Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival



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This year's highlights include a red carpet opening night at Picturehouse Central with the exciting World Premiere of cop whodunit Article 15, starring Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana directed by Anubhav Sinha. Our closing night marks the return of Ritesh Batra, the director of The Lunchbox with the premiere of Photograph starring the legendary Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

Our themed strands in this brochure start with the Young Rebel strand, which literally knocks out all the stereotypes with a fistful of movies exploring younger lives. See director Rima Das' award-winning teenage hit Bulbul Can Sing. Coming-of-age comedy The Lift Boy, or Roobha and Kattumaram premieres, presenting young lives taking a stand.

The Bengal Tigers strand highlights the region's unique contribution to world cinema. One can catch Bengal's hottest new talented filmmakers legendary director Buddhadeb Dasgupta's new film *The Flight*, alongside rarely seen archival classics.

Dive deep into our Extra-Ordinary Lives strand with amazing documentaries and dramas from across South Asia. We present rollicking Hindi hit The Man Who Feels No Pain. Don't miss tense Kannada whodunnit Arishadvarga, or the unforgettably feel-good My Home India.

Celebrating our 10th Birthday, the UK and Europe's largest South Asian film festival is literally stuffed to the rafters with a rich assortment of entertaining and thought provoking independent films.

> Our Film, Power & Politics strand offers a critical insight into the fast moving political changes of South Asia. The astonishing documentary *Reason* by Anand Patwardhan, Bangla suspense *Saturday Afternoon* and Gandhian black comedy *#Gadhvi* are a few films to look out for.

We are expecting a host of special guests, including India's most famous indie director Anurag Kashyap of *Sacred Games* fame, and UK Asian legend Gurinder Chadha. Make sure you buy your tickets in advance for these!

We are delighted to welcome back our regular partners including Title Sponsor the Bagri Foundation for the fifth year in a row. Thanks to the BFI Audience Fund and to our many friends and supporters.

More guests will be confirmed soon so please do check out the festival website for updates www.Londonindianfilmfestival.co.uk or hit Twitter and Instagram @loveliff #loveLIFF and Facebook: London Indian Film Festival.

Buy tickets via booking links on our website, or directly at partner cinemas.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Cary Rajinder Sawhney

Executive & Programming Director







Patrons : Shekhar Kapur, Tony Matharu, Lord David Puttnam, Adoor Gopalakrishnan.

Thanks to Mark Adams, Omar Ahmed, Jay Arnold, Jane Backlog, Alka Bagri, Dr. Mukulika Banerjee, George Barker, David Bellfield, Shyam Benegal, Ganapati Bhat, Clare Binns, Bobbie, Anna Bogutskaya, Paul Bowman, Vibha Chopra, Paula Chattraj, Stuart Crane, Uma da Cunha, Kiran Dhanoya, Ted Doan, Dr Rachel Dwyer, Michael Hall, Diane Gabrysiak, David Garratt, Kirsten Geekie, Gali Gold, Gaylene Gould, Miranda Gower-Qian, Rachel Hayward, Elizabeth Horton, Latif Hussain, Mira Kaushik, Anjum Khan, Bill Lawrence, Jonathan Daniel Luther, Anjum Malik, Sarah-Jane Meredith, Bhavna Mistry, John Morgan-Tamosunas, Asjad Nazir, Dayanand Patil, Disha Patil, Veena Patil, Chelsea Pettitt, Navtej Purewal, Sridhar Rangayan, Piali Ray, Robert Rider, James Rocarols, Kazi Ruksana Begum, Dr Nilanjan Sarkar, Margherita Sciaulino, Ravi Sharma, Edward Simpson, Rosie Thomas, Sanjay Wadwa, Tyrone Walker-Hebborn, Matthew Whiteley, Bina Venugopal, Jason Wood, Aziz Zeria, Club Kali & DJ Ritu, Popchips, Spun Candy, our festival team and wonderful volunteers and many others.

OPENING NIGHT GALA

CLOSING NIGHT GALA

ARTICLE 15

WORLD PREMIERE

20 June | 18:15 | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL 27 June | 19:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY



We are delighted to open our 10th birthday celebrations with the World Premiere of Anubhav Sinha's hard-hitting Article 15. India's hottest male star Ayushmann Khurrana (Andhadhun, Badhai Ho) plays a police officer from a privileged urban background, whose first posting is to rural north India, where three teenage girls have gone missing. His honesty does not sit well with the existing, deeply entrenched corrupt system where, in 2019, a 1000-year-old practice where human beings are divided on the basis of caste continues. Beginning as a riveting police procedural that is a True Detective-like deep-dive into the Indian bayou, Article 15 soon elevates to a gutsy exposé of a deeply flawed structure. The film's title is a reference to an article of the Indian constitution that prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, race or sex. Special guests expected.

Hindi, English with English subtitles. India 2019 | 120 Mins

Dir: Anubhav Sinha With: Ayushmann Khurrana, Sayani Gupta, Isha Talwar, Manoj Pahwa, Kumud Mishra

Q&A with Director Anubhav Sinha, cast and crew

PHOTOGRAPH

29 June | 17:15 | BFI SOUTHBANK



Cannes hit *The Lunchbox* took the world by storm with box office success in all territories. Its director *Ritesh Batra* returns to the big screen with this nuanced romance between unlikely lovers. Acting legend *Nawazuddin Siddiqui* plays Rafi, a humble street photographer outside the Gateway of India, Mumbai. He photographs an attractive young wealthy woman Miloni, who disappears without paying. Keeping her photo, he tries to fob off his marriage-peddling granny by sending her the photo to show his success, but impressed, she is soon heading to Mumbai to meet the marriage prospect. Rafi manages to track down Miloni and convince her to pretend to be his fiancée, and, partly intrigued by rough diamond Rafi's request and partly because she's looking for something extraordinary, she agrees.

Hindi, Gujarati, English with English subtitles India/Germany/US 2019 | 110 Mins

Director: Ritesh Batra With: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sanya Malhotra, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Farrukh Jaffar

ARDAAS KARAAN

28 June | 19:00 | CINEWORLD FELTHAM

SPECIAL EVENT WORLD PREMIERE



Following the mega success of *Ardaas*, we revisit the story of three elderly men who live in Canada with their families, realising that each generation has a different conflicting opinion about life. The elderly men believe spending time with each other and communicating may help bridge their gap. But each time the family plans to spend time with each other they end up arguing. One day the elderly gentlemen come across Sehaj and Magic who are full of positivity and agree to help them understand their families but are given a week to accomplish this. Will Sehaj and Magic manage to find a common thread for the three differing generations to live together in harmony? How will they use Ardaas (prayer) to convey their message about life?

Punjabi with English subtitles India 2019 | 140 Mins

Director: Gippy Grewal With: Gippy Grewal, Mehar Vij, Gurpreet Ghuggi

Q&A with Star and Director Gippy Grewal



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YOUNG REBEL.

Young people challenge and change the world with fresh ideas and open hearts. We present a fist of films that depict young South Asians, some are joyous and laughout-loud while others present youth facing real-life challenges in South Asia today.

ENGLISH PREMIERE BULBUL CAN SING

25 June | 18:30 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE 26 June | 18:15 | BFI SOUTHBANK



Assamese director Rima Das returns to LIFF with this groundbreaking comingof-age tale that has swept up prestigious awards at Berlin, Dublin, Singapore and Mumbai film festivals. Three teenage best friends in rural Assam, northeast India. are forging their distinct personalities, but as the girls secretly meet boys, they soon come face to face with outmoded cultural traditions that challenge their family and place in the community, but most importantly their bonds as loyal friends. Rima Das made a global splash with Village Rockstars and Bulbul Can Sing continues to prove her humane, world-class talent,

25 June: BSL Signed screening

Assamese, Hindi with English subtitles India 2018 | 95 Mins

Director: Rima Das With: Arnali Das. Manoranian Das. Bonita Thakuriya, Pakija Begam

Q&A with Director Rima Das



THE LIFT BOY



23 June | 16:30 | WATERMANS 29 June I 17:00 I CINEWORLD WEMBLEY



Based on a true story in the mountains of Ladakh, we meet Chuskit - a joyous and strong-minded young girl whose dreams of going to school are cut short after an accident leaves her unable to walk. While her friends start school she is confined to life indoors in the company of her strict grandfather. Dorie, who is adamant she must stay at home. As her battle with her grandfather intensifies and Chuskit's hopes are getting crushed the family decides on a dramatic path of change.

21 June I 20:00 I CINEWORLD WEMBLEY* 22 June | 18:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE 28 June | 20:30 | GENESIS*



The Lift Boy is a heart-warming entertainer that will leave you smiling from ear to ear. When his father falls ill. 24 year-old lay-about Raju is forced to take up his dad's job as a liftboy at a posh apartment complex in Mumbai. As an aspiring engineer, despite having failed his exams four times. Raju detests having to do what he considers menial work. believing it is beneath him. However over time he learns that the job is more than just being confined to the lift and he gets to know the residents of the apartment building, as an inspiring connection begins to blossom with Maureen D'Souza, the owner of the complex.

Ladakhi with English subtitles India 2018 | 90 Mins

Director: Priva Ramasubban With: Jigmet Dewa Lhamo, Morup Namgyal, Yanchen Dolma

English, Hindi with English subtitles India 2019 | 107 Mins

Director: Jonathan Augustin With: Moin Khan, Nyla Masood, Saagar Kale

*Plays with short film Dada and the Punjabi Princess, Director: Dr. Chila Kumari Burman



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EUROPEAN PREMIERE KATTUMARAM (CATAMARAN)

21 June | 20:30 | BFI SOUTHBANK 29 June | 16:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE



Part of an emerging queer cinema from South India Kattumaram tells of patriarch Singaram and his orphaned niece Anandhi, fisher-folk survivors of the Tsunami. Beautiful Anandhi teaches in the local school and has many fishermen interested in her, but Anandhi instead secretly falls for a new female supply teacher. As Singaram finds out and tries to come to terms with this revelation, gossip about the young women's relationship quickly spreads. Singaram is left facing the choice of either defending his beloved niece and her partner, or giving sway to the demands of an angry community.

LONDON PREMIERE

21 June | 21:00 | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL 24 June | 18:45 | SOAS BRUNEI GALLERY



Canadian Tamil Roobha is a stunning young trans-woman struggling to find her place after being ostracised by her family. One night while dancing in a redneck bar she has a chance encounter with Tamil bar owner and 'straight' married man, Anthony, (played by Jesuthasan Antonythasan of Dheepan fame). This leads to an intense love affair, but their blissful relationship is put to the test as Roobha is forced to deal with transgender stigma present in their community and Anthony's familial affiliation and ailing health. Lenin M. Sivam's latest film is beautifully realised and a unique romantic tale exploring the complexities of gender identities, romance and immigrant loneliness. Canadä

Tamil with English subtitles India 2019 | 73 Mins

Director: Swarnavel Eswaran With: Mysskin, Anusha Prabhu, Preeti Karan

Q&A with director Swarnavel Eswaran, actor Mysskin & other cast

Tamil, English with English subtitles Canada 2019 | 91 Mins

Director: Lenin M. Sivam With: Jesuthasan Antonythasan, Amrit Sandhu, Thenuka Kantharajah

Q&A with actor Jesuthasan Antonythasan

BENGAL TIGERS

Bengal has been a beating heart of Indian cinema since the silent era and continues to offer to the home and the world innovative. culturally rich and unique films, it has even inspired non-Indian filmmakers We mark the passing of legendary director Mrinal Sen with the classic Kandhar. Satyajit Ray's The Music Room and a conversation around Jean Renoir's The River, as well as celebrating the best current indie filmmaking including a O&A with master filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta and emerging filmmakers.

UK PREMIERE **ABYAKTO** (UNSAID)

24 June | 20:00 | WATERMANS 26 June | 20:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE



Ariunn Dutta's debut feature film is a touching story about the relationship between a mother and her son. Abyakto narrates the journey of Indra from childhood, through adolescence to adulthood through snippets from his past, as he is forced to revisit them when he returns to his hometown Kolkota to take care of property matters a couple of years after his father's death. The journey into Indra's past reveal a strained and complex relationship with his mother that has gone on to shape him as a person in the present. Abyakto is a tender and poignant tale about love, regret and the search for an identity.

EUROPEAN PREMIERE UROJAHAJ (THE FLIGHT)

23 June | 14:50 | BFI SOUTHBANK 24 June | 20:40 | CINE LUMIERE



Legendary Bengali filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta, who has a magic realist style akin to Guillermo del Toro, attends the festival to present one of his finest films. An idealistic villager discovers a wrecked WW2 Japanese warplane deep in a ghostly forest. Seeing passenger planes overhead, his dream has always been to fly. He sets about secretly repairing the plane, but as he starts enquiring about an engine, the military find out and he is soon considered a national threat. Dasgupta's films are often subtly laced with a pressing politic of the ordinary man pitted against the all-powerful state.

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE SHONA JHURIR BHOOT (GHOST OF THE GOLDEN GROVES)

22 June | 20:00 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE 28 June | 20:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE



Surreal and unnerving, debutants Dutta and Sen deliver a fresh hybrid style to the sci-fi genre. In the first tale of this delightful diptych strange nocturnal incidents begin to occur to a government officer from Kolkata visiting the Shonajhuri forest area - eerie lights, anonymous voices, sinister wailing and a random encounter with a polymorph, all draw him deep into the treacherous web of the golden groves. In the second, based on a story by Bibutibhushan Bandyopadhyay (Pather Panchali), a poor cook gets the caretaker's iob at an abandoned house in the same forest and must deal with "the others". Equal parts homage to Japanese New Wave horror like Onibaba, and the cinema of Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen, the film is breathtakingly original.

Bengali with English subtitles India 2019 | 98 Mins

Director: Aniket Dutta & Roshni Sen With: Joyraj Bhattacharjee, Soumyajit Majumder, Debleena Sen, Bidyut Das

Bengali with English subtitles India 2018 | 87 Mins

Director: Arjunn Dutta With: Arpita Chatterjee, Adil Hussain, Anubhav Kanjilal

Bengali with English subtitles India 2018 | 82 Mins

Director: Buddhadeb Dasgupta With: Chandan Roy Sanyal, Parno Mittra, Sudipto Chatterjee

EUROPEAN PREMIERE ITI. TOMARI DHAKA (SINCERELY YOURS, DHAKA)

UK PREMIERE **VINCI DA**

23 June | 18:00 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE 27 June | 18:00 | GENESIS



Seven Bangladeshi filmmakers come together to present a series of short stories as a love-letter to their beloved city of Dhaka. A background actor who'll do anything to be a star: two young girls who are dving for a drink in a city where alcohol is illegal: a bank scam sparks an attempted murder and a plumber adds fuel to a refugee crisis. Ranging from the bizarre, comical and heart-warming to the heartbreaking, the first ever anthology film made in Bangladesh takes us on a bittersweet vet wild journey through the city of Dhaka.



21 June I 18:30 I PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL

25 June I 19:00 I CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

A talented make-up and prosthetic artist, nicknamed Vinci Da after Leonardo da Vinci because of his prodigious skills, gets unwittingly drawn into a psychopathic lawyer's criminal plans to rid Kolkata of an evil force. Acting powerhouses Ghosh, Chakraborty and Sarkar are in top form in this terrific, edge-of-the-seat psychological thriller superbly orchestrated by the prolific filmmaker Srijit Mukherji. A smash hit at home in Bengal, this is a rare chance for London audiences to see it on the big screen and also revel in the timeless beauty of Kolkata in all her glory.

THE RIVER



23 June | 16:10 | CINE LUMIERE

The film that arguably inspired new

Bengali independent cinema - including

follows a close-knit upper class British

in the waning days of colonial India.

Satyajit Ray - Renoir's first colour feature

family living on the banks of the Ganges

Harriet and her four adolescent sisters are

brought up in a philosophy that embraces

placid lives are disrupted with the arrival

horrors of war, and offers the smitten girls

both Christianity and Hinduism. Their

of a soldier who is recovering from the

an insight into a wider world they have

never been exposed to before. Featuring stunning Technicolor cinematography by

Claude Renoir that captures the majestic beauty of Bengal and her rituals, The

River is a treat for the eyes and the mind.

23 June | 14:00 | CINE LUMIERE



ASSIC FILM

Satyajit Ray brilliantly evokes the crumbling opulence of the world of a fallen aristocrat, Roy (the beloved stage and screen actor Chhabi Biswas) desperately clinging to a fading way of life in his zamindar's palace. His greatest joy, and his obsession, is the music room in which he has hosted lavish concerts over the years-now a shadow of its former vivid self. The music itself, and its performance, to which Roy is so passionately if intensely devoted, becomes a key character in the film. The Music Room was a showcase for some of India's most popular musicians, and was voted one of the greatest films of all time by Sight and Sound.

Bengali with English subtitles Bangladesh 2018 | 90 Mins

Director: Nuhash Humavun, Sved Ahmed Shawki, MD Robiul Alam, Tanvir Ahsan, Abdullah Al Noor, Krishnendu Chattopadhvay, Sved Saleh Ahmed Sobhan

Bengali with English Subtitles. India 2019 | 117 Mins

Director: Srijit Mukherji With: Rudranil Ghosh. Ritwick Chakrabortv. Sohini Sarkar, Ridhi Sen

Bengali and English with English subtitles France/UK/India/US 1951 | 99 Mins

Presented in divine 35mm.

Director: Jean Renoir With: Nora Swinburne, Esmond Knight, Radha Burnier, Patricia Walters

Bengali with English Subtitles. India 1958 | 99 Mins

Director: Satvaiit Rav With: Chhabi Biswas. Sardar Akhtar. Gangapadu basu

SATYAJIT RAY SHORT FILM AWARD

TOO DESI TOO QUEER

28 June | 17:30 | UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

21 June | 20:30 | GENESIS 23 June | 16:00 | PHOENIX EAST FINCHLEY 26 June | 18:45 | SOAS KHALIL THEATRE



The festival's annual *Satyajit Ray Short Film Competition and Award* is a rare chance to see the works of talented, emerging filmmakers, who are exploring themes of South Asian Experience. The competition's final shortlist films will be screened at the festival and the winner of the 2019 award is announced on the festival's Closing Night. In association with the *Bagri Foundation*.

NOOREH

Dir. Ashsih Pandey | 22 mins | Urdu

A young girl living on the India/Pakistan border discovers that gunfire stops if she stays awake at night.

ALIEN CULTURE

Iesh Thapar | 16 mins | English

Southall 1979 with tensions running high, a young man thinks his brother is in trouble but the truth is far from what he imagined.

THESE SILENCES ARE ALL THE WORDS

Madhia Aijaz | 15 mins | Urdu

A poetic essay on the public libraries of Pakistan

U USHACHA

Dir. Rohan Kanwade | 21 mins | Marathi

A young farm labourer finds herself drawn to a local primary school teacher in ways she never thought possible.

KARK

Dir. Pawan K. Nayak | 26 mins | Hindi

A young woman hopes her monotonous life will take a turn after meeting a stranger and falling in love

RAMMAT GAMMAT

Dir. Ajitpal Singh | 17 mins | Gujarati

Two young boys friendship is tested when a pair of football boots goes missing.



The festival joins hands with Thrive LDN, Brixton Reel Film Festival, Queer Asia, University of Westminster and others to present a special FREE event exploring well being in London's South Asian LGBTQ+ communities.

The event includes a dynamic range of recent LGBTQ+ shorts from South Asia and the UK, followed by a panel debate exploring community empowerment and looking after individual wellbeing, with high profile speakers. A networking social with a DJ ends the evening at University of Westminster, Portland Place Campus.

For updates on the short film programme please check out the festival website. All are welcome but please be respectful that this is an LGBTQ+ space.

The free event is available for booking on eventbrite:

Mixed Programme Various Languages with English subtitles. Total running time 117 mins.

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

THU 20 JUNE

Opening Night ARTICLE 15 18:15 | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL

FRI 21 JUNE

#GADHVI 18:15 | BARBICAN

VINCI DA 18:30 | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL

SIR 20:00 | PHOENIX EAST FINCHLEY

THE LIFT BOY 20:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

KATTUMARAM (CATAMARAN) 20:30 | BFI SOUTHBANK

SATYAJIT SHORT FILM AWARD 20:30 | GENESIS

MARD KO DARD NAHIN HOTA (THE MAN WHO FEELS NO PAIN) 20:30 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

ROOBHA 21:00 | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL

SAT 22 JUNE

VIVEK (REASON) 13:30 | BARBICAN

THIS SHAKING KEEPS ME STEADY 16:00 | BERTHA DOCHOUSE

MY HOME INDIA 18:00 | WATERMANS

THE LIFT BOY 18:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

MARD KO DARD NAHIN HOTA (THE MAN WHO FEELS NO PAIN) 18:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

SIR 18:30 | CINE LUMIERE

CHAI WITH CHADHA 19:00 | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL

SHONA JHURIR BHOOT (GHOST OF THE GOLDEN GROVES) 20:00 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE

SUN 23 JUNE

VIVEK (REASON) 12:00 | BERTHA DOCHOUSE

JALSAGHAR (THE MUSIC ROOM) 14:00 | CINE LUMIERE

UROJAHAJ (THE FLIGHT) 14:50 | BFI SOUTHBANK

SATYA JIT SHORT FILM COMPETITION 16:00 | PHOENIX EAST FINCHLEY

WIDOW OF SILENCE 16:00 | BARBICAN

THE RIVER 16:10 | CINE LUMIERE

CHUSKIT 16:30 | WATERMANS

SIR 17:15 | BFI SOUTHBANK

SUN 23 JUNE

ITI, TOMARI DHAKA 18:00 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE

AN EVENING WITH RADHIKA APTE 18:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

ARISHADVARGA 18:30 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

MON 24 JUNE

WIDOW OF SILENCE 18:30 | CINE LUMIERE

ROOBHA 18:45 | SOAS (BRUNEI GALLERY)

ABYAKTO (UNSAID) 20:00 | WATERMANS

THIS SHAKING KEEPS ME STEADY 20:00 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE

UROJAHAJ (THE FLIGHT) 20:40 | CINE LUMIERE

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

TUE 25 JUNE

KHANDHAR (RUINS) 18:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

BULBUL CAN SING 18:30 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE

MY HOME INDIA 18:30 | LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

VINCI DA 19:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 20:30 | BARBICAN

WED 26 JUNE

ARISHADVARGA 20:00 | WATERMANS

#GADHVI 20:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

THU 27 JUNE

ITI, TOMARI DHAKA (SINCERELY YOURS, DHAKA) 18:00 | GENESIS CINEMA

MY HOME INDIA 19:00 | POSK

ARTICLE 15

WED 26 JUNE

SATUR

BULBUL CAN SING 18:15 | BFI SOUTHBANK SATURDAY AFTERNOON 20:30 | GENESIS

19:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

SATYAJIT RAY SHORT FILM AWARD 18:45 | SOAS

(KHALIL LECTURE THEATRE)

ABYAKTO

(UNSAID) 20:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

FRI 28 JUNE

TOO DESI TOO QUEER 17:30 | WESTMINSTER UNIVERSITY

MY HOME INDIA 18:30 | GENESIS

ARDAAS KARAAN 19:00 | CINEWORLD FELTHAM

SHONA JHURIR BHOOT (GHOST OF THE GOLDEN GROVES) 20:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

THE LIFT BOY 20:30 | GENESIS

ANURAG KASHYAP SCREEN TALK 20:45 | BFI SOUTHBANK

SAT 29 JUNE

KATTUMARAM (CATAMARAN) 16:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

CHUSKIT 17:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY

Closing Night Gala PHOTOGRAPH 17:15 | BFI SOUTHBANK

FILM, POWER & POLITICS

In one of the most rapidly changing political regions of the world, South Asian filmmakers are often at the frontline - recording, reflecting on and at times questioning the powerful brokers and political decisionmakers. We offer here four films that show different aspects of the South Asian political landscape now. At the Barbican, and other venues.

WORLD PREMIERE #GADHVI

21 June | 18:15 | BARBICAN 26 June | 20:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY



A retired, nondescript widower Ram Nath Gadhvi inadvertently takes on the establishment and suddenly becomes a social media sensation. He begins to take on Gandhi's pacifist principles, but is no ordinary Gandhian, believing he is the reincarnation of the Mahatma itself. In the process Gadhyi attracts more and more followers, but also enemies seeking to bring him down, including hiredgun, Omkar, who has been tasked with suppressing the swelling anger against the establishment by shattering Gadhvi's delusion and crushing his core beliefs. Gauray Bakshi's debut feature is a sharp social and political satire.

UK PREMIERE SATURDAY AFTERNOON

25 June | 20:30 | BARBICAN 27 June | 20:30 | GENESIS



Winner of two jury awards at Moscow International Film Festival Bangladeshi auteur Mostofa Sarwar Farooki (No Bed Of Roses) returns with this tense thriller shot in a single take where terrorists take over an eatery in Dhaka, resulting in a siege scenario and multiple deaths. Loosely based on real events, the riveting film takes a close look at the roots of modern day terrorism through political, social and gender implications. Adding gravitas to this gut-puncher are a plethora of international stars, including India's Parambrata Chatterjee (Shah Jahan Regency), Bangladesh's Nusrat Imrose Tisha (Sincerely Yours, Dhaka) and Palestine's Eyad Hourani (Omar).

LONDON PREMIERE VIVEK (REASON)

22 June | 13:30 | BARBICAN 23 June | 12:00 | BERTHA DOCHOUSE



India's greatest documentarian, Anand Patwardhan, returns with a powerful chronicle of contemporary India. He depicts a country that after decades of relatively pro-secular democracy, is now increasingly divided by religion, caste and power. Patwardhan follows activists, rationalists and dissenters. Narendra Dabholkar and Govind Pansare, he broadens his gaze to look at critical questions of communism, caste and freedom of speech. This is a riveting and sobering film that will inform and frustrate in equal measure. Reason is a must watch, and is perhaps the most important documentary to emerge from India in recent years.

Hindi with English subtitles India 2018 | 109 Mins

Director: Gaurav Bakshi With: Sanjay Mishra, Rasika Dugal, Akshay Oberoi

Bengali, English with English subtitles Bangladesh/Germany/India 2019 | 86 Mins

Director: Mostofa Sarwar Farooki With: Parambrata Chatterjee, Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Eyad Hourani

Q&A with Director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki

Hindi, Marathi with English subtitles India 2018 | 240 Mins

Director: Anand Patwardhan With: Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare

UK PREMIERE WIDOW OF SILENCE

23 June | 16:00 | BARBICAN 24 June | 18:30 | CINE LUMIERE



Popular at the Busan and Rotterdam Film Festivals, Praveen Morchhale's drama tells of Aasia who works as a nurse in a hospital to maintain herself, her 11-yearold daughter and her sick mother-in-law. She spends her days working, looking after her family and trying to obtain a death certificate for her husband who had been taken away by the police and presumed dead. With her life in limbo, unable to either re-marry, or settle her considerable financial debt without a death certificate, a conniving government official looks to take advantage, forcing Aasia to make difficult decisions to overcome her absurd plight. Widow of Silence is a gripping and soulful film with breathtaking visuals of the Kashmir landscape.

Urdu with English subtitles India 2018 | 85 Mins

Director: Praveen Morchhale With: Shilpa Marwaha, Ajay Chourey, Bilal Ahmad

Q&A with Director Praveen Morchhale



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EXTRA-ORDINARY LIVES

LIFF showcases independent films, which celebrate depictions of ordinary lives through fiction and documentaries.

This year we screen a selection of films that show glimpses of real life in the subcontinent and Asian diaspora, which are sometimes hard, sometimes feel good, even comic, but always compelling. UK PREMIERE



21 June | 20:00 | PHOENIX EAST FINCHLEY 22 June | 18:30 | CINE LUMIERE 23 June | 17:15 | BFI SOUTHBANK



After its debut at Cannes this film has been winning hearts and awards the world over. A wealthy young Indian man in Mumbai with baggage from the past falls in love with his servant, a widow who dreams of becoming a tailor. As the two take baby steps towards each other, trust is of the essence. Sir explores the age-old divide between the classes in India and wonders if it can ever be bridged. Brilliant performances from *Tillotama Shome* (Manto) and *Vivek Gomber* (Court) offer a compelling on screen chemistry in this charming romance.



Hindi, English, Marathi with English subtitles India/France 2018 | 99 Mins

Director: Rohena Gera With: Tillotama Shome, Vivek Gomber, Geetanjali Kulkarni

Q&A with Director Rohena Gera

UK PREMIERE THIS SHAKING KEEPS ME STEADY

22 June | 16:00 | BERTHA DOCHOUSE 24 June | 20:00 | STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE



A compelling documentary set in Karachi. Three paramedics discuss their recurring nightmares sparked by their experiences at work: disturbing stories that haunt the first responders responsible for tending to violent events. As well their recollections, televised reenactments with victims, criminals and medical personnel showcase scenarios ranging from the banal to the horrifying. Alternating between reminiscence and fiction, reality and imagination *Shehrezad Maher* creates a powerful and impactful reflection on trauma and the spectacle of violence in society.

WORLD PREMIERE ARISHADVARGA



23 June | 18:30 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY 26 June | 20:00 | WATERMANS



An aspiring young actor, Anish, who is doubling as an amateur gigolo, gets caught up in a sticky situation. Anish's dire financial situation is pushing him to seek an escape, which he finds with an anonymous wealthy female client. Called to her place one day for a rendezvous, he turns up only to be met with a surprise gift, 'a murder'. He finds himself framed for a crime he didn't commit with a witness who is convinced he is the culprit. Arishadvarga is a smart and tense neo-noir thriller that will have you guessing who did it till the very end.

Urdu with English subtitles Pakistan/USA 2018 | 60 Mins

Director: Shehrezad Maher

Kannada with English subtitles India 2018 | 135 Mins

Director: Arvind Kamath With: Mahesh Bung, Sudha Belawadi, Avinash

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE MY HOME INDIA



25 June | 18:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE

22 June | 18:00 | WATERMANS 25 June | 18:30 | LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS 27 June | 19:00 | POSK 28 June | 18:30 | GENESIS



This inspirational documentary will have you in tears and every Indian glowing with pride. The film essentially uncovers one little-known story of unimaginable humanity, generosity and kindness. Towards the end of WW2 the Polish ambassadorial team in Bombay, led by determined heroine Kira Banasinska and supported by a local Maharaja, dispatched a convoy of food relief thousands of miles to Soviet Siberian labour camps where Polish women and children were starving. To the British Rai's surprise they returned with 5,500 women and children who found refuge and welcome in India. Over 70 years later a number of now elderly Polish people return to a town South of Mumbai where they were able to find safety and discover the joys of childhood.

English, Polish with English subtitles India/Poland 2019 | 45 Mins

Director: Anjali Bhushan



Legendary director Mrinal Sen passed in December 2018. We mark his legacy with a special screening of the restored film Khandhar. The film won India's National film award for Best Direction. Best Actress and Best Editing and won awards worldwide. In this magnificent character ensemble a once wealthy landowner Dipu (Pankaj Kapur) invites his friends Subhash (Naseeruddin Shah) and Anil (Annu Kapoor) to his broken-down ancestral home in the country, where they meet the impoverished caretaker and his family including the intelligent dutiful daughter Jamini (Shabana Azmi), who was jilted by her ex-lover. Young Jamini and Subhash form an understated but intense attraction, where the silences say more than words.

Hindi, English subtitles India 1984 | 106 Mins

Director: Mrinal Sen With: Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, Annu Kapoor, Pankaj Kapur

ENGLISH PREMIERE MARD KO DARD NAHIN HOTA (THE MAN WHO FEELS NO PAIN)

21 June | 20:30 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE 22 June | 18:00 | CINEWORLD WEMBLEY



Winner of the prestigious Midnight Madness audience award at the Toronto International Film Festival, Mard Ko Dard Nahin Hota is a breathtakingly original and imaginative film. Surva is born with the rare condition of congenital insensitivity to pain. Often confined to the four walls of his house to avoid physical iniuries. under the tutelage of his eccentric grandfather Abaja, Surya finds an escape through 80s martial arts films on VHS. Inspired by what he sees Surva sets out to become a martial arts expert like his hero, the one-legged Karate master, Mani. Combining fast-paced edge of your seat action with delirious cinematic pop culture references. Mard Ko Dard Nahin Hota is an exhilarating crowd pleaser.

Hindi, English, Marathi, Malayalam with English subtitles India 2018 | 135 Mins

Director: Vasan Bala With: Abhimanyu Dasani, Radhika Madan, Gulshan Devaiah, Mahesh Manjrekar



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FILMMAKER CONVERSATIONS

ANURAG KASHYAP SCREEN TALK

28 June | 20:45 | BFI SOUTHBANK



The Martin Scorsese of India. A rare chance to hear the experiences of India's most famed cult director, Anurag Kashyap is a unique talent and is India's best-known filmmaker on the global festival circuit. His Netflix series Sacred Games was a global smash hit and is set for season 2. He flits across genres, ranging from edgy, provocative fare like Dev. D. Ugly, Raman Raghay 2.0 to the two-part Godfather-like rural gangland epic Gangs Of Wasseypur, the political punch of Gulaal and Black Friday, and the unusual love stories Manmarzivaan and Mukkabaaz. Known for his outspoken nature, Kashyap pulls no punches on stage, and his deep insights on cinema are valued around the world.

CHAI WITH CHADHA

22 June | 19:00 | PICTUREHOUSE CENTRAL



Join us for a rare in-depth conversation with the UK's most prolific drama director of Indian origin. **Gurinder Chadha's** richly diverse career started with high-impact shorts at the end of the 1980s followed by her 1993 hit *Bhaji On The Beach*, which became an instant classic. Her mainstream mega hit was of course the unforgettable *Bend It Like Beckham*, which like much of her scripts referenced a uniquely British Asian experience. Ahead of releases of her much anticipated new feature *Blinded By The Light* and new ITV drama *Beecham House*, we find out what drives and inspires this iconic talent.

AN EVENING WITH RADHIKA APTE

23 June | 18:00 | CINEWORLD LEICESTER SQUARE



Radhika Apte is that rarity - an Indian actress who is equally successful across the independent, commercial and international sectors. She starred in box office successes like Padman. Andhadhun and Kabali, shone in indies Parched, Phobia and Bombairiva and made a global mark with Lion. The Wedding Guest and The Ashram. In addition, she won the Jury Award at the Tribeca Film Festival for her bravura performance in Madly. She also has a cult following on Netflix, headlining the originals Ghoul. Lust Stories and Sacred Games. Equally at home in both London and Mumbai. Apte is a vivacious new-age artist whose acumen on the entertainment industry is sought after.



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INDUSTRY Sunday 23 June | BFI Southbank



MEET THE LIFF FILMMAKERS

Blue Room | 12:00 | Blue Room | 90'

LIFF is proud to welcome to the UK many South Asian filmmakers - whether early, mid, or established career professionals - to present the premieres of their films. This is an ideal opportunity to get up close and personal with these important and inspiring artists. Networking is encouraged!

CHAI AND CHAT WITH THE LONDON FILM INDUSTRY

17:00 | Blue Room | 90'

Enjoy a cup or two of chai thanks to our friends at Benugo during this informative extended panel and Q&A session with luminaries from the British film industry, including funders, distributors and producers.





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BOOKINGS: 020 7638 8891 www.barbican.org.uk

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BOOKINGS: 020 7928 3232 www.bfi.org.uk/whatson/bfi_southbank

CINÉ LUMIÈRE

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93-95 Mile End Rd London E1 4UJ Or Whitechapel

(0.4 miles / 8 min walk)

• Mile End (0.8 miles / 17 min walk)

BOOKINGS: 020 7780 2000 www.genesiscinema.co.uk

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Holborn (0.3 miles / 6 min walk)

BOOKINGS: 020 7107 5330 southasiacentre@lse.ac.uk

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238-246 King Street,

Hammersmith, London W6 ORF

+ Hammersmith (12 mins / 0.6 miles)

BOOKINGS: www.posk.org

STRATFORD PICTUREHOUSE

Salway Road, London E15 1BX \bigcirc Stratford (0.3 miles / 7 min walk)

BOOKINGS: 0871 902 5740

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SOAS

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