

PRESS RELEASE

## Thomson Foundation launches the second edition of the 'IFFI Film Heritage Section' in partnership with the 39<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India

- The restored version of '*Lola Montès*' to be opening film and 'Women!' to be central theme for this year's Film Heritage section
- IFFI Film Heritage section is in partnership with Thomson Foundation for Film & TV Heritage, International Film Festival of India, La Cinémathèque française, Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and is supported by the Film & TV Office of the French Embassy in India.

Goa / Paris, November 24, 2008 – The Thomson Foundation for Film & TV Heritage announced the launch of the second edition of the "IFFI-Film Heritage Section" at the 39th International Film Festival of India. The "IFFI-Film Heritage Section", dedicated to worldwide film heritage, will open this year with a major restoration of the 1955 French film, *Lola Montès*.

With a view to highlight the restored version of Max Ophuls' *Lola Montès*, the theme this year for the heritage section is "Women!" Films by George Cukor, Luis Bunuel, Mikio Naruse, Maurice Pialat and Ritwik Ghatak will be screened in this section. IFFI 2008 will take place in Goa from November 22 to December 2, 2008.

A 1955 masterpiece by director Max Ophuls, *Lola Montès* was also the opening film at the Cannes Classics section in the 61<sup>st</sup> International Film Festival of Cannes in May 2008. The restoration of *Lola Montès* has been much acclaimed and the restored version has since been screened in renowned international festivals throughout Europe and the USA.

Séverine Wemaere, Managing Director of Thomson Foundation, said, "It is our endeavor to sensitize and promote awareness among the audience and the people involved in cinema about the importance of restoring and preserving film heritage. With an aim to highlight worldwide film heritage, The Thomson Foundation initiated and proposed to the International Film Festival of India to create a film heritage section in 2007. It gives me immense pleasure to see that we are continuing with our commitment to the cause and I take this opportunity to thank the organising committee of the 39<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India, Goa 2008, for their encouragement and support. Films are a part of human culture and history. Today, they run the risk of total disappearance unless we all understand the necessity of film preservation and act accordingly.

"The Thomson Foundation's contribution to the *Lola Montès* restoration project underscores its efforts to promote original masterpieces in order to convey their importance in cinema history, the need for their preservation and the need to enable public exposure to these works. The second edition marks the continuity of the partnership in association with Cinémathèque française, Film & Television Institute of India and the support of the Film & TV Office of French Embassy in India," she added.

The Thomson Foundation was a key pillar of this huge restoration work as part of a united project team that included *La Cinémathèque française*; the rights owners *Films du Jeudi* and *Marcel Ophuls* and the *Franco-American Cultural Fund*. The restoration of *Lola Montès* was complicated due to reconstruction of the original editing and due to physical damages that could only be recovered with digital technologies and processes.



The goal was to “rediscover” Ophuls' original version faithful to the author's wishes. The Thomson Foundation brought together its Paris-based team with the best experts from Technicolor services in Los Angeles for this mega project.

#### **About Thomson Foundation for Film & TV Heritage**

Created in 2006, the Thomson Foundation is a non-profit entity, acting worldwide in the field of preservation and promotion of film and TV heritage, which reflects the history and culture of a country. Working in cooperation with local and international partners, the Thomson Foundation identifies and supports urgent programs for the safeguard of moving images. By identifying the appropriate resources required for each project, the Thomson Foundation helps set up multi-disciplinary teams. They include experts from its founder Thomson and experts from leading film and TV archives, film preservation schools, cinema schools. Transmission and education plays a key role in each program. In all Foundation programs, films and audiovisual materials are preserved with the aim to be shared and shown to the largest audience.

#### **About International Film Festival of India**

The International Film Festival of India is being organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in collaboration with the Government of Goa and the Indian film industry. The Directorate of Film Festivals organizes international and national film festivals within the country, facilitates India's participation in film festivals abroad, arranges programmes of foreign films in India and Indian films abroad under bi-lateral exchange agreements and conducts the National Film Awards. As a vehicle of cultural exchange, DFF promotes international friendship, provides access to new trends in world cinema, generates healthy competition and, in the process, helps to improve the standards of Indian cinema.

#### **About La Cinémathèque française**

After a long residency at the Palais de Chaillot, the Cinémathèque française has since September 2005 made its home within the modern building designed by the architect Frank Gehry in Paris' 12th district. Enjoying fresh support, the Cinémathèque is now in a position to exhibit, host, restore and display its collections in three exhibition spaces, programme films on three screens, receive students and researchers in its library and archive centre, and organise educational events for young audiences. Rich with experience, the Cinémathèque française continues to fulfil its original mission: preserving and restoring films and archives within its collections, programming major classics.

#### **About Film & TV Office of French Embassy in India**

The Film & TV Office of French Embassy in India is in charge of developing Indo-French cooperation in the fields of cinema, television and radio. It supports the efforts of professionals of both sides and promotes French cinema in India and Indian cinema in France by organising or participating in film festivals, markets and other events. It informs the general Indian public about French cinema and gives the French players an overview of the Indian market and its evolution.

#### **About Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)**

Established in the year 1960 on the erstwhile Prabhat studio premises at Pune and thereby inheriting a rich legacy in quality cinema, the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) has truly lived up to its avowed objective in the field of imparting training in film making and television programme production. Today the



FTII is considered as a Center of Excellence not only in India but also in Asia and Europe. The FTII is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India.

For further information, please contact:

### Press Relations

#### Comma Consulting

Abhishek Mahapatra

+91 98 11 66 77 27

amahapatra@comma.in

Odette Sapeco

+91 98 22 48 90 99

odette@sify.com

#### Thomson Foundation

Séverine Wemaere

+33 6 07 33 31 25

severine.wemaere@thomson.net

### Schedule of the "Women!" section programming:

#### Opening at Kala Academy

Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm      *Lola Montès* by Max Ophuls (1955, France-Germany)

#### INOX Cinema

Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:15 pm      *Cluny Brown* by Ernst Lubitsch (1946, USA)  
7:45 pm      *Subamarekha* by Ritwik Ghatak (1965, India)

Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:15 pm      *Floating Clouds* by Mikio Naruse (1955, Japon)  
7:45 pm      *Loulou* by Maurice Pialat (1980, France)

Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:15 pm      *Imitation of Life* by Douglas Sirk (1959, USA)  
7:45 pm      *The Women* by George Cukor (1939, USA)

Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:15 pm      *Belle de Jour* by Luis Bunuel (1967, France)

Workshop n°1 November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008: The restoration project of *Lola Montès*: collective efforts for the sake of an author's work.

Workshop n°2 November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Women and Cinema, Women in Cinema

#### Among speakers:

- Jean-François Rauger, Director of Programming, Cinémathèque française
- Suresh Chabria, Professor in Film Appreciation, Film & Television Institute of India
- Anurag Kashyap, Film Director, Writer, Actor, Producer
- Mani Kaul, Film Director, Painter, Musician, Advisor for Osian's Festival
- Tabu, Actress
- Séverine Wemaere, Managing Director, Thomson Foundation for Film & TV Heritage
- Loubna Régragui, Project Manager, Thomson Foundation for Film & TV Heritage