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Tora Agarwala

Tags : [Independent documentary film](#), [PSBT](#), [Ridhima Mehra](#)
Posted: Tue Sep 13 2011, 03:49 hrs

Independent documentary film making is not a fledgling industry anymore and some credit for it can be given to Public Service Broadcast Trust (PSBT). Open Frames, a week-long film festival by PSBT has emerged as an influential player amid an array of film festivals that screen independent documentaries. A decade after it began, the film festival — now in its 11th year — has decided to look back and appreciate its work over the years, which will include films that won a series of awards in the past few years. The line-up also includes PSBT films produced over the last ten years along with some new productions. From chronicling oral histories of communities to exploring the relationship that various organisations share with the city, the festival will provide a context for debate and dialogue on various issues.

“This is our 11th year and we thought it would be a great idea to celebrate and reflect what we have done in the past,” said Ridhima Mehra, co-director of the program. The festival that began on September 9 with a documentary film appreciation workshop under Suresh Chabria, film historian and former director of National Film Archive of India, also screened Knocking on Heaven’s Door directed by Sanjay Bernela and Vasudha Joshi’s Girl Song. Both films are on female musicians in India and their struggle to establish themselves. Mera Apna Sheher by Sameera Jain and Dil Ki Basti Mein by Anwar Jamal, are two Delhi-centric films that were screened on the third day. The former explores gender issues around the capital while the latter captures the interesting world of old Delhi, a city caught in the intersection of the past and the present. Another interesting film which was screened was Adda: Calcutta, Kolkata, a 52-minute film by filmmakers Ranjan Palit and Surjo Deb. The film captures a day in the city and its conversations or ‘addas’ that happen all around.

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The festival that concludes on Saturday, will screen Tarini Manchanda's A Dam Old Story, a film about the controversial dam-project in the Renuka Valley and a 2006 production, Mere Desh Ki Dharti by Sumit Varma, a film about food security in India, among others. The festival will conclude with filmmaking workshops. These will be on various topics such as script writing and editing . "Since most of our productions are in-house, the theme has become more India-centric this year," says Mehra.

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