

A window to short film festivals

On 15 September 2017, Film Making, Film Editing and Cinematography students of LIVE had a rare opportunity of being trained by Dr. Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai, Associate Professor in the Departments of English, and Media and Information at Michigan State University. His recent publications include *Madras Studios: Narrative, Genre, and Ideology in Tamil Cinema* (Sage Publications, 2015) and *Cinema: Sattagamum Saalaramum/Cinema: Frame and a Window* (Nizhal Publications, 2012).

He screened best shots and scenes on the film *Chinatown* and *Moulin Rouge* to the students and explained the concept of the script, the way of storytelling, cinematography and editing methods used.

He spoke about the top five festivals in the world and explained their importance. Here are some of the points that he made: “In a movie, there are three different stages. First one is beginning; second is mid and third is End of the Story. And the director must write a script in an interesting way and the screenplay should sustain the interest till the very end of a successful movie.”

He also spoke about the best short film selection methods and his role and criteria in the short film selection committee.

The students interacted with the resource person and went home with more than a fair idea about short film festivals and film making concepts.