



The EIKHOIGI Daily

ཡོ་སྐབས་ལྷན་སྐྱེས་
སུམ་ཕྱེད་ལྷན་སྐྱེས་
འཛམ་གླིང་གི་འཛམ་གླིང་གི་



MA - Cry of Silence

Agent of Happiness

MA - Cry of Silence and Agent of Happiness walk away with best film titles at EIFF 2025

By MAIBAM SONALEE

Finally, the results of the competition of the 2nd Eikhoigi Imphal International Film Festival are out. On the final day of the festival, the highlight of the evening was the much-awaited award presentation ceremony, where the finest talents in both fiction and non-fiction filmmaking are recognised for their outstanding contributions.

The energy in the auditorium was electrifying, with filmmakers eagerly anticipating the announcements, and the audience cheering in support of their favourite films.

International Competition - Fiction



The Maw Naing

The prestigious Best Fiction Feature Award went to *MA - Cry of Silence* (Myanmar), directed by The Maw Naing. The film's poignant and powerful portrayal of the exploitation of young female textile workers in Myanmar post the 2021 coup d'état left an indelible impact on the jury and audience alike. The film was honored with a cash prize of ₹5,00,000, celebrating its remarkable storytelling and courageous narrative.

Award-winning director The Maw Naing expressed his heartfelt gratitude in a video message to the jury members of the Eikhoigi Imphal International Film Festival for honoring him with the award. He extended his appreciation to the dedicated crew members who brought the film to life, acknowledging their unwavering commitment despite the hardships they faced.

Reflecting on the journey, he shared that the film was created during a challenging time in Myanmar, making this recognition even more meaningful.

International Competition - Non-Fiction

In the non-fiction category, *Agent of Happiness* (Bhutan), directed by Arun Bhattarai & Dorottya Zurbó, won the Best Non-Fiction Feature Award. The film



Arun Bhattarai



Dorottya Zurbó

beautifully delves into Bhutan's efforts to measure well-being beyond economic growth, capturing both the promise and paradox of happiness. The jury praised its warmth, humor, and deeply human storytelling, awarding it a cash prize of ₹3,00,000.

The Eikhoigi Pitch Award - Honoring Emerging Talents

The festival also celebrated promising new voices in cinema with The Eikhoigi Pitch Award, recognizing emerging talents in both fiction and non-fiction categories. The winners were met with loud applause and excitement as they stepped onto the stage to receive their well-deserved accolades.

The Most Promising Project - Fiction: *The Scent of Mother*



- Screenwriter & Director: Pramoda Nandeibam
- Cash Prize: ₹1,00,000
- Citation: A people's empowerment story and a metaphor for freedom and the courage to dream.

Emerging Talent - Non-Fiction: *Eche Tombi - The Brewer of Andro*



- Directors: Andy Tourangbam & Thokchom Nelson
- Cash Prize: ₹1,00,000

Emerging Talent - Fiction: *Khei-Hea (Night & Day)*



- Screenwriter & Director: Ashok Veilou
- Cash Prize: ₹1,00,000
- Citation: Recognized for its expressive cinematic language and an unwavering commitment to storytelling.

The Best Pitch - Fiction: *The Scent of the Ripening Field*



- Screenwriter & Director: Alexander Leo Pou
- Cash Prize: ₹3,00,000
- Citation: Awarded for the most convincing pitch, driven by integrity, passion, and dedication.

The Best Pitch - Non-Fiction: *Bedapati's Songs*



- Director: Borun Thokchom

- Cash Prize: ₹2,00,000

Beyond the awards, EIFF 2025 was a joyous celebration of diverse cultures, compelling narratives, and inspiring artistry. Attendees immersed themselves in panel discussions, masterclasses, and screenings, fostering meaningful conversations on global storytelling and cinematic impact.

As the curtains closed on this year's festival, the air buzzed with laughter, music, and heartfelt conversations. The festival reaffirmed its place as a premier platform for filmmakers to showcase their vision and creativity on an international stage.

EIFF continues to stand as a beacon of cinematic excellence, supporting fresh voices and powerful stories that inspire change. As the festival team looks forward to the next edition, cinephiles can expect even greater cinematic experiences, global collaborations, and an ever-expanding platform for the art of storytelling.

Here's to the magic of movies, the power of stories, and the spirit of EIFF! Until the next edition, Imphal.

