tongues on five

# **UK ASIAN** FILM FESTIVAL

4 MAY - 15 MAY 2022

LONDON | COVENTRY | LEICESTER | WARWICK | STOCKTON-ON-TEES | UK-WIDE ONLINE



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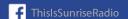
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### **WELCOME**

We are delighted to welcome you to the **24th UK Asian Film Festival**. Each year the festival showcases the best in South Asian cinema to audiences across the nation. This year is no different and we are proud to have curated a line up of heart-touching stories that will make you fall in love with film all over again.

Our theme for this year is *Dare to Dream*. The British South Asian community knows how important dreaming is and how risky it can be. We either migrated to this land or grew up in a society where we were often told we did not belong. Still we have dared to pursue success and recognition and have grown our community to unimaginable heights. The films this year demonstrate the resilience, strength and ambition of South Asians across the world. They are by filmmakers who have dreamt of telling their stories and feature characters whose courage is inspiration to us all.

The stories that make up the Indian subcontinent and its diaspora are diverse and rich in experience. From our opening night film *Javed Iqbal*, a harrowing tale of a serial killer in Lahore, to our closing night film *Gangnam Girls*, a Bhutanese tale about four friends reuniting, we bring to you stories that deserve a platform.

At a time when South Asian representation in film has entered mainstream discourse, we have always championed Brown talent that did not get the recognition they were due. We encourage you to share the magic of the festival with your loved ones, so we can give these stories the audiences they deserve. We will be screening in cinemas across London, Leicester and Coventry. For the second year running, we are partnering with Modern Films to offer you the chance to watch a selection of films digitally during the course of the festival.

We would like to thank our Sponsors for recognising the importance of this festival and their continual generosity. This festival would also not be possible without the incredible backing of our Supports, Friends of the Festival and volunteers. This really is a festival by and for the South Asian community. We hope you will join us to celebrate our cinema and our stories.

Against the backdrop of such a historic milestone, our festival team has curated a thrilling and immersive line-up of films and arts-related events for us to enjoy. We'd be delighted for you to join the festival events with us and allow yourself to *Dare to Dream*.

#### Rakhee Joshi

Chair of the Advisory Board, UK Asian Film Festival

We are thrilled to reveal an incredibly strong line up of shorts, documentaries and feature films for the festival this year. Audiences across the nation will be able to enjoy our eclectic collection of global South Asian content on the big screen and digitally. The festival also makes space for important and intriguing discussion through a host of talks and workshops. Our 2022 theme, *Dare to Dream*, is about how we deal with typically taboo issues and redefine freedom. We are excited to offer a space for our community to experience culturally relevant art, particularly to our young audiences with whom we will be hosting an event focusing on the implications of climate change. We cannot wait for you to join us, so we can be inspired to dream together.

#### Dr. Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE

CEO & Festival Director, UK Asian Film Festival

The festival's theme this year, *Dare to Dream*, speaks to the challenges of our time. In this era of reckoning, we ask are people free to dream? 75 years after Indian and Pakistani Independence, telling taboo stories still comes at a price. Our festival facilitates the conversations that we need, but are often prohibited from having. The programme for our festival is full of vibrant and meaningful cinema that captures societal truths, be it social division, climate change, the global pandemic and censorship. Year on year, we fight to enable storytellers to dream freely. It is their intense, powerful and thought provoking films that allow our audience to see the world through new eyes and imagine a future where dreaming is no longer a risk.

#### Sâmir Bhamra

Creative Director, UK Asian Film Festival

### SPONSORS & PARTNERS

UK Asian Film Festival is produced annually by Tongues on Fire, a not-for-profit organisation run by a small team of dedicated people. This incredible festival is only possible because of the invaluable support from our sponsors, partners, advisors and friends. We are very grateful for their input.

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REEL







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University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL Tel: 0247 652 4524 warwicksartcentre.co.uk



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40 High Street, Brentford, TW8 ODS Tel: 0208 232 1010 watermans.org.uk





































### **JAVED IQBAL**

Wed 4 May, 6pm BFI Southbank, London

Sat 7 May, 9pm Phoenix Cinema, Leicester

Sun 8 May, 3pm Harrow Arts Centre, London

Wed 11 May, 8pm Glasgow Film Theatre, Glasgow

Sat 14 May, 7:30pm Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Sat 14 May, 7:30pm Arc - Stockton Arts Centre, Stockton-on-Tees A harrowing tale of one of Lahore's most notorious serial killers is brought to life in our Opening Night film.

Javed Iqbal recounts the true story of a criminal who abducted and murdered over one hundred young boys between 1998 and 1999. Author Abu Aleeha adapts and directs their novel 'Kukri' into a sharp and gut-wrenching screenplay that focuses on Iqbal's own statements during his time in police custody. The film also shines a spotlight on the Lahore Police and their handling of the case amidst public scrutiny.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with actors, Ayesha Omer and Yasir Hussain. Hosted by Beo Zaffar Rana.

Director: Abu Aleeha Producer: Javed Ahmed Cast: Yasir Hussein & Ayesha Omar Pakistan 2022, 94 mins, Urdu/Punjabi with English subtitles

### **GANGNAM GIRLS**

Tue 15 May, 11:30am BFI Southbank, London

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director/writer, Charmi Nemchand Chheda and producer, Zangmo Dukpa. Hosted by Anuj Radia. Four friends reunite in the dramatic landscapes of Bhutan after secrets drove them apart.

Our Closing Night screening is an intimate portrayal of female friendship and the ties that bind us. Karma Lhamo, Tshokey, Tara Dorji and Menda are childhood friends. After a fallout between the four friends during their teen years, they come together once again at a weekend getaway at Karma's new luxurious home. Each holds resentment from the past. To connect with each other once again, the four women must navigate awkward interactions, misogynistic husbands and dysfunctional families. Writer-Director Charmi Nemchand Chheda tells a feel-good and life affirming story that will melt the hardest heart.

Screening in partnership with Asian Circle and The Circle.

Director: Charmi Nemchand Chheda Producer: Zangmo Dukpa Cast: Sadon Lhamo, Jurmey Choden Rinzin, Kelly Choden & Yangday La Bhutan 2021, 111 mins, Dzongkha with English subtitles





### CELEBRATING DILIP KUMAR & LATA MANGESHKAR

Thu 5 May, 3:30pm House of Lords, Cholmondley Room Join us to celebrate the life of two of India's greatest cinematic artists.

We will be joined by world famous economist Lord Meghad Desai, author of *Nehru's Hero: Dilip Kumar in the Life in India*. Desai will share how the socio-economic changes in India during Nehru's era as Prime Minister mirrored the rollercoaster ride that was Kumar's career. We will also be joined by Nasreen Munni Kabir, who will be discussing her book *Lata Mangeshkar... In Her Own Voice*. The book is a deep dive into Mangeshkar's practice and discipline, based on a series of conversations the artist had.







The two authors will be interviewed by Professor Rosie Thomas about the similarities and differences between the two stars.

Screening in partnership with One Kind Act.

### **MUGHAL-E-AZAM**

Thu 5 May, 6:30pm Harrow Arts Centre, London

Sat 14 May, 7pm Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry The evergreen classic returns to the big screen for a special screening.

K. Asif's adored Mughal-e-Azam is revered as a milestone moment in Hindi language cinema. This screening offers a chance for festival goers to experience the epic scale and elaborate cinematography in digitally restored colour. Join us to witness one of the greatest and most enduring love stories ever told.

Prior to the film, we will begin with a special 15 minute dance performance from Dhavni Thacker. Dhavni will be performing a fusion of Bollywood and kathak to songs from the film.

Director: K. Asif Cast: Dilip Kumar, Madhubala & Prithviraj Kapoor India 1960, Hindi with English subtitles

### REHANA

### MALAM



Thu 5 May, 6:30pm Genesis, London

#### A woman becomes obsessed with seeking When a newcomer joins a gang of criminals, retribution from the patriarchy.

Rehana is an assistant professor at a medical college. One evening, she witnesses a student A group of criminals have taken over an both this student and her daughter.



Thu 5 May, 8:50 pm Genesis, London

### a night of betrayal, violence and seduction ensues.

storm out of a male professor's office, crying. She abandoned housing block in Singapore. A begins to wonder what happened. Soon after, newcomer arrives in the night and acts as a she receives a complaint about her daughter's catalyst that changes the relationships within the behaviour from the school. Rehana begins to gang. In his debut feature, Leonard Yip creates a spiral out of control as she tries to seek justice for mystical dystopian landscape where the darkness of the night is a character in its own right. Malam questions whether it is possible to find light in a world that enmeshed in shadows.

> The screening will be followed by a Q&A with actor, Vishnu Krishnan. Hosted by Anuj Radia.

Director: Abdullah Mohammad Saad Cast: Azmeri Hague Badhon, Afia Jahin Jaima & Afia Tabassum Borno Bangladesh 2021, 107 mins, Bengali with English subtitles

Director: Leonard Yip Cast: Jean Goh, Vishnu Krishnan & Yap Say Ping Singapore 2020, 83 mins, Malay/Tamil with English subtitles

### **HOSTILE**

### TO BE OR NOT TO **BE OUT**





#### A deep mediation on the UK's complicated An informative documentary uncovers how relationship with its migrant communities.

Told through the stories of four participants from Black and Asian backgrounds, this documentary For the queer South Asian community, coming reveals the impact of the evolving 'hostile out is both a liberation and a sacrifice. This environment' - a term used by the UK government moving depiction of queer life, shows how in 2012 to illustrate the atmosphere they wanted LGBTQ+ people have been forced to leave behind to create for migrants, with the intention of their families and heritage to avoid heterosexual provoking them to leave of their own accord. marriages, conversion therapy and abuse. The With Brexit, the Points Based Immigration System film delves deep into the consequences of and the Nationality and Borders Bill taking effect, such abuse on the psyche and the recovery the the film asks: once the 'hostile environment' has community undergoes from mental health issues, targeted all migrants, who will it extend to next? substance abuse and suicidal thoughts.

The screening will be followed by an in The screening will be followed by a Q&A with We will also be joined by staff from Southall Black Sisters, our partners for this screening who work with women impacted by the government's hostile environment policy.



Fri 6 May, 6pm Rich Mix, London

# LGBTQ+ South Asians struggle to live authentic

conversation with Hostiles director, Sonita Gale. director, Usha Sharma, interviewee, Umesh Vaghijani and editor, Sandip, Hosted by Aditi

### **EMERGENCE - OUT** OF THE SHADOWS

### GANDHI & CO.



Fri 6 May, 6pm Rich Mix, London

Vancouver's queer South Asian community share what it was like to live in conservative family structures.

This feature documentary follows Jag, Kayden Rich Mix, London and Amar, three gay and lesbian South Asians. Denial, shame and despair haunted their youths, even threatening their lives. In this revealing study, we follow both the children and their parents as they emerge from the darkness to tell their stories.

actor, Harv Nagra, Hosted by Aditi Khanna.



Fri 6 May, 7pm **Phoenix Cinema, Leicester** 

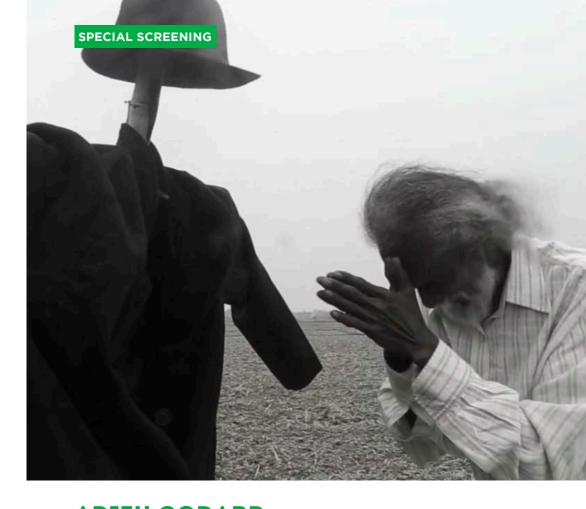
Fri 6 May, 7:30pm **Warwicks Art Centre, Coventry** 

Sat 7 May, 5pm

An eleven year old begins mimicking Gandhi in dress and behaviour, but fails to imbibe his famed values.

Mintoo and Mitra are best friends known for being mischievous. They look up to an elder, Bharat The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Bhai, who embodies Gandhi's teachings. When Mintoo decides to mimic Gandhi, he gains praise and honour from the community. Unlike Bharat Bhai and Gandhi though, Mintoo is not honest and peaceful. Can Bharat Bhai teach these boys a much needed moral lesson? The screening will be followed by a Q&A with producer, Mahesh Danannavar. Hosted by Mina Parmar.

> Director: Manish Saini Cast: Darshan Jariwala, Jayesh More and Dhruma Mehta India 2021, 101 mins, Gujarati with English subtitles



## **ADIEU GODARD**

Sat 7 May, 6pm Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Wed 11 May, 6:20pm **BFI Southbank, London** 

Introduced by director Amartya Bhattacharyya.

National Award Winner, Amartya Bhattacharyya, brings his funny yet biting tribute to French filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard to the festival.

An elderly man, Ananda, is a pornography addict. In their conservative village, he and his friends gather to secretly watch rented porn films. One day, they come across a Goddard film mistakenly rented as pornography. While his friends are unimpressed, Goddard finds a fascination with Goddard's work. He initiates the idea of hosting a film festival in Goddard's honour, much to the alarm of the locals. Known for his surrealist style, Bhattacharyya makes a surprising shift to a linear narrative feature that contrasts with Goddard's own formalism.

Director: Amartya Bhattacharyya Cast: Choudhury Bikash Das, Sudhasri Madhusmita & Dipanwit Dashmohapatra India 2021, 83 mins, Bengali with English subtitles



### PRIYA AND THE TWIRLING WIND

Sat 7 May, 1pm Rich Mix, London

#### India's first female superhero returns to fight climate change

Priya has to protect her enchanted forest from greedy industrialists threatening to cut down all the trees. With the help of a little girl named Somya and the local villagers, they defend their home — reminiscent of India's Chipko movement. Priya shows Somya, who is suffering from asthma, the beauty of her forest and its power to heal Mother Earth and her.

Following our screening, we will host an interactive augmented reality exhibition with the makers of the film. Young people will have the chance to consider what impact climate change has had on their generation and imagine what a sustainable future could look like. This will be followed by a puppet workshop based on character from Priya's world.

Director: Ram Devineni Cast: Shubhra Prakash & Raven Kaliana America 2022, 5 mins, English



### MUTHAYYA

# **CHANN PARDESI:** REMASTERED

**REMASTERED WORLD PREMIERE** 



Sat 7 May, 2pm **Phoenix Cinema, Leicester** 

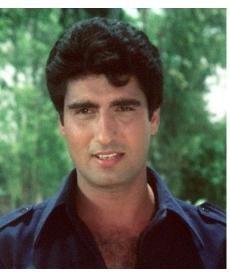
Mon 9 May, 6pm Rich Mix, London

A seventy year old man pursues his dream to become an actor.

In the remote village of Chennuru in Telangana, Sat 14 May, 1:30pm Muthayya dreams of acting in movies before he dies. He shares all his joys and sorrows with his best friend Malli, a 24-year-old guy who runs a This National Award Winning Punjabi film is cycle repair shop in the same village. As the story remastered in mesmerising high resolution. unfolds, Muthayya tries to exhibit his acting skills faces in the process leaves him heartbroken.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with associate producer, Hemanth Kumar and writer, exciting ensemble including Raj Babbar, Amish Vrinda Prasad.

Director: Bhaskhar Maurva Cast: Sudhakar Reddy, Arun Kumar & Purna Chander M India 2022, 118 mins, Telugu with English subtitles



Sat 7 May, 4pm **Phoenix Cinema, Leicester** 

Sun 8 May, 6:30pm Glasgow Film Theatre, Glasgow

Fri 13 May, 7:30pm **Belgrade Theatre, Coventry** 

Kiln Theatre, London

through every possible medium including short Chann Pardesi tells the story of a childless films and TikTok videos, but the obstacles he landowner who sexual assults his farmhand's wife. The son she bores is faced to confront his origins and the trauma of the past in this epic tale spanning several decades. Complete with an Puri and Rama Vij, this classic is an enduring tale to be seen on the big screen. Screening will be followed by a Q&A with the associate producer.

> Director: Chitraarth Singh Cast: Raj Babbar, Amrish Puri & Om Puri India 1980, Punjabi with English subtitles

### **TEMPLE**



Sat 7 May, 7:30pm **Phoenix Cinema, Leicester** 

Fri 13 May, 6:30pm Watermans, London

Two queer South Asian friends find sanctuary from the prejudice of British society.

Rehal's love for Arul is unreciprocated, but Arul believes they can still be friends. One morning over breakfast, the two discuss finding acceptance as brown queer Londoners. They share a cultural understanding of being ostracised by the white heteronormativity of British society, and yet the fundamental differences between them threaten to destroy their friendship.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director, Nick Virka and producer, Neeraj Churi. Hosted by Raga D' Silva.

# THE SQUARE **CIRCLE**



Sat 7 May, 7:30pm **Phoenix Cinema, Leicester** 

Fri 13 May, 6:30pm Watermans, London

A British Muslim girl faces the choice of a heterosexual marriage or conversion therapy.

After Alisha is pictured kissing her girlfriend, her family are ashamed of her lesbian identity. Alisha is kept in isolation and punished for disgracing the family honour. Her father gives her a choice. She can either marry her first cousin and move to Pakistan, or attend a retreat in Pakistan where a holy man will exorcise the demon that lives within her. Alisha wonders if she really has a choice when both fates lead to an unhappy life.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director, Usha Sharma. Hosted by Raga D' Silva.

Director: Nick Virk Cast: Gavi Singh Chera & Kush Khanna United Kingdom 2021, 18 mins, English Director: Usha Sharma Cast: Avushi Jain, Subhash Goswami & Ruchika Jain United Kingdom 2021, 30 mins, Urdu with English subtitles



### **KEKEE MANZIL**

Sun 8 May, 7pm Regent Street Cinema, London

by Rosie Thomas.

Our Special Gala screening documents the extraordinary efforts of artists working in post-Partition India.

The screening will be followed by Behroze Gandhy recounts the extraordinary story of her a Q&A with creators Talvin Singh, father, Kekoo Gandhy. In 1941 Keekoo was sitting on Juhu Dilesh Korya, Behroze Gandhy, Mike Beach in Bombay, wondering what to do with his life. Kekoo Poole and Shireen Gandhy. Hosted saw a man stuck in his car in the sand, so Kekoo decided to help him. They struck up a friendship and eventually a business partnership, establishing the iconic picture framing factory. Chemould Frames. This chance encounter was also the catalyst that launched the most significant Indian art movement to emerge from the city, one that would have an impact far beyond India.

> Director: Dilesh Korya India 2021, 90 mins, English

### **HULLRAISERS**

Sun 8 May, 3:35pm Rich Mix, London

#### Three friends in Hull try to balance work and play

Hullraisers celebrates female talent, both on and off screen in a laugh-out- loud, chaotic comedy that embodies the ups and downs of life, friendship, and family. The series centres on three women: Toni, Rana and Paula and looks at their dishevelled, messy and joyful lives. The series explores the hilarious and agonising reality of what it is to be a workingclass woman juggling work, kids, demanding friends, family and frustrating parents from the school playground - all whilst trying to have some fun too. This will be a chance for audiences to watch episodes 1 and 2 of the new series. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with cast. Hosted by Islah Abdur Rahman & Nikita Kanda.

Director: Ian Fitzgibbon Cast: Leah Brotherhead, Sinead Matthews & Taj Atwal United Kingdom 2021, 50 mins, English



### **CHILDREN OF PARTITION:** AN ORAL HISTORY OF POTHOHARIS

Sun 8 May, 4pm The Mayfair Hotel, London

**≝** POTHOHAR E ASSOCIATION UK ਦੀ ਪੋਠੋਹਾਰ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਯੂਕੇ





Look back at the events of 1947 through this illuminating documentary

Children of Partition: An Oral History of Pothoharis is a deep focus on how a community was affected by Partition and their subsequent migration to the UK. The film focuses on the Pothohar region of West Punjab and how this community's heritage and culture has been nurtured and cultivated by the generation who came to Britain. This project has been supported by the Heritage Fund and The May Fair Hotel.

Prior to the screening, join us as economist and former Deputy Chair Planning Commission of India, Monetek Singh Ahluwalia is in conversation with Manyeen Rana. We will be exploring how India is overcoming the challenges to becoming a fivetrillion dollar economy. Hosted by Sweety Kapoor.

Created by: Tanu Banaik, Bhupinder Singh Bhasin, Ria Chadha, Susie Hilmi, Vivek Jangid, Gurkiran Singh Jolly, Anthony Mann & Tanvir Singh Panesar

### 12 HOURS





family in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions.

to breaking point. They are prohibited from year olds become concerned with the growing seeing their dying father to prevent COVID-19 tension between Hindu and Muslim communities transmission. When a nine year old girl ventures in India. Their friendship is threatened by societal close to the old man, she forms a connection with him that threatens to bring festering issues overcome the hatred they are taught to have of to light. The film offers a resonating look at how each other. With its lead cast of non-professional family dynamics shifted under the shadow of the actors, Two Friends presents an authentic and pandemic.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director, Emre Mirza and crew, Darja Pilz, Olgu Caglar and Andreas Beltzer. Hosted by Yasmin Whittaker Khan.

# **TWO FRIENDS: DOSTOJEE**



Sun 8 May, 5:45pm Rich Mix. London

A dying patriarch is prevented from seeing his The divides built by religion and society come crashing down in this rousing tale of friendship.

In Emre Mirza's 12 Hours, a family is pushed Set in West Bengal in 1993, two young eight divisions and the two boys must find a way to challenging story well worth witnessing.

Director: Emre Mirza

Cast: Tulin Ozen, Muhammad Cangoren & Sinem Toygar Netherlands 2021, 32 mins, Turkish with English subtitles Director: Prasun Chatteriee Cast: Asik Sheikh, Arif Sheikh & Jayati Chakraborty India 2021, 111 mins, Bengali with English subtitles

# **BRING ON THE BOLLYWOOD**



Sun 8 May, 4:30pm **Phoenix Cinema, Leicester** 

Thu 12 May, 6:30pm Watermans, London

Fri 13 May, 7:30pm Norden Farm, Maidenhead

#### An acclaimed stage musical comes to the big unceremoniously dumped by her cheating fiancé screen

suitor too. In true Bollywood fashion, Katrina their entire group in danger. wonders if she can find true love.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with actor, Surina Jindal. Hosted by Nidhi Sahani. actors, Nisha Aaliya, Robby Khela & Yanick Ghanty. Hosted by Anuj Radia.

# **HOT MESS** HOLIDAY



Sun 8 May, 7:30pm **Phoenix Cinema, Leicester** 

Thu 12 May, 6:30pm Genesis, London

#### Two friends discover the dangers of freedom.

When an overachieving young finance exec is during the Diwali holidays, her free-spirited bestie is determined to help her get lit. Along with their In this filmed recording of the theatrical outrageous crew, they embark on a wild holiday presentation, Dr. Katrina Parwar returns to her adventure to party across Chicago. However, ancestral home for her brother's wedding. Little when they come into possession of a multidoes she know, her parents plan to find her a million dollar diamond, their messy antics place

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with

Director: Jaffar Mahmood Cast: Melanie Chandra, Surina Jindal & Kal Penn USA 2021, 70 mins, English



### LINES

Mon 9 May, 9:15pm Rich Mix, London

Fri 13 May, 2:45pm Norden Farm, Maidenhead

Fri 13 May, 7:30pm Arc - Stockton Arts Centre, Stockton-on-Tees

A couple find themselves unable to communicate with each other after being kept apart by country borders.

In 1999, Kashmiri families are driven apart by the drawing of border lines between India and Pakistan. As the geopolitical tensions escalate, the relationship between a couple is strained as they are left on different sides of the border. Led by an impressive cast that includes Hina Khan and Fareeda Jalaal, Lines is an engaging and empathetic look at the consequences of conflict.

Introduced by Feroza Adam.

Director: Rahat Kazmi Cast: Hina Khan, Rishi Butani & Fareeda Jalaal India 2019, 82 mins, Hindi/Urdu with English subtitles



### SHORT FILM SCREENING

Mon 9 May, 2pm Watermans, London

#### Hosted by

Saz Vora (Author)

#### **Live Q&A industry Panel**

Amit Kaur (Filmmaker) Carter Pilcher (Chief Executive Shorts TV) Himanshi Choudhry (Actor & Writer) Narvir Singh (Interdisciplinary Artist) Seray Genc (Film Critic, Programmer) Sharaz Ali (Filmmaker)

Watch the shorts selected for our annual Short Film Competition.

AN OPEN SKY by Surbhi Dewan FEBRUARY 1ST by Leila Macaire and Mo Mo HER, MY VOICE by Aneel Ahmad MAN & WIFE by Rahul Roye ME AGAINST THE WORLD by Kali Bailey PEACH PARADISE by Shiva Raichandani Gaurav Raturi (Founder of Cinemapreneur) THE GOOD NEWS by Danish Renzu THE TRUTH OF THE FACE by Tabatha Batra Vaughan THERE WAS NOBODY HERE WE KNEW by Khaula Malik TO THE MOON by Adil Ladha

### **SOUTHALL 79**

Mon 9 May, 4:30pm Watermans, London

means to look critically at film and the role of the director on set.

A look back at a major event that shaped the South Asian community.

Stay around after the screening 'Southall 79' documents the 1979 Southall Uprising, which to hear the director of Southall took place after The National Front chose Southall Town 79, Narvir Singh, in conversation Hall for its election meeting. Through a detailed exploration with the directors of our Dare to of what took place that day, the film uses hindsight to Dream Shorts. The director will be present a piercing look at racism in Britain then and now. discussing with the audience what it The film features interviews with filmmaker Gurinder Chadha, photographer Dennis Morris and activists Balwinder Rana and Salvinder Dhillon.

> Director: Narvir Singh United Kingdom 2021, English







### **INDIAN CINEMA BEYOND BOLLYWOOD**

Mon 9 May, 6:15pm British Library - Eliot Room, London



Indian Indies

A Guide to New Independent
Indian Cinema

ASHVIN IMMANUEL DEVASUNDARAM WITH A FOREWORD BY SHABANA AZMI



Explore how Indian cinema has transformed in recent years.

We will be launching Ashvin Immanuel Devasundaram's book *Indian Indies: A Guide to New Independent Cinema*. This book is a concise and cutting-edge look at the recent renaissance of independent film in India since 2010. We will be exploring how changes in India's political, economic, cultural and social matrix have coincided with radically evocative films that traverse LGBTQ+ issues, female empowerment, caste discrimination, populist politics and religious violence.

The launch will be followed by our Film Wallah screening of Adieu Goddard and a post show panel discussion. Joining the panel will be Dr Ashvin Immanuel Devasundaram (Author), Gurvinder Singh (Director Adh Chanani Raat), Amartya Bhattacharya (Director, Adieu Godard) and the session will be chaired by Gautam Raturi (Owner Cinemapreneur).

# EVENING CONVERSATIONS WITH SUDHA BHUCHAR

Tue 10 May, 7pm Rich Mix, London Hear this warm-hearted monologue about identity and generational divides.

Evening Conversations is inspired by Sudha's banter with her dual-heritage millennial sons. While her life journey has spanned three continents, her sons have had the privilege of growing up in leafy Wimbledon. Sudha invites her boys to 'crack open a cold one' and share their views on life. Will her fiercely British sons see their heritage as a place of strength or an unwelcome inheritance? Sudha Bhuchar is an acclaimed actor and theatre-maker, whose work includes *Lions & Tigers* (Globe Theatre) and *Khandan* (Royal Court Theatre).

Event will begin with a poetry recital by Ambika Kucheria.

# LISTEN TO **BRITAIN**



Tue 10 May, 6:30pm Rich Mix. London

An exploration of modern day Britain, fractured A man attempts to recalibrate to life outside of by race, class and gender.

This spiritual successor to the 1942 original, Modan returns home after spending the prime of

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Alysha Nelson and cinematographer, Sulymaan Bhasran. Hameed. Hosted by Ash Kotak.

## **ADH CHANANI** RAAT



Tue 10 May, 9pm Genesis, London

prison.

explores the vibrant, yet tumultuous, growth his life in prison for a murder he committed to of Britishness over the past century. The film avenge his father's humiliation over land disputes. gives voices to a new reality of Britain, one His brothers have prospered in his absence, his that has been formed through the flourishing new wife is already a mother to an infant, and multiculturalism the country has seen since the Modan is forced to live with his mother in their original film was made. Academics and artists are dilapidated ancestral home. Despite Modan's interviewed to explore both our past and present honest attempts to forget the insults of the past, and consider what a future Britain may look like. suppressed anger manifests itself in renewed violence.

director, Stephen Noorshargh, producer, director, Gurvinder Singh. Hosted by Amrit





### **QATIL HASEENAON KE NAAM**

Wed 11 May, 6pm Rich Mix. London A sneak peak at this new noir series exploring female agency

Qatil Haseenaon Ke Naam, or An Ode to Femme Fatales is a six part anthology series exploring how women get to tell their own stories. In this world, when women are played, they repay in blood. This special screening will showcase episodes 3 and 4 in the series.

In conversation with QHKN protagonist Beo Zaffar, director Meenu Gaur, and film producer Shailia Keiriwal, They will discuss how films and series are made on OTT, and the difference in making a film for bigger screen and for OTT platform. Hosted by Anuj Radia.



### **INVISIBLE DEMONS**

Wed 11 May, 8:50pm Rich Mix, London

Delhi's inhabitants fight to survive the dangers of climate change.

Told through striking images and eye-opening accounts from everyday citizens, Invisible Demons delivers a visceral new look at one of the world's mega cities. A handful of Delhi's 30 million inhabitants share how they are facing the climate emergency. Through his magnifying glass on Delhi, Jain reshifts our focus to see the climate reality as part of our present, not our future.

Director: Rahul Jain India 2021, 70 mins, English

# THE SINGLE **TUMBLER**



Wed 11 May, 6pm Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Thu 12 May, 6:30pm Rich Mix, London

#### An intimate portrayal of northern Tamil society in Sri Lanka looks back at violent histories.

The war between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the Tamil separatist group, the Tigers, is over but deep scars remain. Lalitha returns to Sri Lanka, to her war torn country and the family she left behind in a time of great turbulence. Am I is a picturesque examination of the human Secrets are being kept about wartime that Lalitha condition. must find answers to. Writer-Director Sumathy Sivamohan casts a poetic lens on the conflict with resounding effect.

Introduced by Atchuthan Jaganathan.

## WHO AM I



Thu 12 May, 6:30pm Rich Mix, London

### A philosophy student considers existential questions that lead him on an introspective

Bhavitavya, a philosophy student, is full of questions about life. When his favourite philosophy professor passes away, Bhavitavya embarks on a journey of self-discovery. He starts wondering who he is and what his life means. Shot on the banks of the Narmada River. Who



### THE BRITTLE THREAD

Fri 13 May, 4:45pm Norden Farm, Maidenhead Varanasi is known for being a site of pilgrimage, but its dwellers know a different side to the city.

Headstrong and feisty street dancer Rani works hard to care for her daughter. Reclusive weaver Shahdab discovers a new world in his friendship with an Israeli tourist. These two inhabitants of Varanasi show the diversity and richness of human life that makes up the city's population. Writer-director Ritesh Sharma explores the conflicts and divisions that exist within Indian society and presents an ideal where the city is united.

Director: Ritesh Sharma Cast: Megha Mathur, Muzaffar Khan & Utkarsh Srivastava India 2021, 94 mins, Hindi with English subtitles

# INTERNATIONAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVALS FEDERATION (SAFFF) UKAFF 2022 FORUM NETWORKING EVENT

Fri 13 May, 6:30pm Genesis, London Join our panellists to discuss the future of South Asian Film Festivals.

We welcome representatives of major South Asian focused film festivals to discuss the future of the film festival model. We will be joined by Dr Pushpinder Chowdhry and Dr Ashvin Devasundaram from the UK Asian Film Festival, Manoj Srivastava and Kunal Srivastava from Diorama International Film Festival, Qazi Abdur Rahim from Imagine India International Film Festival, as well as a host of representatives from festivals across the world.

They, along with guest keynote speakers from Yash Raj Films, London Film Festival, Zee, Amazon, Moviegoers and Modern Films will discuss the importance of such festivals today and the hybrid digital festival strategy after COVID-19.



### MAIN HOON, I CAN

Sat 14 May, 6:15pm Watermans, London This sincere biopic narrates the extraordinary life of Minu Bakshi.

Minu Bakshi is a Punjabi folk artist who wears many hats. She is a poet, writer, linguist, translator, philanthropist and singer. This documentary explores her multifaceted life and the people she has impacted through her work. It is both an insightful and inspiring piece of cinema.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Ajay Krishnakant Chitnis and lead, Minu Bakshi. Hosted by Tanu Banaik.

Director: Ajay Krishnakant Chitnis India 2021, 74 mins, Hindi with English subtitles

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

# **EMERGING CURATORS LAB**





### 24TH EDITION UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 4 MAY - 15 MAY 2022 **EMERGING CURATORS LAB**



future film curators to gain essential skills and knowledge about how to curate a film festival. Each year, we hold two days of workshops that involve watching some of the films submitted for selection for festival. The group - of around 40 participants from the UK and South Asia film which screen's at the festival and receives an together decide who should be this year's winner. award.

collaboration between the UK Asian Film Festival and Diorama International Film Festival, bringing together 40 selected Emerging Curators from across the UK and India. ECL 2022 will be led by Dr Ashvin Devasundaram (Queen Mary University of London) and Dr Monia Acciari (De Montfort University).

# **SHORT FILM WORKSHOP**



Our Emerging Curators Lab provides training for Each year, the UK Asian Film Festival invites young filmmakers and critics to a two day workshop where they learn the craft of short film making. Hosted by Saz Vora, an award-winning writer, the workshop goes into detail about film theory and practice. The participants are then asked to review the short film submissions for evaluate and eventually selected their choice of the festival. They gather with industry judges to

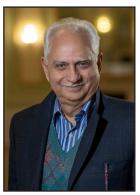
You can see all the shortlisted films in our Dare This year's ECL features a unique global to Dream Shorts screening at Watermas Arts Centre along with a Director's Workshop.

# **24 YEARS OF MEMORIES**

Check out some pictures taken from our festivals over the years. We've be privileged to create a space for our community where audiences and filmmaking talent have celebrated our cinema as one. Here's to even more memories.













































# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL TEAM

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR	Dr. Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE
CREATIVE DIRECTOR	Sâmir Bhamra
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR	Saba Syed
ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS & YOUTH CURATOR LEADS	Dr. Ashvin Immanuel Devasundaram & Dr. Monia Acciari
PROJECTS MANAGER & FESTIVAL COORDINATOR	Dr. Toyeba Mushtaq
SHORT FILM COMPETITION COORDINATOR	Saz Vora
MARKETING MANAGER	Hardish Matharu
FESTIVAL ADMINISTRATOR	Zayna Zubair
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	Aashish Parmar
DIGITAL CONTENT	Behzad Ahmad
PR, PRESS AND PUBLICITY	Media House Global
COPYWRITER	Nick Virk
HOSTS	Aditi Khanna, Ambika Kucheria, Amrit Bhasran, Anuj Radia, Ash Kotak, Beo Zaffar Rana, Bittu Khungura, Feroza Adam, Gaurav Raturi, Islah Abdur Rahman, Mina Parmar, Nidhi Sahani, Nikita Kanda, Raga D'Silva, Rakhee Joshi, Ram Devineni, Rosie Thomas, Suman Bhuchar, Sweety Kapoor, Tanu Banaik, Umar Butt & Yasmin Whittaker Khan
SHORT FILM COMPETITION INDUSTRY PANELISTS	Amit Kaur, Carter Pilcher, Gaurav Raturi, Himanshi Choudhry, Narvir Singh, Seray Genç & Sharaz Ali
INTERNATIONAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVALS FEDERATION PANELLISTS	Dr. Ashvin Devasundaram, Dr. Pushpinder Chowdhry, Manoj Srivastava & Qazi Abdur Rahim
FESTIVAL FOUNDERS	Dr. Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE & Mrs Harvinder Nath
FESTIVAL CHAIR PERSON	Rakhee Joshi
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS	Jaanuja Sriskantha, Mayukh Gayen, Nick Virk, Payal Seth, Saima Khan, Sana Soni, Suniya Quereshi, Vandana Dass & Vikas Dhir
PATRONS	Abhishek Bachchan, Alankrita Shrivastava, Lord Dijit Rana, Meera Syal CBE, Minu Bakshi, Prof. Dinesh Bhugra, Prof. Rachel Dwyer, Sabiha Sumar & Sunita Sangar

# **UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL TEAM**

EMERGING CURATORS	Aashni Sawjani, Abhay Purohit, Alka Singh, Amisha Patel, Amisha Patel, Ankit Bagchi, Ansulika Paul, Asif Veh, Bandhu Prasad, Beatriz da Fonseca Pereira Ventura, Benjami Schonken, Dr. Vellikkeel Raghavan, Harshita Sethia, Hyash Tanmoy, Jayant Singh, Johnson Rajkumar, Karn Verma, Kartikey Tripathi, Katherine Pole, Kaushik Garasiya, Kriti Agarwal, Miranda Loveridge-Graham, Muhammed Aamir Saleem, Mukul Singh, Naomi Rathod, Nasirul Islam, Priyanka Verma, Ravinah Kapoor, Reshma Biring, Ria Chadha, Sammy Hussain, Suyog Kale, Tripat Sekhon, Vikas Wadhwani, Vikash Tailor, Viraj Tadwalkar & Yash Khandelwal	
VOLUNTEERS COORDINATOR	Amandeep Dhillon	
VOLUNTEERS	Aashni Kotecha, Alia Turmes, Ann Cordery, Bashir Jivani, Beatriz da Fonseca Pereira Ventura, Gurvinder Singh, Hariharan Sivaji, Harvey Thomas, Kate Pole, Maneessh Venkateshan, Mehreen Afzal, Mona Gupta, Muhammed Aamir Saleem, Nasirul Islam, Pooja Puranik, Rahul Nagpaul, Rakshanda Burugu, Ria Chadha, Roshni Sedani, Saanvi Gupta, Sammy Hussain, Seray Genc Guven, Sravanthi Sunkari, Sreeram Santosh Vasamsetty, Tanu Banaik, Vikas Wadhwani, Vikash Tailor & Yijiao Dong	

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### UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL NATIONAL

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
6 May	19:00	GANDHI & CO.	Phoenix Cinema, Leicester	£9.20
	19:30	GANDHI & CO.	Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry	£10.50
16:00 18:00 19:30	14:00	MUTHAYYA	Phoenix Cinema, Leicester	£9.20
	16:00	CHANN PARDESI: REMASTERED	Phoenix Cinema, Leicester	£9.20
	18:00	ADIEU GODARD	Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry	£10.50
	19:30	TEMPLE & SQUARE CIRCLE	Phoenix Cinema, Leicester	£12.00
	21:00	JAVED IQBAL	Phoenix Cinema, Leicester	£12.00
	16:30	BRING ON THE BOLLYWOOD	Phoenix Cinema, Leicester	£9.20
	18:30	CHANN PARDESI:	Glasgow Film Theatre, Glasgow	£10.90
	19:30	HOT MESS HOLIDAY	Phoenix Cinema, Leicester	£9.20
11 May	18:00	THE SINGLE TUMBLER	Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry	£10.50
	20:00	JAVED IQBAL	Glasgow Film Theatre, Glasgow	£10.90
13 May	12:00	CHANN PARDESI: REMASTERED	Norden Farm, Maidenhead	£9.50
	14:45	GANDHI & CO.	Norden Farm, Maidenhead	£8.50
	16:45	LINES	Norden Farm, Maidenhead	£9.50
	19:30	BRING ON THE BOLLYWOOD	Norden Farm, Maidenhead	£9.50
	19:30	LINES	Arc - Stockton Arts Centre, Stockton-on-Tees	£9
	16:45	THE BRITTLE THREAD	Norden Farm, Maidenhead	£9.50
14 May	17:00	GANDHI & CO.	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	£8.50
	19:00	MUGHAL-E-AZAM	Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry	£10.50
	19:30	JAVED IQBAL	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	£8.50
	19:30	JAVED IQBAL	Arc - Stockton Arts Centre, Stockton-on-Tees	£9

### UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL LONDON

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
4 May	18:00	JAVED IQBAL	BFI Southbank	£12.50
5 May	15:30	NEHRU'S HERO: DILIP KUMAR & LATA MANGESHKARIN HER OWN VOICE BY NASREEN MUNNI KABIR	House of Lords	Invite Only
	18:30	MUGHAL-E-AZAM	Harrow Arts Centre	£7
	18:30	REHANA	Genesis	£8
	20:50	MALAM	Genesis	£8
6 May	15:30	HOSTILE	Kiln Theatre	£10
	18:00	TO BE OR NOT TO BE & EMERGENCE: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	Rich Mix	£11.90
7 May	13:00	PRIYA AND THE TWIRLING WIND SCREENING AND WORKSHOP	Rich Mix	£11.90
	17:00	GANDHI & CO.	Rich Mix	£11.90
8 May	14:00	12 HOURS	Rich Mix	£11.90
	15:00	JAVED IQBAL	Harrow Arts Centre	£7
	15:35	HULLRAISERS	Rich Mix	£11.90
	16:00	CHILDREN OF PARTITION: AN ORAL HISTORY OF POTHOHARIS	The May Fair Hotel	Invite Only
	17:45	TWO FRIENDS; DOSTOJEE	Rich Mix	£11.90
	19:00	KEKEE MANZIL	Regent Street Cinema	£12.00
9 May	14:00	SHORT FILMS & SOUTHALL 79 SCREENING	Watermans	£10
	18:00	MUTHAYYA	Rich Mix	£11.90
	18:15	INDIAN CINEMA BEYOND BOLLYWOOD	British Library	£7.50
	21:15	LINES	Rich Mix	£11.90
10 May	18:30	LISTEN TO BRITAIN	Rich Mix	£11.90
	19:00	EVENING CONVERSATIONS WITH SUDHA BHUCHAR	Rich Mix	£11.90
	21:00	ADH CHANANI RAAT	Genesis	£8
11 May	18:00	QATIL HASEENAON KE NAAM	Rich Mix	£11.90
	18:20	ADIEU GODARD	BFI Southbank	£12.50
	20:50	INVISIBLE DEMONS	Rich Mix	£11.90

# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL LONDON CONT.

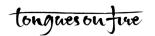
DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
12 May	18:30	BRING ON THE BOLLYWOOD	Watermans	£10
	18:30	HOT MESS HOLIDAY	Genesis	£8
	18:30	THE SINGLE TUMBLER	Rich Mix	£11.90
	20:30	WHO AM I	Rich Mix	£11.90
13 May	18:30	TEMPLE & SQUARE CIRCLE	Watermans	£10
	18:30	INTERNATIONAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVALS FEDERATION & NETWORKING EVENT	Genesis	£8
14 May	13:00	CHANN PARDESI: REMASTERED	Kiln Theatre	£10
	13:00	PERIOD®	Stratford Picturehouse	£7.50
	18:15	MAIN HOON, I CAN	Watermans	£10
15 May	11:30	GANGNAM GIRLS	BFI Southbank	£12.50

Please fill in our audience survey using the QR code below.



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Youtube: tonguesonfire

Due to circumstances beyond our control, screening times, titles and speakers may change. Please check with Tongues on Fire prior to booking. All tickets are subject to availability and early booking is recommended.

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