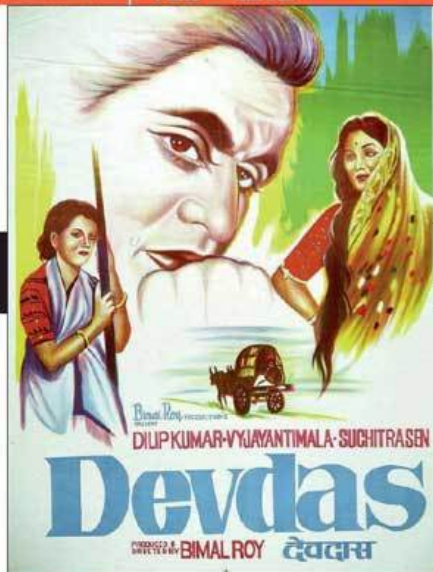


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Clockwise from top: Devdas, one of Roy's classics; Ukrainian film, The Stolen Princess; and Nude are among the films showing at LIFFI



# A retrospective for the youth

Attend a film festival in Lonavala to watch Bimal Roy's classics and many other films

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**R**inki Roy Bhattacharya, the daughter of renowned filmmaker Bimal Roy, is pleased that six of her father's most popular films will be screened at the third edition of Lonavala International Film Festival India 2018 (LIFFI). "My father's films are not meant to be watched on mobile phones — they were made for the big screen," she says. Bhattacharya is set to attend the three-day film festival that begins today, to interact with the audience.

Bhattacharya was only 23 when Roy passed away, but she remembers a lot about her father. "The films he made are a textbook on filmmaking," she adds. Roy's classics, like *Devdas*, *Bandini*, *Madhurati* among others, will be screened along with a short documentary based on his life, which his daughter had made about a decade ago.

Bhattacharya, who is a Mumbai-based writer and documentary filmmaker, helms the Bimal Roy Film Society, which she founded in memory of Roy.

This year, Viveck Vaswani, the film producer, writer and actor, was roped in to curate LIFFI, which is in its third edition this year. "A film festival must have a purpose, otherwise it ends up becoming an event where people turn up to get photographed," says Vaswani. From the very beginning, when Vaswani was brainstorming with LIFFI's organisers, he was quite clear that the event should cater to the youth. Vaswani, who also teaches subjects related to cinema at media institutes in Mumbai, says LIFFI offers the rare opportunity to youngsters to watch Roy's films on the big screen.

When Vaswani's students got to know that he was curating LIFFI, many of them decided to attend the film festival. "I think hordes of students from Mumbai and Pune will visit LIFFI," he predicts. The organisers chose to host the affair in Lonavala because of the hill station's proximity to both Pune and Mumbai. "We are expecting a big crowd from Mumbai. Mumbaikars find it convenient to travel to

Lonavala as opposed to Pune, where a numbers of film festivals are organised anyway," says Viveck Kotian, an organiser.

LIFFI has something for everyone. Marathi films like *Nude*, *Kacchu Limbo* and *Doctor Rukhmabai*, a movie based on the life of India's first woman physician, Rukhmabai, will be screened. *Jabul*, *Joggers Park*, *Kashmakash* and *Ramamujan*, will be shown too. Somewhere on the list is *The Stolen Princess*, which apparently is the first Ukrainian animation film in English. "The *Stolen Princess* is as good as any Pixar creation," adds Kotian, who says that the popularity of animation is soaring in the country.

The film *Life Is Good*, starring Jackie Shroff and Rajit Kapur, will be screened on the inaugural day. Anant Mahadevan, who is the film's director, will attend LIFFI along with other distinguished guests from the film industry. Entry to the screenings is free but seats will be available only on first-come-first-serve basis.



Bimal Roy