

Revealing the History of Konkani Cinema

By Tomazinho Cardozo

If one has to gather authentic information about Konkani Cinema one must read the book “Konknni Cholchitram” written by well-known writer Isidore Dantas.

The book, written in Konkani in the Roman script, begins with information about the production and exhibition of the first Konkani celluloid film “Mogacho Anvddo” by producer-actor AL Jerry Braganza under the banner of ETICA Films way back in 1950. In fact, this book was published in 2010 on the occasion of completion of 60 years of Konkani Cinema.

One cannot forget the contribution of late Andrew Greno Viegas who single-handedly published the first book on the same subject titled “50 Years of Konkani Cinema” on the occasion of the golden Jubilee of Konkani Cinema in the year 2000.

Isidore Dantas’ “Konknni Cholchitram” gives detailed information about celluloid Konkani films produced during the last 60 years. In all there are 31 celluloid Konkani films produced till date. The films released as late as December 2009 find place in this book. These productions are done Konkani cinema aficionados from Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. In brief the book can be considered a kaleidoscope of Konkani cinema from the Konkani region.

Mr Dantas has taken a lot of pains in giving detailed information about every film. He has made it a point to give the story of every film in brief besides including other technical and even financial aspects of the film. The success stories of film have also been included. The book is decorated with numerous photographs from every film. Besides, it carries lyrics from every film together with musical scores. This is the greatness of this book.

Mr Dantas has also added a chapter enlightening readers on the valuable contribution of Konkani-speaking filmmakers, artistes, technicians, musicians, singers, etc, to Indian Cinema. He has listed 48 personalities which include Goan actress Ermelinda (Sudhabala), Mangeshkar sisters, Shyam Benegal, Girish Karnad, Bhaskar Chandravarkar, Ashok Saraf, K Vaikunth, Domnic Dias, Varsha Usgaokar, Remo Fernandes and Hema Sardesai. He has also featured new entrants to the film world namely Freida Pinto, Iliana D’Cruz and Genelia D’Costa.

The book is dedicated to late Frank Fernando, who composed memorable music for the Konkani films “Amchem Noxib” and “Nirmonn”. The production of this book has been funded by George Pinto besides many others. The credit page

records the valuable advice given by Ben Antao, Cecil Pinto and Francis Rodrigues.

The book was released on April 4 in California, USA on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of Goa Sudharop, a NGO working for the promotion of Konkani language, culture and Goan identity. The book, "Konknni Cholchitram" will be released in Goa on September 21 at 4.30 p.m. Hotel Mandovi, Panaji.