

## RESUME

### Sandeep Chatterjee

**Professor and Head of the Department,  
Department of Direction and Screenwriting  
Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.**

**Teaching Experience of 19 years.  
Professional Experience of 25 years.**

#### A Brief Introduction:

The national award winning director of *Sundar Jeebon*, Sandeep Chatterjee is a filmmaker and teacher of cinema whose work spans around 25 years. If you ask him, however, he is likely to tell you that he is still a student.

In the late eighties, Sandeep quit studying science because he loved images. He travelled to the fabled Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, of which he is a distinguished alumnus, and now head of the department of Direction & Screenwriting.

His current assignment came on the back of decades of work impressive for both breadth and depth. Apart from *Sundar Jeebon*, a film based on fiction writing of the iconic Bengali poet Jibananda Das, that won the President's medal, Sandeep has made influential films like *Raat koto holo*, which have been screened at different festivals and film schools. He has taught in film schools has conducted workshops/lecture sessions in India and abroad.

Sandeep's teaching career began at the then Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute of India in Kolkata, an institution he helped from its early days to make one of the country's premier film schools. He has taught film and lectured in film schools across continents: from Taipei to Tolouse, and closer home, at Subhash Ghai's Whistling Woods and Mindscreen Film Institute in Chennai.

Sandeep is has been on the jury of various film awards and travels the globe for workshops and symposiums. His focus, wherever he goes, is on making the art of cinema more accessible and inclusive.

He is also a firm believer in creating art by 'working with what you have'; just one of the reasons why his legion of students respect and love him.

#### PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Graduated with Bachelor of Science (BSc) from **Calcutta University, 1986.**

Post-Graduate **Diploma in Cinema** from **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune (1990)** with Specialization in **Direction and Screenplay-writing.**

Currently pursuing a **Master of Arts in History** from the **School of Social Sciences, IGNOU, New Delhi.**

#### AWARDS

Recipient of the prestigious **President's Medal at the National Film Award for Best Short Fiction Film** for the film "**Sundar Jeebon**" (35mm, col) in 2003.

## CITATION

The award for the Best Short Fiction Film of the Year 2002 is given to the Bengali film SUNDAR JEEBON for its sensitive and nuanced story about a writer and the sour taste of beauty. The film is notable for its technical excellence and the excellent synergy created by the young director Sandeep Chatterjee and his colleagues from the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute in Calcutta. This award applauds them all.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### TEACHING JOBS:

- **Presently working as Professor and Head of the Department, Department of Direction & Screenwriting at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, (Under the Information & Broadcasting Ministry of Government of India) since 2009. Worked as Dean (Films) for a few months in 2015.**
- **Assistant Professor in the Department of Direction and Screenplay Writing at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata, (Under the Information & Broadcasting Ministry of Government of India) from 1997 to 2009.**

### PROFESSIONAL INTERACTION WITH INSTITUTIONS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES:

- **Invited to conduct a class on Contemporary Indian Cinema at VGIK University, Moscow in September 2011.**
- **Invited to Taiwan National University of Arts, Taipei to lecture on 'Post Independence Indian Cinema' in October 2012.**
- **Official invitee to Clairmont Ferrand International Film Festival in France to present films from FTII in 2013.**
- **Official Invitee to "Corrida Audiovisuelle" an interactive academic program organized by ESAV, University of Toulouse in France in April 2014 to present a talk on analysis of student exercises and teaching curriculum in FTII.**
- **Participated in a Seminar on Previsualization at Chapman University, Los Angeles as part of the CILECT Congress along with representatives from different film schools around the world in October 2014.**
- **Invited to Dhaka, Bangladesh by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Center to conduct a 15-day Workshop on Film Direction at the International Academy of Film & Media, Dhaka in June 2015.**
- **Visited Arts University College Bournemouth, England as part of a Faculty Exchange Program in 2010.**

### PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA:

- **Conducted a Mis-en-scene Workshop at Subhash Ghai's Whisling Woods International film school in Mumbai in 2008.**
- **Conducted classes for Film Appreciation Courses organized by FTII and The National Film Archive of India around the country in Pune, Kanpur and Goa (2009 – 2011).**
- **Guest Lecture – Cinema and Literature to the Post Graduate students of English at**

- Ferguson College, Pune (2010).**
- **Panelist** in the **open forum seminar** held at the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI Goa, 2010)** on **'New risk takers; young film makers coming out of film schools'**.
  - **Panelist** in a **seminar on Youth and Cinema in India** held at the **International Institute of Information Technology, Pune (2011).**
  - Participated as an **invitee at Open Forum Seminars at Clapstick Student Film Festival** conducted by the **Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata (2011).**
  - **Invited** by **Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal** to speak on life and films of eminent French film maker **Francois Truffaut** in **2013.**
  - Conducted a **Workshop on Cinema** with **school children in Tinsukia, Assam**, organized by the office of the District Magistrate **(2013).**
  - Conducted classes on **Indian Cinema** for the Center for Cultural Training and Research **(CCRT), Ministry of Culture, New Delhi (2014-15).**
  - **Participated** in National Workshop on **"Research possibilities in Visual and Performing Arts"** conducted by the **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi** in **November 2015.**
  - Conducted workshop classes on **Direction & Screenwriting** at the **Mindscreen Film Institute** Chennai (2017).

#### **FOCUSSED AREAS OF ACADEMIC WORK AS A FACULTY IN FILM SCHOOL:**

- Developing a syllabus and curriculum plan exploring the challenges of the Digital Technology and the new possibilities that it unfolds in terms of interferences between different art forms, developing a holistic understanding of Art and its purpose.
- Developing a planned academic approach by working out teaching plans for class modules through a semester.
- Mentoring students on their creative projects and working out a way of guiding an individual while making them aware of the essential reality and environment in which they are engaging with creative work.
- Developing methods of Assessment for creative work in film schools.

#### **JURY:**

**Jury member** for **Incredible India**, an international short film competition conducted by the **Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (2011-12).**

**Jury Chief** for a **Student film festival** conducted by the **Symbiosis School of Media and Communication (2012).**

#### **PUBLICATION:**

Currently working on a book on Teaching Film Making in the Digital Era with a focus on the contemporary scenario of Indian Cinema.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### DIRECTION

#### SHORT FILMS

- **“RECONNAISSANCE”** produced by **Film and Television Institute of India, Pune** shot in 35mm B/W (30 mins), **1990**.
- **“SUNDAR JEEBON”** produced by **Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata** in 35mm Col (38 mins). 2002  
Won the **National Award** for **Best Short Fiction** in **2002**.
- **“RAAT KOTO HOLO”** produced by **Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata** in 35mm Col (34 mins) **2011**.  
Selected and Screened at **“SIGNS”** film festival in **Kerala 2012**.  
Selected in competition section of **IDSFFK, Trivandrum, Kerala, 2012**.

#### DOCUMENTARIES:

- **“In Search Of Happiness”** a Documentary focusing on the need for conservation: Old World Cinema and Buildings in Mumbai, (28 min). Currently in final stage of post-production, **2017**.
- A Creative Documentary on Poetry and contemporary life. Currently under production, **2016-17**.
- A Documentary on **Spicer Memorial College, Pune** (20 mins), **1990**.
- **“Pharmacy in Modern India”** an educational documentary for UGC telecast on National network (20 mins), **1991**.
- **“Marriage...changing surnames”** for National television on **Doordarshan 1** (6 mins), **1993**.
- **“Chitra” a cultural magazine programme** for National Television telecast by **Kolkata Doordarshan**. Short Documentaries were made on the following cultural events and personalities (10 mins each), **1995**.
  - Shantiniketan & environment
  - Shakti Chattopadhyay (Poet)
  - Harisadhan Dasgupta (Filmmaker)
  - Jeebon Dolui (Rural Sculptor)
  - Band parties of Kolkata
  - Bengal state handicrafts fair.

Worked as a **Cinematographer** for a video documentary on the slum dwellers of Mumbai, made for YUVA, **1991**.

## AD FILMS:

- POM Neem Shampoo, 1994.
- Team Finance, 1994.
- Techmark Cooler, 1994.

## MUSIC VIDEO:

“Abani Bari Achho” sung by **Padmashri Rita Ganguly** based on lyrics from a poem by **Shakti Chattopadhyay** in **2008**.

## TELEVISION:

- **Directed a 24 Episode Talk Show** on Bengali Cinema & Playback Sequences titled ‘Jabab Nei’ for **Zee** Television Channel **1995**.
- Worked as **Director** for **News Magazine Program** ‘Ajiro Odisha’ for National Television Bhuvaneshwar **Doordarshan** in **1994**.
- Worked as **Chief Assistant Director** for **24 Episode Fiction Hindi TV Series** for National Television telecast on ‘**Delhi Doordarshan**’ titled ‘**Shesh Prashn**’ based on a famous novel by **Shri Saratchandra Chattopadhyay** in **1992-93**.

## FEATURE FILM:

Worked as **Chief Assistant Director** to **Kumar Shahani** for a **Feature Film “Char Adhyay”** based on the novel by Rabindranath Tagore, for **NFDC. (35mm, Col). 1996**.

## **SCREENPLAY WRITING**

- **Reconnaissance**, a short film of 30 mins duration
- **Sundar Jeebon**, a short film of 38 mins duration
- **Raat Koto Holo** a short film of 34 mins duration
- **The Zone** a feature length script for children (1995)
- **Madhuchakra** a feature length script (2006)

## **ACTING**

Played the **lead role** in Malayalam feature film titled **Chitra Suthram** directed by **Vipin Vijay**. The film has won an award for best debut in the **Kerala film festival** 2010 and has participated in the competitive section of the **Rotterdam film festival**.

Was invited to the **Pacific Meridian Film Festival in Vladivostok, Russia, Sep’ 2011** as lead actor to represent this film.

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS\_**

- Researched for a **BFI DVD RELEASE** on French filmmaker **Jean Renoir’s** film called **RIVER**, which was shot in Calcutta, India, 2004.

- Researched and scripted a documentary film on the lives of a community of ex-leprosy patients living in a village formed outside the premises of a Leprosy Hospital in the interiors of rural Bengal in Bankura district, 1991.
- Researched and scripted a documentary film on a Tribal Community in West Midnapore, called “**Lodha**”, which through the British regime came to be known as a “community of thieves”, 1991.
- Researched and partly shot a documentary film on the life of **Sheikh Ijaz** (2000), a rural masseur and salesman with great skills for theatrics and communication. He lives in a village in Birbhum district of Bengal with his wife and children and visited the Dhabas dotted along the National Highway to sell his massage for tired truck drivers. It was a study of a rural character, a fence-sitter, at the onset of a new millennium. Unfortunately, this film could not be completed due to lack of funds.
- Researched and scripted a documentary film on Smt. **Gita Ghatak** (2007), an eminent singer and actor from Bengal. Just before shooting she had an attack and eventually passed away. The project had to be abandoned.
- Researched and scripted a Documentary on the life of **Begum Akhtar**, an eminent Ghazal singer from Faizabad. The film could not be shot for lack of funding (2014).
- Researched and shot a documentary film on an old building in Mumbai (2012-15) which used to house a major film production office of the silent era and was in the process of getting demolished. The triumph of Real Estate business over little edifices of Social History. The film is currently in the sound post-production stage and will get completed shortly.

## AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- Passionate interest in Photography. Completed the first year of a course conducted by “The Photographic Association of Dum Dum” in Kolkata in 1986.
- Passionate interest in Indian History and Bengali Literature. Extensively studied the works of Bengali author and poet Shri Jibanananda Das.