



MANJU BORAH

Recreating the Celluloid Magic

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MANJU BORAH was born on May 1, 1957. An M.A. in Philosophy from Gauhati University, she opted for Filmography as her career. She directed Assamese feature films ‘Baibhab’ (awarded ‘Best Film’ in Asia in 6th Dhaka International Film Festival, 2000), *Anyā Ek Yatra* released in July, 2001 and *Aakashitaraar Kathare...* (‘Best Regional Feature Film’ in Assamese) The ‘Best Female Playback Singer’ award also goes to the music director of *Aakashitaraar Kathare*, Ms. Tarali Sarma and also ‘Best film’ and ‘Best Director’ award in 2003 given by *Jyotirupa*. This film was also selected as world cinema in 8th Dhaka International Film Festival 2004 and awarded the ‘Best Audience Award’. *Laaz* is another highly acclaimed film of director Manju Borah for which she has received a number of national and international recognitions. For *Aai Kot Nai* in 2008 she got Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration in the 56th National Film Awards 2008.

She also directed documentaries on ‘*Nam Phakes*’, a small ethnic tribe from the North-Eastern part of India,

Assamese tele-film *Ekhon Seujia Khamor Chithi, Jarayur Mrityu* and *Role of State Police in Counter Insurgency Programmes Measures*. She was selected in *Indian Panorama*, 2006 for the film 'Joymati'. This film was selected as an Indian entry in 12th Kolkata Film Festival in 2006, *Suchitra Bangalore International Film Festival* in 2006, 4th *Chennai International Film Festival* in 2006, as 'Spectrum' Asia in 5th Asian Film Festival in Mumbai in 2006, 42nd *Annual Film Festival* in Berhampore in 2006, 1st Hyderabad International Film Festival in March 2007, Assam State Film Award for Costume Designing, 2007 and Chitrlekha Award for Best Screenplay and Best Director 2008.

She directed serials which include *Indralaya, Aarasta Aabasthan, Astitwa, Poohar, Ejani Janani Chowali, Dhak Dhol Sankha Bajaya Asankhya, Abhimanyu, Upalabdhir Anugrahak, Sabuj Diganta*. Most of her serials were telecast by DDK, Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Silchar.

Manju Borah has received several prestigious awards like 'Juries Special Mention' award in 47th National Film Festival 2000 for the feature film 'Baibhab', Gollapudi Srinivas Award as the 'Best Debut Director' for 'Baibhab' for the year 1999 in Chennai. She was selected in 5th Calcutta International Film Festival for 'Baibhab' for the year 1999 and in 5th Kerala International Film Festival 2000 for 'Baibhab' and awarded state award as 'Best Director' for 'Aakashitaraar Kathare...' in 2003-04, selected as an Indian entry in 9th Kolkata Film Festival 2003 for 'Aakashitaraar Kathare...'. She was awarded 'Jury Mention' award in 2nd International Film Festival of Bangladesh for the film *Laaz* (Shame) in 2004, and was selected in *Indian Panorama*, 2005 for the same film.

Manju Borah was awarded *Senior Fellowship* in the field of Assamese literature by the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi in the year 2005-2007. The subject was: Women oriented folklore of Assam. She worked on "Sacrifices made by women for society and failure of society to give adequate status to women." She was awarded for Excellence in recognition of her outstanding contribution in the field of Entrepreneurship presented by FICCI on 28th April 2009. She is Chairman, Joint Advisory Committee EIMPA (Eastern India Motion Picture Association); Member of the Script Panel of National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC) and Working President, Cine Art Society, Assam. She was a Jury member for Indian Panorama IFFI (International Film Festival of India) 2007, International Jury for 10th MAMI (Mumbai Academy of the Moving Image), International Film Festival, 2008. Jury for 3rd Eye 7th Asian Film Festival Mumbai 2008, Member of Jury (Feature Films) for 55th National Film Awards for 2007, Delhi 2009.

Manju Borah is a regular writer of short stories and articles on diverse cultural ethos and social customs of some ethnic groups in the North-Eastern India. She published a collection of short stories 'Biboxana Man' in December, 2001. She is involved with various socio cultural activities of various ethnic and indigenous tribes of the North-East. □□