INSPECTOR RISHI

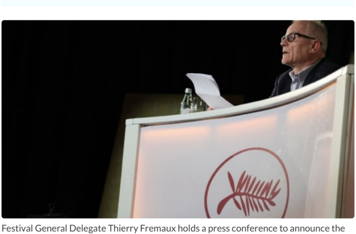
Hindustan Times
Delhi 36°C

At Cannes Film Festival, drama unfolds even outside the cinemas

By Gautaman Bhaskaran

May 08, 2024 05:29 PM IST

The festival has issued an official statement hoping that there would be solutions to stop workers from protesting over pay packets.



Festival General Delegate Thierry Fremaux holds a press conference to announce the official selection of the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival. (Photo by ALAIN JOCARD / AFP)(AFP)

The unique aspect about the Cannes Film Festival is the presence of drama – not just inside the darkened auditoriums, on the giant screens, but also outside on the streets. For over the three decades that I have covered the 12-day event on the shores of the shimmering blue Mediterranean Sea, there has hardly been a year without some protest or the other. (Also read: Rasoulof banned from attending Cannes Film Festival 2024; here's everything you need to know)

Story continues below advertisement
zakya Power your business with a modern retail POS IN JUST 1HR Try Zakya for free

These are, of course, done in style and with artistic placards spelling out the grievances or demands or both. Strikes by railwaymen or baggage handlers at Nice Airport (Cannes is a 45-minute drive away, the road running along the picture postcard coast), for instance, have caused inconvenience to guests. Once, I had to drag my bag for a considerable distance, because those in charge of placing luggage on the the belt had struck work.

Unlock exclusive access to the latest news on India's general elections, only on the HT App. Download Now! Download Now!

Crick it Quiz
Participate daily to win an iPhone 15 & Boat Smartwatches!
Today's Quiz Question 110k Participants
How many finals has MS Dhoni played in the IPL?
11
9
Submit Answer
T&C
30th April Winner Previous Winners
Manish Kalia won a smartwatch

Strike over new labour regulations

This time around, Festival workers have called for a strike over pay packets and new labour regulations. And French unions are a mighty lot.

On Tuesday, the Festival issued an official statement hoping that solutions would be found to stop workers from disrupting the cinematic event, often called the Queen of All. There are just a few days to go before the Festival begins to unroll on May 14.

Story continues below advertisement
Zoho Payroll
Payroll made easy, scalable, and auto-compliant
Try for free

PROMOTED
2/3 BHK Apartments Bang on OMR, ₹48.5... Urbanrise Rev... | Sponsored
New 3BHK Flats In Chennai :(Take A Loo... Real Estate | S... | Sponsored
Manisha Koirala admits she rejected... Hindustan Times

A group describing itself as Sous les ecrans la deche (Broke Behind the Screens) – representing workers at the Festival as well as Critics' Week, Directors' Fortnight and other events – has called for a strike. It was unhappy with the precarious position Festival's freelance employees were in.

festivaldecannes
Original audio
View profile

View more on Instagram
2,583 likes
Add a comment...

Story continues below advertisement
zakya Power your business with a modern retail POS IN JUST 1HR Try Zakya for free

These men and women are hired only for the period of the Festival, and they unlike temporary workers in France's entertainment industry, do not enjoy unemployment benefits between assignments. What is more concerning, a new French labour law to come into force on July 1 will make it even harder for them to qualify for benefits.

Festival statement

A Festival statement said: "They are aware of the difficulties faced by some of their staff who, working on strings of contracts for film festivals, are affected by the reform of the French unemployment insurance scheme, and must grapple with a drop in their benefit". The Festival was prepared for a dialogue and called on all the festivals concerned, the institutions and the unions to come together around the bargaining table to find a "collective" solution.

Story continues below advertisement
zakya Power your business with a modern retail POS IN JUST 1HR Try Zakya for free

Another group, Collectif des précaires des festivals de cinéma (The Collective of Precarious Workers at Film Festivals), which includes nearly 200 Cannes Film Festival workers, from projectionists to press officers to administration staff, have said they will strike in Cannes next week. They want not just changes in the unemployment law but also higher overtime pay.

The Cannes Film Festival winds up on May 25.

Oscars 2024: From Nominees to Red Carpet Glam! Get Exclusive Coverage on HT. - Click Here!

Get more updates from Bollywood, Hollywood, Music and Web Series along with Latest Entertainment News at Hindustan Times.

Share this article

HT POLLS
Today's Poll 90k Participants
Should KL Rahul have been included in India's T20 World Cup squad?
Yes
No
Submit

Cannes Film Festival

News / Entertainment / Entertainment Others / At Cannes Film Festival, drama u...

You May Like
2/3 BHK Apartments Bang on OMR, @ 44... Urbanrise Revolu... Get Quote
New 3BHK Lofts In Chennai:(Take A Look... Lofts Search Now
Heeramandi: Netizens point out these... Hindustan Times
Promoted Links by Taboola

IPL 2024 Coverage
Series | Points Table | Schedule

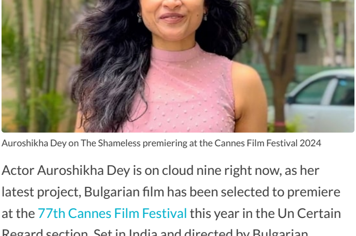
Next Story

Auroshikha Dey on her film The Shameless premiering at Cannes: I hope it opens doors to showcase the film in India

By Navya Kharbanda

May 08, 2024 05:13 PM IST

Actor Auroshikha Dey talks about her upcoming project 'The Shameless' premiering at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival 2024.



Auroshikha Dey on The Shameless premiering at the Cannes Film Festival 2024

Actor Auroshikha Dey is on cloud nine right now, as her latest project, Bulgarian film has been selected to premiere at the 77th Cannes Film Festival this year in the Un Certain Regard section. Set in India and directed by Bulgarian director Konstantin Bojanov, the film stars an ensemble cast from India and Nepal.

Story continues below advertisement
Acronis Healthcare has evolved. Your IT should too. Discover Cyber Protection Get protected

"I was just stunned when I first heard the big news. I didn't know how to react. I was finding an expression to express. I was over the moon when my producer and director shared the news with me. I am on top of the world right now, so excited and happy," gushes Dey, best known for her film The Warrior Queen Of Jhansi (2019).

Unlock exclusive access to the latest news on India's general elections, only on the HT App. Download Now! Download Now!

Also Read: Meryl Streep to receive honorary Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival; actor calls it 'humbling, thrilling in equal part'

The actor feels that the opportunity to be part of a film that's being showcased as such a prestigious global platform is not just an "honour", but also a chance for her to represent both the film and her country to a wider audience.

"Cannes is one of the biggest film festivals in the world, and when you are representing the film, and the country as well, to the global audience, there's an added advantage. I hope we get to showcase the film in India as well, and premiering at Cannes does make a lot of difference," she notes.

Story continues below advertisement

Read More

IPL 2024 Coverage
Series | Points Table | Schedule

Hindustan Times
Enter Email Address SUBSCRIBE