

'Kakori' Reignites Patriotic Spirit at IFFI 2025

The 56th International Film Festival of India witnessed a wave of nostalgia and pride as *Kakori*, directed by Kamlesh K. Mishra, made its impactful debut. The film commemorates the centenary of the Kakori Rail Action of 1925, a daring act that became a defining moment in India's freedom struggle.

Speaking at a

press event, Kamlesh described the project as "a film carved out of fire and sacrifice," honoring the four revolutionaries who were martyred within forty-eight hours. Highlighting the painstaking research behind the project, he explained how the team consulted historians, archival sources, and memorials to capture the event's



historical accuracy and emotional depth. Initially envisioned as

a documentary, the film evolved into a fully immersive 31-minute cinematic experience, blending precise historical detail with compelling storytelling.

Producer Jaswinder Singh praised the cast for bringing the revolutionaries to life, calling the film "a tribute to their indomitable spirit" and expressing hope that it would inspire

younger generations with renewed patriotism.

Set against 1920s British India, *Kakori* follows the audacious plan of the Hindustan Republican Association to seize British treasury funds, led by Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Chandrasekhar Azad, and their comrades. The narrative explores ideals, camaraderie,

and sacrifice, portraying betrayal, imprisonment, and martyrdom as integral to the revolutionaries' journey, ultimately offering a stirring testament to youthful courage and patriotism.

Film Details: India | 2024 | Hindi | 31' | ColourCast & Crew: Director – Kamlesh K. Mishra | Producer – KSR Brothers | Screenplay – Kamlesh K. Mishra | Cinematographer – Dev Agrawal | Editors – Abhishek Vats, Aron Ram | Music – Bapi Bhattacharya | Cast – Peeyush Suhane, Manwendra Tripathy, Vikas Shrivastav, Santosh Kumar Ojha, Rajneesh Kaushiq, Hirdeyjeet Singh.



Khushboo and Suhasini Shine at IFFI Workshop: Lessons, Laughter, and Legendary Performances

Veteran actors share decades of cinematic wisdom and guide aspiring performers in a masterclass blending craft, nostalgia, and technique.

The International Film Festival of India's In Conversational Workshop at Kala Academy became a living classroom of cinema as actors Khushboo Sundar and Suhasini Maniratnam shared insights from their illustrious careers. Titled "The Luminary Icons: Creative Bonds and Fierce Performances," the session celebrated artistry, mentorship, and the transformative power of performance. Suhasini opened with her trademark humour, recalling early doubts about her being related to Kamal



Haasan, before turning the conversation to Khushboo's craft. Khushboo explained that she makes no distinction between art-house and mainstream cinema, approaching each project as "soft clay," ready to embody the director's vision. She highlighted memorable

collaborations with directors such as Bharathi Raja, who shaped characters around her real-life skills like swimming and horse riding, illustrating the trust that exists between actor and filmmaker. The discussion navigated the unpredictable nature of cinema. Khushboo reflected on her blockbuster *Chinnathambi* alongside personal favourites like *Captain Magal* and *Jathi Malli*, emphasising that every actor must learn to embrace the uncertainty of box-office outcomes. Suhasini reinforced the importance of bringing pieces of oneself into every role, stating, "Begin each scene as though you are beginning a new film." She advised

aspiring actors to engage deeply with language, recommending writing dialogues in one's native tongue and revisiting them repeatedly to master nuance and delivery. The session offered practical lessons in performance. Suhasini demonstrated techniques for conveying shock, the precision of hitting marks, and the subtleties of micro-movements that enhance storytelling. Both actors shared anecdotes of nervousness, forgotten lines, and mentorship from legends like Chiranjeevi, Vishnuvardhan, and Mohanlal, showcasing the combination of preparation, humility, and dedication that defines enduring craft.

Nostalgia met technique as Khushboo recreated her iconic scene from *Chinnathambi*, moving the audience to applause and tears, while Suhasini performed a segment from *Kannaki*, accompanied spontaneously by dance master Kala. These live performances bridged decades of cinematic history, illustrating the emotional depth and skill of two artists who have shaped Indian cinema. The workshop concluded with an interactive Q&A, leaving young performers inspired and the audience enthralled. By blending humour, memory, and masterful

technique, Khushboo and Suhasini transformed IFFI's stage into a vibrant classroom, demonstrating that the heart of performance lies in curiosity, craft, and the courage to live every role authentically.

