

9053 36th ave south
seattle, wa 98118
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tasveer presents Seattle's 3rd Independent South Asian Film Festival (ISAFF). South Asia includes the countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

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www.tasveer.org (Complete Schedule)

ABOUT ISAFF

Produced by Tasveer, Seattle's 3rd Independent South Asian Film Festival represents the best of films from culturally rich South Asia and its wide-spread influence. The theme for the 3rd ISAFF is South Asia Captured: Social Movements, Reel Moments. Throughout the five days, ISAFF will explore this theme through narrative films, documentaries, workshops, and performances. The majority of the films are Seattle premieres. Highlights include a performance by visiting hip hop Sri Lankan American artist D'Lo, discussion with Seattle Public Superintendent Raj Manhas, and post-film discussion with filmmakers.

ISAFF is produced by Tasveer and made possible by:

- Platinum Sponsor: Cobalt Group, Inc
- Fiscal Sponsorship from Northwest Asian American Theater
- Made Possible by grants received from Social Justice Fund and 4 Culture
- Media Sponsorship from International Examiner
- Graphic design largely donated from Sharp Pixel
- Website hosting donated by Hagen Hosting

Dates: Wednesday, September 27, 2006 – Sunday, October 1, 2006 (5 days)

Venue: Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122. Seats 295.

Movie Ticket Pricing:

\$8/\$6 General/Student, Seniors for film programs except Opening Night
\$12/\$10 General/Student, Seniors for Opening Night
\$35 Weekend Pass, does not include After Party and Workshops
\$65 Film Festival Pass, does not include After Party and Workshops

Special Program Pricing:

\$15 After Party at Chop Suey, 1325 E. Madison, Seattle, 98122
\$45 Documentary Workshop (sliding scale available)
\$50 Performance Workshop (sliding scale available) Location: 2111 E. Union, Seattle

SCHEDULE

MAIN THEATER

Wednesday Sept 27th

7-11pm Opening Night with D'Lo, Performance, Short Films and Reception. Dynamic host and performer D'Lo makes her first appearance in Seattle with her one person show "Ramble-Ations: a One D'Lo Show" in which personality-flawed characters come to the stage to share stories with the world of what really matters to them. Short Films: *All Roads Lead to Here* (Richie Mehta, USA, 2006, 5min), *The Last Race* (Alex Gabbay & Subina Shrestha, Nepal/UK, 2005, 23min), *Lucky* (Avie Luthra, South Africa, 2005, 20min). Evening includes dance performance by Archana Kumar and her all troupe, reception, and visual art by local South Asian artists Ameen Dhillon, Deep Dhillon, and Priya Natarajan. Sponsored by Trikone NW and KBCS 91.3 FM Community Radio.

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Thursday Sept 28th

7pm Amu (Shonali Bose, India/USA, 2004, 102min, 35mm) Seattle Premier. *Amu* is the story of Kaju, a twenty-one-year-old Indian American woman who returns to India to visit her family. The film takes a dark turn as Kaju stumbles against secrets and lies from her past. A horrifying genocide that took place twenty years ago turns out to hold the key to her mysterious origins. Director Shonali Bose will be available for post-film discussion. Sponsored by The Sikh Coalition.

Friday Sept 29th

7pm Man Push Cart (Ramin Bahrani, Pakistan/USA, 2005, 87min, 35mm) tells the story of Ahmad (Ahmad Razvi) a former Pakistani rock singer who ekes out a living selling coffee and donuts to morning commuters from his push cart in Midtown Manhattan. It is a harsh, often humiliating life, but Ahmad carries on with a stoic dignity and sensitivity, seemingly determined to find his way. Preceded by short film *Chakachak* (Chetan Sharma, India, 2005, 5min) an animated sequence that depicts the damage humans are causing to the environment as seen through the eyes of children. Sponsored by Arab Film Distribution.

9pm Love and Longing from Prague to Lahore (*shorts package*) In this eclectic selection of international short films, love and longing are in the hearts of the protagonists. Although each film is set in a different corner of the world, we see the common threads of characters longing to understand oneself and desire to connect with others. Each film employs its own unique filmmaking strategy to convey these universal emotions. Includes films from India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, South Africa, and Czech Republic. Sponsored by Retail Therapy.

Saturday Sept 30th

2pm Special Program: Education in South Asia and Abroad. With Superintendent Raj Manhas. Two extraordinary films *Suk Bahadur Class IV* (Dil Bhusan Pathak, Nepal, 2005, 23min) and *Great Indian School Show* (Avinash Deshpande, India, 2005, 53min) will precede a candid discussion with Seattle Superintendent Raj Manhas about his personal experiences as a child educated in India and now as a high-level official in the Seattle public school system. Discussion will be facilitated by Tasveer Youth Coordinator Natasha Merchant. Sponsored by Bo M. Karlsson Scholarship Foundation.

4:30pm The New Documentary (*shorts package*) In this collection of short documentaries – all Seattle premieres, we don't find the distant off screen narrator providing explanations for the visuals. Each director explores the narrative attribute of the documentary, taking the documentary to a new level of storytelling. Includes films from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

7:30pm Punching at the Sun (Tanuj Chopra, USA, 2006, 83min) is a crackling, emotionally-charged dream ride through the streets of Elmhurst, Queens. It is a tale of rage and redemption as seen through the fiery eyes of Mameet Nayak: a headstrong Indian teen lost in the shadow of his brother's death. Between rap performances by the charismatic MC Uncle Sonny, and confrontations with local streetball king Tali Perez, Mameet finds himself struggling to muster a sense of hope in a violent world he feels is determined to view him as an outsider. Preceded by short film "Butterfly", Chopra's award winning short film. Director Tanuj Chopra will present for post-film discussion along with members of the Tasveer Youth Initiative. Sponsored by Seattle's Young People's Project.

Sunday Oct 1st

2pm The Footsteps (Suman Ghosh, India, 2006, 93min World Premiere. *The Footsteps* is the story of a retired man, Shashanka – played by Soumitra Chatterjee, who has acted in numerous Satyajit Ray films - a man out of sync with the current milieu in which he inhabits. He lives with his daughter Megha (award winning actress Nandita Das from *Fire, Earth*), with whom, there is a distance arising because of a generational gap. The meaning of relationships have changed over the years, the modes of communication have changed... the changes to which Shashanka is trying desperately to cope with. Preceded by short film "Time and the Hour Run". Suman Ghosh will be present for post film discussion.

4pm Me And the Mosque (Zarqa Nawaz, Canada, 2005, 53min) Seattle Premiere. Journalist and filmmaker Zarqa Nawaz visits mosques throughout Canada and talks to scholars, colleagues, friends and neighbors about equal access for women. Discussions about the historical role of women in the Islamic faith, the current state of mosques in Canada and personal stories of anger, fear, acceptance and defiance punctuate the film. With original animation, archival footage and

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deeply personal interviews, *Me and the Mosque* is a smart, self-aware and whimsical story that documents the debates and presents the personalities on all sides of the issue. Preceded by locally produced film "Sitarey". Muslim women activist and feminist Itrath Syed will be available for post film discussion. Sponsored by Chaya.

7pm Closing Night Film: Dreaming Lhasa (Tenzing Sonam & Ritu Sarin, India/Tibet, 2005, 90min) Seattle Premiere. Karma, a Tibetan filmmaker from New York, goes to Dharamsala, the Dalai Lama's exile headquarters in northern India, to make a documentary about former political prisoners who have escaped from Tibet. She wants to reconnect with her roots but is also escaping a deteriorating relationship back home. One of Karma's interviewees is Dhondup, an enigmatic ex-monk who has just escaped from Tibet. He confides in her that his real reason for coming to India is to fulfill his dying mother's last wish, to deliver a charm box to a long-missing resistance fighter. Karma finds herself unwittingly falling in love with Dhondup even as she is sucked into the passion of his quest, which becomes a journey into Tibet's fractured past and a voyage of self-discovery. Sponsored by Tibetan Nuns Project.

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MINI THEATER FILMS

Saturday Sept 30th

5pm Dirty Laundry (Sanjeev Chaterjee, South Africa, 2005, 42min) *Dirty Laundry* is a travel essay and historical journey that offers a glimpse of the struggle that South Africans of Indian origin go through for self-definition and cultural identity in today's world, from the role of South African Indians as revolutionaries in the anti-apartheid struggle up to the activities of the present.

6pm Teardrops of Karnaphuli (Tanvir Mokammel, Bangladesh, 2005, 60min) *Teardrops of Karnaphuli*, a film by Tanvir Mokammel, talks about Bangladesh's hill people and documents opinions of different tribal groups, employees of different administrations and elected persons and many others who have been living in the region.

Sunday October 1st

2:30pm Rebuilding @ 73 °E (Nasir Aziz, USA/Pakistan, 2006) This is the story of the Seattle earthquake relief team who journeyed to Bugna Village Complex in Northern Pakistan. Nasir Aziz, a Seattle resident and one of the volunteers, documented it and will be available for Q/A after the presentation.

Sunday 3:30pm Sunset Bollywood (Komal Tolani, India, 2005, 54 min) examines the rise, fall and continuous struggle of three stellar performers who fell from grace. Rahul Roy, Kumar Gaurav and Bhagyashree recount their meteoric rise to stardom, the circumstances that caused their spotlights to dim and repeated attempts to launch a comeback.

Sunday 4:30pm Continuous Journey (Ali Kazimi, Canada, 2004, 87 min) In. The consequences were felt throughout the British Empire. Continuous Journey is a compelling and eye-opening investigation into the past and present ramifications of the 1914 Komagata Maru ship carrying 376 immigrants from British India turned away by Canada. The film is a provocative, moving, and multilayered essay that interweaves photographs, newsreels, home movies and official documents to unravel a complex and little-known story.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Documentary Workshop

Sunday Oct 1st 11-2pm in the Mini Theater

This half-day introductory class on documentary filmmaking will be conducted by local filmmaker, Nadeem Uddin. Workshop participants will learn about various documentary styles and of different concepts toward the production process. Participants will also learn about pre-production skills, licenses, technical audio and video equipment, and essential books and resources needed to produce documentary films in South Asian countries and other parts of the world.

Performance Workshop with D'Lo

Tuesday September 26th, 6-10pm

2111 East Union, Seattle

The workshop will focus on writing about aspects of our personal stories as well as how to present a solo performance for the stage. The goals of the workshop are to develop skills in both written and verbal communication, to enliven the spirit in regards to writing and performance, to become a more effective speaker, to develop listening skills and giving/getting constructive feedback and to test our mind frame to find creative ways of personal expression. Sponsored by Trikone-NW.

After Party "Welcome to New York!" with DJ Jay Dabhi

Saturday September 30th, 10pm

Chop Suey, 1325 E. Madison, Seattle, 98122

Bollywood, Remix, Bhangra. Along with Seattle's Finest DJ Aanshul and DJ Advent. "NY's Finest- Lil Jay" Indian remix albums have been the top selling remix albums worldwide. Jay has been featured in such publications as Billboard Magazine, Spin Magazine, NY Times as well as countless South Asian media. Sponsored by Bollywood Project.

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