



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The Centre for Film Studies, NLUO-Workshop

'Addressing Social and Legal Issues through Popular Media'

September 9, 2022

The Centre for Film Studies, NLUO is organising a One-Day Workshop on the Theme, 'Addressing Social And Legal Issues Through Popular Media', inviting the popular Indian actor, entrepreneur and social worker, Mr. Nigel Akkara as the resource person.

About the Workshop

Traditionally, art has been an accessible media instrument for communication. In the case of popular arts like films or dramas that heavily influence popular culture, the impact it can have is manifold. It acts as a mirror of the society with conformist as well as defiant voices. Sometimes, popular art goes beyond entertainment and portrays many social and legal issues, leading the society and social workers to move forward.

Even though the primary objective of a film or drama is to entertain or engage the audience, it also has the potential to question and alter an existing legal framework. It is a form of communication that can bring about changes by raising awareness and affecting a society's laws, norms and beliefs. The creators may express opinions about a well-known issue or at times even lift the veil of an unseen issue of past and present. It could be about an injustice towards a minority or stigmatised people, a major historical event, legal and social fiction or documentary films. Despite the physical distance, it can still manage to provide a personal experience. For instance, the release of T.J. Gnanavel's *Jai Bhim* was instrumental in educating the people about the plight of marginalised communities to a point where the Tamil Nadu government took measures to ensure social justice to tribal communities of the state. It has inspired scholars and academicians from the field of social science, media and law to perceive and understand the convergence of Law, Literature and Films.

The aim of this workshop is to learn and understand how popular media addresses different social and legal issues by bringing the representation of the marginalised population against stigmatisation to the forefront. The workshop, thus, is specially focusing on the importance of Cultural Therapy as a major instrument in reformation and rehabilitation of marginalised populations and its contribution in research and academics. Hence, inviting students, scholars and academicians of law, social sciences, literature, film studies, and other humanities streams for this innovative event.

Venue

Moot Court cum Seminar Hall, 2nd floor Academic Block, National Law University, Odisha, Kathajodi Campus, SEC - 13, CDA, Cuttack – 753015, Odisha (India).

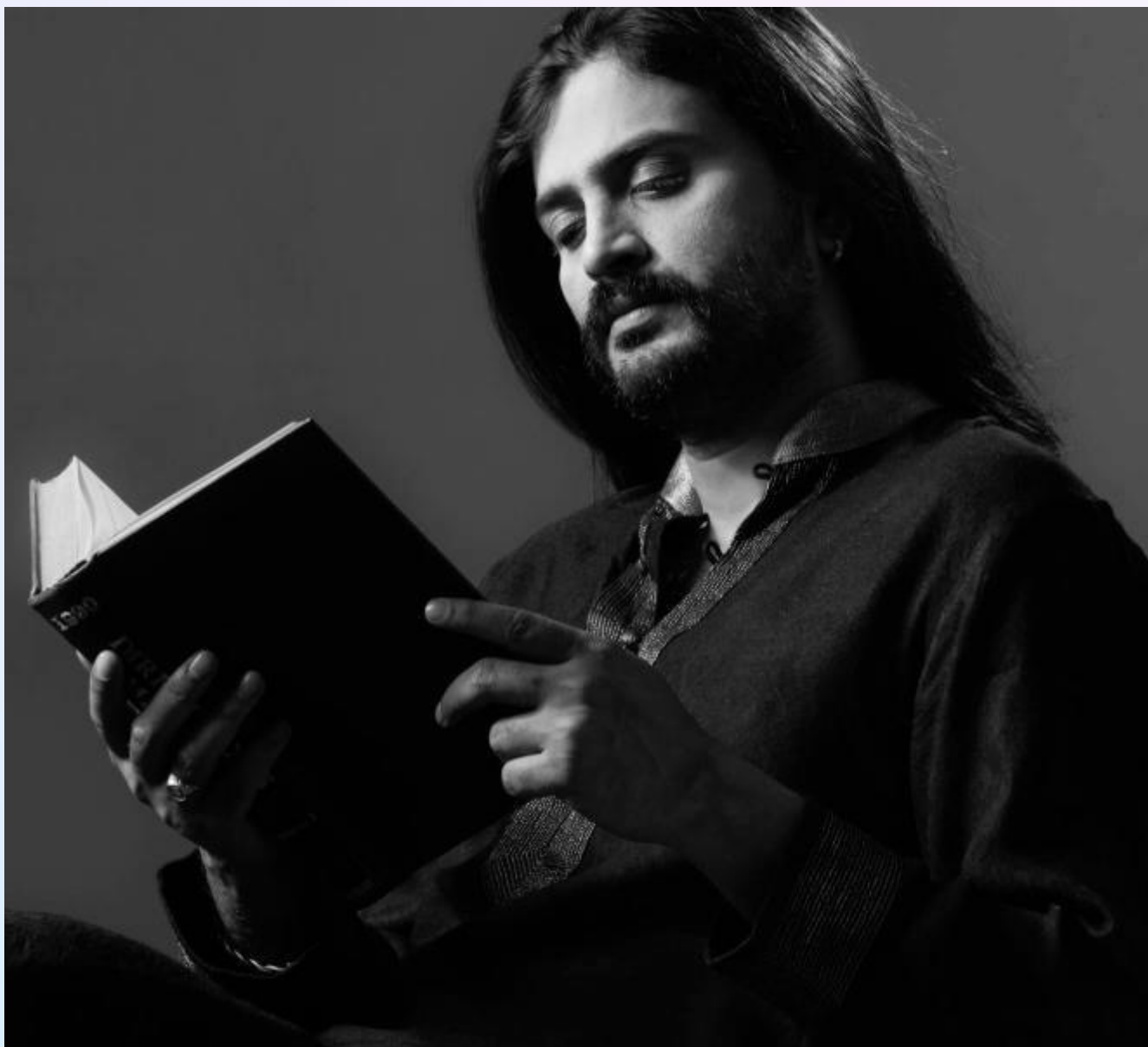
Schedule of the Programme

Date: 9 September, 2022

Session I: Understanding Law & Society through Cinema (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

Session II: Law and Film for Academics and Research (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)

About the Resource Person



Mr. Nigel Akkara, starting from a series of upheaval as ex-inmate after his release from Presidency Correctional Home, Kolkata in 2009, got a new and reformed life as an actor. He made his acting debut in the year 2012 with Shiboprosad Mukherjee and Nandita Roy's Bengali movie Muktodhara.

Here, he played the character of a prisoner who changes himself into a positive person after getting in touch with a dance-drama coach. The film turned out to be a major hit in the box office and Akkara's performance was praised by both the viewers and the critics. The film won the Anandalok Award, 2012. The movie had a very profound impact in academia as it was selected by Legal Aid Services of West Bengal to be included in the curriculum for PostGraduate Studies in Counselling, 2013 as well as a part of Certificate Course on Legal and Psychological Counselling for Women in Distress. After Muktodhara, Akkara acted in movies like Orissa (2013), Yoddha: The Warrior (2014), Rajkahini (2015), Asamapta: Incomplete (2016) and Gotro (2019), Tirandaj Shabor (2022).

He started acting in theatres, while in Presidency Correctional Home, way long before his release in the year 2009.

Mr. Akkara's reintegration was an outcome of a life-changing initiative by Mr. B.D. Sharma, who during his tenure as the Inspector General of Correctional Services (Presently, Advisor to the West Bengal Government in the Department of Correctional Administration at Kolkata) introduced a government sponsored scheme of 'Cultural Therapy' for transformation of inmates in correctional homes by nurturing their talents and imparting them with human dignity through public performances and exhibitions of their talents in various fields. As a part of this great cause and initiative, famous dancer and reformer, Alokanda Ray chose, Mr. Akkara to portray the role of the Protagonist for the famous Tagore's Dance-Drama, 'Valmiki Pratibha', in which many other inmates along with him performed for the first time. The concept of parole, usually granted to prisoners to spend time with their families, was used innovatively by Mr. Sharma as he allowed the prisoners permission to travel first within the State and later to other cities in the country.

This theatre workshop, famously staging 'Valmiki Pratibha' and other productions, was started in the year 2007. It turned out to be the positive ray of hope and opportunity in Mr. Akkara's life which he embraced and transformed his entire life.

Apart from being a very accomplished Film and Theatre Actor himself, he also holds a postgraduate diploma in Human Rights from Indian Institute of Human Rights, New Delhi. He graduated from St. Xavier College, Kolkata.

He is popularly known for his social services and voicing for the rights of ex-inmates of Correctional Homes, female sex-workers, LGBTQ+ community, persons with disability and drug addicts going through rehabilitation. With this idea, he founded 'Kolahal Theatre Workshop' as a component of Business Research & Corporate Social Responsibility Mechanisms of the Company, 'Kolkata Facility Management Pvt. Ltd' run by him and his employees. 'Kolkata Facility Management Pvt Ltd' makes no difference between socially conventional aspirants and ex-inmates in their selection process which is rigorous and fair. Their employees and stakeholders are dedicated, upright and believe in rights, reformation and social reintegration of the socially marginalised section of the society. The company is dedicated to develop and provide Waste Management, Meditation Programs, and Gardening Skills for and by the ex-inmates of the correctional homes.

The company and its employees have been providing services such as Housekeeping, Pest Control, Security and Facility Management throughout the city of Kolkata for the last ten years. On 10th November, 2014, The Indian Institute of Management, IIM, Calcutta and Remedia Trust Foundation came together to launch a case study on Kolkata Facility Management which rehabilitates ex-prisoner.

Important Details

- The workshop shall be open for Undergraduate/Postgraduate students, research scholars and academicians from fields of Law, Social Sciences, Literature, Film Studies and Management.
- Certificates would be issued on full completion of the Workshop by the Participants. Full attendance Participation in both sessions would be mandatory for this purpose.
- The Registration Fee is not refundable. Fees once paid shall not be refunded.
- No TA/DA shall be paid by the organisers or the University.
- Accommodation if required shall be provided on payment of ₹1,000 per day. The requirement should be informed to the organisers on or before 20th of August 2022.
- The number of registrations shall be limited to 200 participants only.

Registration Details and Payment Link

The registration fee details:

1. Students- Rs 150/-
2. Full time/ Part Time Research Scholars- Rs 500/-
3. Academicians and Faculties- Rs 750/-

The registration fees for in-house participants :

1. Undergraduate/Postgraduate-Students/Research scholars- Rs 150/-
2. Academicians and Faculties- Rs 500/-

The participants are requested to upload their latest CV and the proof of payment in the Registration Form.

The deadline for registration is **31st August 2022**.

The payment shall be made to following account:

Name of the Account Holder: Registrar, National Law University, Odisha

Name of the Bank: State Bank of India

Address of the Bank: National Law University, Cuttack. Sector-13 CDA, Cuttack-753015

Account No: 33807919875.

Type of Account: Saving

MICR No.: 753002034

RTGS/NEFT IFSC: SBIN0017678

SWIFT CODE: SBININBB768

The registration link has been attached here: <https://forms.gle/NvxrBeJCcRhEZ8j56>

In case of Queries, please write a mail to filmsociety@nluo.ac.in or contact:

Faculty Coordinators:

Dr Abhik Majumdar

+91 9938674250

Ms Dipanwita Mitra

+91 99326 44825

Student Coordinators:

Junaid Anshad

+91 7025870021

Aniruddha Mukherjee

+91 7001346490

Krishna Lohia

Soumya Ray

Dikshitha Sriram