



ONE EVENING WITH AVID LEARNING

25 JUNE, 2026 | NCPA, MUMBAI



"Writing a history of Indian cinema will always be a work in progress. It will always be fractured, because we don't have enough primary sources."

"What makes a studio iconic is memory, a memory quite distinct from how we usually understand memory. I call it a 'humming memory.' Every individual in this country, at any time, will be humming some song from a Hindi film."

"Artists don't really earn money from records anymore. They earn money from performing. And to perform, you need live music, you need places. There used to be many places where live music was played — restaurants like Gaylord's, Napoli, Berrys — good jazz bands used to play in those days. Now, it's gone."

"If you look at an artist like Taylor Swift, she's arguably the biggest artist in the world, and millions of people show up to see her live. That's the new social gathering, in my opinion."

SURESH BHOJWANI, ENTREPRENEUR, MUSICIAN,
AND PARTNER AT BLUE FROG



"What has happened to photography, in general, is that it's become, in a sense, 'constipated.' When photography started, you shot something and something physical came out: first glass, daguerreotypes, then prints. Now, whatever medium you take a picture with, the photograph is just an endpoint. It never really comes out into physical form."

"A lot of the resurgence of film photography is happening because Gen Z, or whatever you want to call that generation, feels that digital isn't doing enough."

"It's very difficult to get people involved in archiving.

You first need people who love photography. You need historians, or at least people who understand history.

You don't necessarily need a photographer to do this job.

You need real funding for something like this, and I don't think that funding is majorly available within the city itself."

APOORVA GUPTAY, PHOTOGRAPHER



"Mumbai has a very 'monetising' mindset, unlike Calcutta, which is seen as more laid-back. Mumbai monetises everything, and we don't even keep a marker to say a studio once stood somewhere. No facade preserved, nothing to indicate there was a studio there."

"What new icons has this city actually built, developed, or constructed in recent times? Are we creating new icons as the old ones vanish — or not? If not, why not? I think the reason is a lack of urban vision."

AMRIT GANGAR, AUTHOR & FILM HISTORIAN





FILM STUDIOS: GOLDEN ERA





Between See and Being Seen

On Studio Portraits of Bombay
Apoorva Guptay

• My Own Studio, Bombay, c. 2009



PAYAL KHANDLWAL



SURESH BHOJWANI