

## **MONTAGE – The Film Society – Annual Report 2020-21**

The year 2020-21 was unique in the entire history of Montage, as it was for so many other institutions. With the pandemic hitting us hard, initially we were bewildered and kept hoping that normalcy will resume. After a point, we accepted the situation and gradually everything turned to online mode. The screenings which took place in the academic auditorium were now being held online and members joined in from their own domestic spaces on their computers or phones. Even though we missed the collective large screen viewing experience that we have always treasured in Montage, we could simulate the collectivity by synchronized viewing and online group discussions after the screenings. The session began with an in-house screening of Anand Gandhi's Ship of Theseus. Soon new members joined us. Even though the semester was online we tried to make the most of it with the new recruits. The first semester saw the screening of 12 films like The Battle of Algiers (dir: Gillo Pontecorvo), Moolade (dir: Ousmane Sembène), Raging Bull and Taxi Driver (dir: Martin Scorsese) and so on. We covered the themes of Third World Cinema and New Hollywood, which brought a fresh perspective to light. Our second semester was dominated by the themes of German Expressionism and Soviet Montage which offered a lot in terms of cinematographic knowledge.

Even though the pandemic hit us hard, we managed to have 24 screenings along with 7 workshops and collaborations with other institutions. One such experience was with the director and screenwriter Aditya Kriplani where we discussed his films and talked about film making. One of our greatest achievements this year was the opening of the filmmaking wing. We conducted some in house sessions related to film making and learnt quite a lot. We look forward to be able to make films and do some more practical work in the film making field when pandemic is over and the college opens once again.

In all it was a fruitful session even when things looked so bleak for the whole world.