

Workshop on Mobile Filmmaking by Nitin Das

The students of Delhi School of Journalism hosted Mr. Nitin Das, a prolific independent Filmmaker who chose his passion for filmmaking and expression over IIM and IIT degrees, and a decent position in India Today. He describes himself as a wandering filmmaker and does not believe in any qualifications on paper but in clarity of purpose and enjoyment in work.

He showed the students a Film he shot on easily available smartphones like Nokia and OnePlus which were amazing works of creativity and videography. He tried to decode his mantras of exuberant filmmaking by giving the students vibrant tasks to complete. He told students about the three shots in films which were like their alphabets-Close Up, Mid Shot and Long Shot and what purpose is served by each. This was followed by an activity to identify each in his film and sketches.

His stories travelled from his mind to paper and then to phone, and he remarked that all of us have concepts building up in our mind which do not end up in becoming films or told stories. There was also a uniqueness in each film even if they have the same story. He narrated a story and all of us conceptualised it in our own way, determining where to use each kind of shot.

He deconstructed filmmaking into Character and Conflict which have situations and struggles, and also told us the Theory of Relativity of filmmaking which depended on strong characters. The students, on being asked, came up with interesting one-line stories themselves.

Time limited our learning experience and two hours flowed by as minutes, but Sir was optimistic that at least we will have better Facebook Profile Photos after learning these rules!

The students took turns clicking pictures of the person sitting next to them according to the shots he specified us to use.

He briefly introduced the Rule of Thirds which is an important component of our course in Photography in subsequent semesters.

The last part of the workshop which was to change the way we approached photography and filmmaking/ videography required us to draw an elephant and tear it into small pieces, and ask another person to put it back to pieces. This seemingly impossible exercise taught us the importance of precision in filmmaking and the difficulty in sequencing our film if we shoot it beyond a limited timeframe.

The session concluded with a group photograph, which was inspired by the rules just introduced to us.



(Contributed by Gauri Joshi, II Sem BJ)