THE FEMALE GAZE: Celebrating The Cinema of Women

1. **Overview:**
   Name of the committee : Nazariya, The Visual Arts and Cine Club of VSES
   Faculty Members : Dr. Anjali Dawar and Ms. Swarnika Ahuja
   Student Coordinators : Yuvna Tandon (5th semester)
   Priyanshi Bhatla(5th semester)
   Ananya Madaan (1st semester)
2. **Description**:
   Nazariya, The Visual Arts and Cine Club of VSES organized a Two – Day movie screening Event titled " THE FEMALE GAZE: Celebrating the Cinema of Women" on 9th and 10th October to celebrate the work of female directors. This event took place in room 301, A block from 2:00 pm-4:30pm. The event kick-started with a formal address by Ms. Swarnika Ahuja about the overall concept and purpose of the event. The film screenings were followed by an intense discussion about female- oriented cinema. Poster of the event is attached below:



DAY 1 : NIL BATTEY SANATA
-Aishwiny Iyer Tiwari

Purpose of this event: The concept of the "female gaze" challenges the traditional, male-dominated lens through which women are often depicted. In *Nil Battey Sanata*, the story is told from a woman's perspective. The focus is on Chanda's experience and portrays her internal struggles without reducing her to a mere object of pity. It showcases the resilience, strength, and complexity of female characters, especially those who navigate systemic barriers while maintaining hope and determination. The film portrays Apeksha's academic journey as a major aspect of her growth. Through Apeksha's eyes, education is not just about passing exams or finding a way out of poverty, but about reclaiming control over her own life. The film represents education as a tool for self determination the key that allows Apeksha to dream of a future where she is no longer limited by societal expectations. Apeksha's growing realization that she can rise above the circumstances she was born into and she can have her own dreams, she can put a ban on the stereotype that children have to follow their parent's footsteps echoes the empowerment and transformation that the female gaze often champions.

Outcomes: The event received an outstanding response from the students, sparking deep engagement from the audience. It encouraged them to explore the dynamics of the female gaze, with the cinematic works presented through a woman's perspective highlighting powerful, empowering themes. This led to a rich post-event discussion. The audience was attentive to even the smallest details of the film, appreciating how its simplicity effectively addressed a range of concerns and challenged numerous stereotypes. In the end, the whole experience was very wholesome, knowledgeable and satisfactory.

Lessons learned: The entire experience taught us so many valuable lessons, including the complexities of motherhood and the immense sacrifices mothers make for their children, always wishing the best for them. The film also emphasizes the power of dreams and the importance of realizing that each of us holds the key to our own future. As T. Harv Eker wisely said, “It is not the lack of money but the lack of willpower that prevents people from improving their lives.” Additionally, the movie challenges societal stereotypes, particularly the false notion that women are inherently less logical or capable, especially when it comes to subjects like mathematics. Ultimately, *Nil Battey Sanata* serves as a poignant reminder that with determination, the courage to challenge societal norms, and the belief in one’s own abilities, anyone can rewrite their story and break free from limitations.

Pictures of Day 1:













DAY 2 : PAST LIVES
- Celine Song

Purpose of this event: This event seeks to showcase films that are not only created by women but also offer a female perspective on universal themes like love, identity, belonging, and loss. By celebrating the works of female filmmakers, the event amplifies voices that have historically been marginalized or underrepresented in mainstream cinema. In the film *Past Lives*, the protagonist Nora is a woman whose internal world, desires, and choices shape the narrative, rather than serving as a mere reflection of the desires of a male lead. The film exemplifies how women bring their unique sensibilities and viewpoints to cinema, enriching the art form with fresh perspectives and diverse voices. This event reminds us that storytelling when driven by women has the capacity to transform the way we see ourselves and the world around us.

Outcomes: *Past Lives* embodies the essence of the female gaze, and its screening at this event highlighted the depth and complexity of female storytelling that goes beyond traditional romantic or melodramatic tropes. The event underscored how women's perspectives can profoundly enrich cinematic narratives, offering a transformative viewing experience that deeply resonated with the audience. Following the screening, a discussion ensued in which students remarked on how each scene felt layered with meaning, almost like an allusion. One participant pointed out that during a conversation between the two protagonists about their childhood, the background featured a carousel, a subtle detail that spoke volumes about the thoughtfulness of the cinematography. When crafted by a woman, such details connect with the audience on multiple emotional and intellectual levels, adding richness to the storytelling.

Lessons learned: In *Past Lives*, the lessons are not explicit or didactic but are woven into the fabric of its storytelling. It’s a film that invites viewers to reflect on their own experiences, relationships, and the choices they’ve made in life. It teaches us that love is complex, that identity is fluid, that the past and future shape our present, and that ultimately, the art of living involves accepting the unknown while cherishing the present moment.

Pictures of day 2:



Volunteers:
Anushka Singh Songra (1st semester)
Mahi Dubey (1st semester)
Dishita (1st semester)
Lavanya Sachdeva (3rd semester)
Jasmeet Kaur (3rd semester)

Picture credits:
Bharti Priya (3rd semester)
Divya (1st semester)
Tanuksha Nagpal (1st semester)

Attendance:

9/10/2024.

NAZARIYA

presents

THE FEMALE GAZE:

Celebrating the Anima of Women

S.No.	Name and Sem	Signature.
1.	Akshita Takkar	akshita
2.	Deepika Malik	Deepika
3	Drishty Goel	drishtygoel
4	Ananya Madan	Ananya
5	Aditi Tiwari	Aditi Tiwari
6	Manya Goel.	Manya
7.	Ananya Nair	Ananya
8.	Kanishka	Kanishka
9.	Tanushka Nagpal	
10.	Ilika Chauhan	Ilika
11.	Shivya Sehgal	Shivya
12.	Deena Kaur Anand	Deena
13.	Resham Gupta	Resham
14.	Nabi Dubey	
15.	Nikita Dabiya	Navya
16.	Navya Khurana	Akshita
17.	Dishita Soin	

18.	Yuvna Tandon, Sem 5	Yuvna
19	Shagun Gupta, Sem 5	
20.	Priyanshi Bhatia, Sem 5	Priyanshi
21.	Natalie D. Jash, Sem 5	Natalie
22	Sneha Singh, Sem 5	Sneha
23.	Bharti Priya, Sem 3	Bharti
24.	Mitali Makwana, Sem 3	
25	Saniya Shaikh, Sem 3	
26.	Yukti Gaba, Sem 3 (MA)	
27.	Manisha Pal, Sem 3 (MA)	Manisha
28	Khushi Verma, Sem 3 (MA)	Khushi
29.	Chetna Attri, Sem 3 (MA)	Chetna
30.	Gauvika Tandon, Sem 1	gauvika
31.	Satyam Raj, Sem 5	Satyam
32.	Prateek Mishra, Sem 5	Prateek
33.	Ragini Mishra, Sem 3	
34.	V. Divya, Sem 3	Divya
35.	Jasmeet Kaur, Sem 3	Jasmeet
36.	Vidhi 3-A	VK
37.	Ridhi Garg, Sem 1	Ridhi
38.	Anonya Juneja, Sem 1	Anonya
39.	Divya, Sem 1	Divya
40.	Arsh, Sem 5	

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41.	Nikita Sharma S-B	Nikita
42.	Ishita Gupta SA	
43	Ilika Chauhan, Sem 5	Ilika

Day 2

S.No.	Name and Sem	signature
1.	Khushi Punia, SA	
2.	Sanya Jindal, Sem I B	Sanya
3.	Kanishka, Sem I B	Kanishka
4.	Ananya Nair Sem I B	Ananya
5.	Ilika Chauhan	
6	Nikita Dahiya	
7	Dishita Sahu	Dishita
8	Mahi Dubey	
9	Navya Khurana	
10	Vanya Gandhi IA	Vanya
11	Phaluk Marwah IA	phaluk
12	Isha Goel IA (left midway	Isha
13	Manya Goel	Manya
14	Dhr Drishty Goel	
15	Aditi Tiwari	Aditi Tiwari
16	Ananya Madaan	
17	Akshita Thakkar Takker	akshita

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S.N.	Name and Sem	Signature
18	Shreya Sehgal, Sem 1	Shreya
19.	Reena Kaur Anand, Sem 1	Reena
20.	Resham Gupta, Sem 1	and
21.	Divya , 1-A	Divya
22.	Ananya Arneja , 1-A	Ananya
23.	Riddhi Garg , 1-A	Riddhi
24.	Shefali Sehgal 3-A	Shefali
25.	Aditi Sabharwal 3-B	Aditi
26.	Vidhi Khandelwal , 3-A	VK.
27.	Lakshita , 3-B	Lakshita.
28	Tanushka Nagpal Sm-1, B	Tan
29	Priyanshi Bhatia	Priyanshi.
30	Shagun Gupta	
31	Archna Gupta	