

NAIR, P. K. (PARAMESH KRISHNAN)
(1933, INDIA)

NATIONALITY: INDIAN

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: INDIA

EDUCATION

University of Kerala: Sciences, Trivandrum, India, 1953

AREAS OF ARCHIVAL SPECIALIZATION

Film archiving and preservation.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN ARCHIVAL FIELD

Nair's collection and preservation efforts have established a large archive of Indian film and promoted Indian film history nationally and abroad.

CAREER HISTORY

- Research Assistant, Film and Television Institute of India, 1961 - ca. 1965
- Assistant Curator, National Film Archive of India, 1965 - 1982
- Director, National Film Archive of India, 1982 - 1991

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY

P. K. Nair's interest in film began in childhood, when he attended screenings at the theatre after dinner and for weekend matinees. According to the Large Short Films blog, Nair "believes that the archivist in him was born out of his habit of preserving film tickets," initially in order to collect pictures of actors printed on the tickets. As part of his work for the National Film Archive of India (NFAI, founded in 1964), Nair was primarily responsible for the Archive's collection and preservation work. In the years between 1965 and 1991, he collected 12,000 films, 8,000 of which were Indian. Nair shared and promoted his film discoveries through weekly NFAI public screenings introducing the Indian public to national and international masters. He also organized film screenings from tents in rural villages, and in this way brought film to remote regions of India where it otherwise would have been unavailable. He received the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award from the Asian Film Foundation in 2008.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN OTHER FIELDS

Nair helped found the International Film Festival of Kerala in 1994; his life was made into a documentary, *Celloid Man*, by Shivendra Sing Dungarpur, and premiered at the Il Cinema Ritrovato, in Bologna, Italy, in 2012.

PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING BOOKS AND THEN ARTICLES

- “The Spirit of Freedom in Indian Cinema” in Indian Cinema 100, 2012.
<https://indiancinema100.in/the-spirit-of-freedom-in-indian-cinema/>

AUTHOR OF BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY/DATE OF SUBMISSION

Molly Bruce, September 2013

SECONDARY SOURCES FOR BIOGRAPHY

- Karthika C., “PK Nair: Who Devised IFFK...!” from metromatinee.com, IFFK 2011 International Film Festival of Kerala, December 14, 2011. Retrieved in August 2013 from <http://www.metromatinee.com/IFFK-2011/iffk-2011-pk-nair-who-devised-iffk>
- Shivendra Singh Dungarpur [director]. Celluloid Man [film]. 2012
- Trisha Gupta, “The Celluloid Man: PK Nair & the Future of Our Cinematic Past,” in The Sunday Guardian, May 4, 2013. Retrieved in August 2013 from <http://www.sunday-guardian.com/artbeat/the-celluloid-man-pk-nair-a-the-future-of-our-cinematic-past>
- John Karuna, “PK Nair, the Reel Historian” in India Today, May 3, 2013. Retrieved in August 2013 from <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pk-nair-the-reel-historian-celluloid-man/1/269134.html>
- Ankur Pathak, “India’s Celluloid Man” in The Wall Street Journal, May 3, 2013. Retrieved from <http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-225584/>
- “P. K. Nair, the Cinematic Encyclopaedia of India” in Large Short Films blog, May 11, 2013. <http://largeshortfilms.com/p-k-nair-cinematic-encyclopaedia-india/>
- “P K Nair to Receive Satyajit Ray Memorial Award Today” in Dear Cinema, October 16, 2008. Retrieved in August 2013 from <http://dearcinema.com/article/p-k-nair-to-recieve-satyajit-ray-memorial-award-today/1136#>

EDITOR/EDITING DATE

Susanne Belovari, October 2013