



Seattle's 5th Annual Independent South Asian Film Festival

Dates: September 24-28, 2008

Venue: Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway, Seattle 98122

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Seattle's 5th Independent South Asian Film Festival (ISAFF) is a five-day festival of independent feature films, short films, and documentaries from the South Asian subcontinent and Diaspora living around the world. ISAFF also features workshops, panels, presentations, and discussion forums. The theme, "Personal is Political: A South Asian Lens on Love," illustrates topics that resonate in the film selection, including South Asian LGBTQ rights and issues, arranged marriage, and cross-cultural relationships.

Schedule

* Free or Pay-What-You-Can Programs

Wednesday September 24, 2008

7:00 PM: Opening Night Film and Reception

The World Unseen (Shamim Sarif, UK/South Africa, 2007, 94min)

In the pressure cooker of apartheid South Africa, two women meet and their worlds are turned upside down. In a system that divides white from black, black from Asian and the women from men, what chance is there for an unexpected love to survive? Preceded by the short films *24 Frames Per Day* (Sonali Gulati, USA, 2008) and *Milind Soman Made Me Gay* (Harjant Gill, India/USA, 2007). Festival will be inaugurated by Archana Kumar's Kathak performance, wine reception with actress Sheetal Sheth and festival guests. There will be live Afro-Cuban ensemble by Anjuman, a local Indian/Afro-Cuban band.

Thursday September 25, 2008

7:00 PM: *My Daughter the Terrorist* (Beate Amestad, Norway/Sri Lanka, 2007, 52min)

Feature documentary following the lives of two female Black Tigers. Followed by extended discussion with local panelists.

9:00 PM: Mobile of Exceptional Stories

International short films package including *Flying on One Engine*, documentary about eight-time Nobel nominee, wheelchair bound, without a larynx Dr. Sharadkumar Dixit who performs free cleft lip surgeries in India.

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Schedule (cont.)

Friday September 26, 2008

7:00 PM: *Before the Rains* (Santosh Sivan, India, 2008, 98min)

In 1930's India, an affair between a British baron and a village woman causes upheaval.

Preceded by short film *Released* (Soham Mehta, USA, 2008, 8min)

9:00 PM: *Kissing Cousins* (Aryn Kaderali, USA, 2008, 98min)

Feature film comedy about a professional relationship terminator. Followed by Q&A with director Aryn Kaderali.

Preceded by short film *Rewind* (Atul Taishete, India, 2007, 9min)

***6:00-9:00 PM** Workshop "Queer & Desi: Exploring LGBTQ issues in the South Asian Community"

Free. Limited spaces. Pre-registration required, email gitarani@u.washington.edu.

Saturday September 27, 2008

***12:00 PM:** Panel: "Gender & Sexuality in Independent Films" Focus on representations of LGBT South Asians in independent films with a comparative analysis to such representations in more popular forums such as Bollywood cinema. Panelists: Gayatri Gopinath, Sonali Gulati, Pratibha Parmar, Veena Sood. Moderator: Sandip Roy.

2:30 PM: *68 Pages* (Sridhar Rangayan, India, 2007, 92min)

Spotlight on the impact of HIV/AIDS in urban India told through five poignant stories of a gay couple, a prostitute, a drag queen, a bisexual man, and a counselor. Preceded by short film *Petals* (Suresh Natarajan, 2001, India, 16min)

2:30-4:30 PM: Comedy Improv Workshop

Learn improvisational skills with actress and comedienne Veena Sood. \$65. Pre-registration required, email info@tasveer.org.

4:30 PM: *A Jihad for Love* (Parvez Sharma, USA/multiple countries, 2008, 81min)

Lesbian and gay Muslims from 12 countries tell their stories. Followed by extended discussion with director Parvez Sharma and local activists.

***7:00 PM:** Gupshup ('chatter') and Reception with Filmmakers and Festival Guests

8:00 PM: Queering Bollywood: Alternative Sexualities in Popular Indian Cinema

Presentation by academic Gayatri Gopinath and journalist Sandip Roy on queer images in Bollywood cinema.



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ISAFF is produced by Tasveer, a community-based, not-for-profit organization promoting independent South Asian film in the Northwest. Major festival sponsors for this year are The Pride Foundation and 4 Culture. Media sponsor KBCS 91.3FM Community Radio. ISAFF is fiscally sponsored by Three Dollar Cinema.

Schedule (cont.)

Sunday September 28, 2008

***12:00 PM: AIDS JaaGO**

HIV+/AIDS discussion with short films and panelists. Films produced by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Mira Nair.

***1:00 PM: API Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF) Presentation: A multimedia piece on Mixed-Orientation relationships in the South Asian community**

2:30 PM: Youth Program on Arranged Marriage

Includes screenings of documentary *Every Good Marriage Begins with Tears* (Simon Chambers, UK/Bangladesh, 2007, 62 min), music video *Sari (W)rap*, and local youth production.

4:30 PM: *Donkey in Lahore* (Faramarz K-Rahber, Australia, Pakistan, 2007, 117min)

Follows the courtship an ex-goth puppeteer from Australia and a traditional Muslim girl from Pakistan.

7:00 PM: Closing Night Program

Kagbeni (Bhusan Dahal, 2007, Nepal, 120min)

A journey of betrayal, revenge, and magic in the backdrop of the Himalayan ranges.

A Silent Monsoon (Pravesh Gurung, 2006, Nepal, 34min)

A mother tries to save her 12-year old daughter from the family profession of prostitution.

Tickets

\$15 Opening Night

\$10 Regular Price for shows after 4pm

\$8 Regular Price for shows before 4pm

\$7 Students/Seniors for all shows

\$65 Festival Pass, does not include workshops

Advanced Tickets available at www.ticketwindowonline.com

Babes in arms welcome in the movie theater. Kids Play Room also available for children over 1yo to be dropped off at suggested minimum donation of \$5 per child per program.

Sponsors

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