"...I have tried to find out about those remarkable men and women whose passion, perseverance and pioneering zeal have laid the foundations of what is the largest film producing film industry in the world. These pioneers are motivated not so much by profit as a sense of adventure and fascination with a new medium whose creative possibilities they only vaguely understood"

-Bhagwan Das Garga

A Story Called Cinema: The B. D. Garga Archives

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Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

A Story Called Cinema: The B.D. Garga Archives

A Story Called Cinema is a tribute to the kahaanikar (storyteller) that Sh. B.D. Garga was of India's enchanting filmic heritage. His writings and memorabilia evoke an insider's perspective as cine-stars of yesteryears and the masters of India cinema come alive.

A cinema lovers' treasure, his memorabilia comprises 4614 acquired and 1195 donated items. The B.D. Garga archives are an enthralling kaleidoscope of rare posters, photographs, working stills, lobby-cards, advertisements, books and journals.

The showcase that you will see today traces Sh. B.D. Garga's own recreation of the history of the moving image in India from its origin to memorable cinematic milestones.

B.D. GARGA (1924-2011)

Sh. Bhagwan Das Garga was a pioneering film historian and filmmaker. Born in Punjab, his love for moving images took him to Mumbai and then onward to London, Paris and Moscow.

An emissary of Indian cinema in the west, Sh. Garga reflected on how Indian cinema is "peculiar to a people...and must be viewed from this standpoint." He encouraged scholarly writing and popular dialogue to account for the "...tempo of life in India."

A founding member of the National Film Archive of India, Sh. Garga also received the National Film Award for the best book on Indian film twice-- in 2007 for From Raj to Swaraj: The Non-fiction movie in India and in 2012 for Silent Cinema in India: A pictorial journey. The incredibly arresting photographs, posters, film stills and memorabilia in these books as well as IGNCA's collection capture both the flourishes and idiosyncrasies of Indian cinema.

Sh. Garga began his filmic journey as an apprentice to V. Shantaram and went on to direct several documentary films. Encouraged by journalist and filmmaker K.A. Abbas, he began writing on cinema. Over the years, he matured as an authority on film history and was widely published in collaboration with the British Film Institute and the Cinematheque Francaise. Sh. Garga wrote extensively on World and Indian cinema. In 1969 he organized the first ever retrospective of Indian film in the Cinematheque Francaise. In a touching tribute he was awarded the V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of Documentary cinema in 1996.

Sources:

B.D. Garga: Cinema in India (1954)

G. Chatterjee: Creativity in Silent Era Indian Cinema (2016)

J. Dimmock: P.K. Nair Remembers B.D. Garga (2011)

N. Rohit: Winds from the East (n.d. Retrieved January 4 2017)

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Cordially invites all to
the inauguration of the exhibition

A Story Called Cinema: The B.D. Garga Archives

Date: Thursday, 9 February, 2017
At 4:00 pm

Venue: Exhibition Hall, 11 Mansingh Road, New Delhi- 110001

The exhibition will remain open from
10th February to 23rd February, 2017 from 10 am to 6 pm

इंदिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र

सिनेमा-एक कहानी: बी. डी. गार्गा अभिलेखागार

प्रदर्शनी के उद्घाटन पर आपको सादर आमंत्रित करता है

दिनांकः बृहस्पतिवार, 9 फरवरी, 2017
सायं– 4:00 बजे
स्थानः प्रदर्शनी हॉल, 11 मानसिंह रोड, नई दिल्ली– 110001

प्रदर्शनी दिनांक 10 फरवरी से 23 फरवरी, 2017 तक
प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सायं 6.00 बजे तक खुली रहेगी

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