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Film Festivals

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Inaugural London Indian fest closes with kudos ceremony

Organizers already talking about second edition

By SHALINI DORE

The inaugural London Indian film fest closed Tuesday with the U.K. preem of Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni's "Vihir" (The Well). A Q&A with writer-star-executive producer Girish Kulkarni followed the pic's unspooling.

Aud prize went to "Road to Sangam," and the Satyajit Ray short kudo to "Miracle in West Brom," whose Billy Dosanjh received £1,000 (\$1,523). Jury was headed by Time Out critic Dave Calhoun.

Fest organizers are talking about including Indian regional-lingo pics for the soph edition.

Fest, which ran July 15-20 with the support of the Satyajit Ray Foundation, showcased avant garde Indian films at theaters across London. It opened with Dibakar Banerjee's "Love, Sex aur Dhokha." Other highlights included "City of Gold," and "Last Chance Mumbai."

Filmmakers got to interact with reps from the U.K. Film Council and distribs such as Artificial Eye, Fortissimo, Headline Pictures, Optimum Releasing, Eros Intl. and 20th Century Fox, fulfilling one of the event's goals of securing distribution and fostering co-productions between India and Blighty. Indian companies included Mumbai Mantra and Fox Star Studios India.

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