narayanan, the director of the Film Festival, said that the selection committee was mightily impressed with the freshness in the film’s approach besides the wonderful and eye-catching cinematography. The film, which is yet to be released in theatres, was caught in a long legal battle with the Chennai Regional Office of the Central Board of Film Certification (Censors) and the Appellate Tribunal authorities over the ban imposed on the public exhibition of the film.

Buoyed at winning the battle, Sengadal the Dead Sea has, however, been slapped with an 'A' certificate sans any cut from the original version. The film was screened at the 32nd Durban International Film Festival and 35th World Montreal Film festival in July and August this year, in that order. It has also been nominated for the coveted NAWFF Award which would be given at the function to be held later this month at Tokyo, Japan.

Navi Pillai, the Human Rights Commissioner of U.N. watched the film at Durban and appreciated the uncompromising attitude of the makers and said that the film could be "considered" as a witness of the increasing number of human rights violations committed by the Sri Lankan Navy on the Indian fishermen at the international maritime border off the shores of Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi.

Sengadal the Dead Sea has its major supporting artistes from Kidathirukai Therukoothu team and has been produced by Tholpaavai Theatres.