

KIDS! GET READY FOR STATE'S FIRST FILM FEST

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Film festivals for movie-loving Amdavadis are rare to come by here. So, it makes this effort to put together a fest for young film lovers interesting and heartwarming. In what is a first for the state, a film festival for children will be held next month. Apart from the screening of a number of exciting films, the three-day Gandhinagar Children's Film Festival beginning on December 8 will host activities and workshops for children. It is free for kids between 11 years and 16 years of age. With its very own mascot, Geeru, a lion cub from Gir, this fest — curated by the Children's Film Society for India — is sure to be a feast for the younger lot of film lovers.

AIMING IT RIGHT

The festival aims at increasing the popularity of children films and to encourage young filmmakers. "I feel children's cinema needs to be encouraged and made popular," said producer-filmmaker Amitabha Singh, one of the key organisers of the festival. Besides showcasing some of the best films, the fest's major attractions are the workshops. "We are expecting Bollywood personalities like Sudhir Mishra, Ila

Arun, Tisca Chopra, Jimmy Sheirgill, Nagesh Kukunoor, et al, to attend and share their expertise with the audience during the festival. This will also boost the morale of young generation," Singh said.

WORKSHOPS GALORE

What is also interesting is a special session of film appreciation for junior filmmakers. "We have workshops on traffic rules, 'save earth', along with different workshops for choreography, dance, music and filmmaking," said Amitabha, adding, "A children's film is like a good book which you can keep in a library. We expect children to have varying and enriching experiences in the hour-long workshops." The festival targets children of different schools across the city. "We have invited more than 30 schools, including government schools. Our focus is to engage as many children of age group 11 years to 16 years," he said.