

11TH SEATTLE SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL



September 14th, 2016

Welcome to the 2016 Seattle South Asian Film Festival, Produced by Tasveer and Presented by Zee Cinema. For 11th year, Tasveer brings back another edition of thoughtful, provocative, and meaningful cinema from and about South Asia and its diaspora. Being the largest South Asian film festival in the country, with a greater depth and range of programming than ever before, we expect the 2016 Festival to be an unprecedented success.

Our theme, *Love Wins (#LoveWins)*, encompasses narratives and documentaries from around the world, chosen and presented here to inspire, provoke, and delight.

The following Media Guide includes contact information, details on press access, background on Tasveer and the Festival, film listings, and information on panels and events. We hope you will find it very helpful, and will not hesitate to get in touch if we can do anything to facilitate your coverage and experience.

We look forward to seeing you at SSAFF 2016 and hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together!

Best regards,

Kiran Dhillon | Madhuri Kudaravalli
Festival Directors

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TASVEER BACKGROUND

Mission: To curate thought-provoking artistic work of South Asians through films, forums, visual art, and performances that engage and empower the larger Greater Seattle community.

The Story: Tasveer (meaning picture in Hindi/Urdu) was co-founded by Rita Meher and Farah Nousheen. Passionate about telling the stories of South Asians and dispelling stereotypes in the media post-9/11, the two happened to meet in Seattle in 2001. Later that year, they attended a San Francisco-based South Asian Festival together, which helped to cement their ideas and Tasveer emerged within a few short months. Tasveer quickly became the platform to connect real South Asian stories with the local Seattle community. Screening indie films, documentaries and shorts throughout the city, they started small but had a big vision for the organization.

About Tasveer: Founded in March 2002, Tasveer has become a vital and vibrant artistic platform in Seattle for South Asians with roots in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka -- and for the broader community. Tasveer is dedicated to providing a space and a stage for South Asian voices (often stifled by culture, community, fear, or stigma) to share their truths aloud. Through thought-provoking artistic expression via films, forums, visual art, performances, and -- most importantly -- meaningful dialogues between artists, activists, and the community, Tasveer goes beyond Bollywood movies and bhangra music as participants step out of their comfort zones to bring to light difficult issues that demand attention and discussion.

Programs: Tasveer now produces three key events throughout the year with the support of grant funders, individual donors, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of audience members. The South Asian International Documentary (SAID) Festival and AAINA Spotlighting Women's Issues take place in the spring each year and the Seattle South Asian Film Festival is in the fall.

Status: Tasveer is a fully federally recognized 501(c)3 organization and was incorporated as a nonprofit in March 2004.

Tasveer: tasveer.org

Seattle South Asian Film Festival: <http://ssaff.tasveer.org>

SSAFF FACT SHEET

The 11th Seattle South Asian Film Festival (SSAFF) is an 11-day festival of thought-provoking meaningful films & forums from and about South Asia and its diaspora to engage its viewers to dialogue openly on South Asian issues. SSAFF is the largest and most diverse South Asian film festival in the country with over 4,000 attendees, 45 films, shown over 5 cities in 2016. SSAFF is produced by Tasveer and presented by Zee Cinema HD.

Festival Dates: October 14, 2016 - October 23, 2016

SSAFF 2016 Overview

- Opening Night, Centerpiece and Closing/Award Night Galas with live music, performances, DJs and more
- 23 Features and 22 Shorts
- Symposium at University of Washington: *Race, Sexuality and Censorship: Film, Art and Activism in India and Beyond*
- 16 Filmmakers and Actors Expected in Attendance
- 9 Countries Represented: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United States
- Bangladesh in the Spotlight
- Festival Theme: *Love Wins*
- Social Media Hashtags: #LoveWins, #SSAFF2016

Pre-Festival SSAFF Screenings: Bellevue Arts Museum

Friday, September 16, 2016 | 7PM to 10PM
510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Opening Night Gala: An evening showcasing Seattle premiere of *Aynabaji*, Post-film Q&A, meet the filmmaker and stars, food, drinks, music, and much more

Friday, October 14, 2016 | 7PM to 12AM
Screening: AMC Pacific Place 11, 600 Pine Street #400, Seattle, WA 98101
Reception: The Triple Door, 216 Union St, Seattle, WA 98101

Weekend 1: SSAFF Film Screenings

Saturday, October 15, 2016 | 12PM to 11PM
Sunday, October 16, 2016 | 12PM to 6PM
SIFF Film Center, 305 Harrison St, Seattle, WA 98109

Symposium: Race, Sexuality & Censorship: Film, Art and Activism in India & Beyond

Co-sponsored by South Asia Center, University of Washington Seattle, and Tasveer
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 | 11AM to 9PM
Thompson Hall, UW Seattle, 1410 NE Campus Parkway, Seattle 98195

Mid-Week: SSAFF Film Screenings

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 | 6PM – 9PM

Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Thursday, October 20, 2016 | 7PM to 10PM

Seattle Asian Art Museum, Volunteer Park, Seattle

Weekend 2: SSAFF Film Screenings

Friday, October 21, 2016 | 7PM to 9PM

Redmond Senior Center, 8703 160th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

Saturday, October 22, 2016 | 12PM to 11PM

Sunday, October 24, 2016 | 12PM to 6PM | Followed by **Closing Awards & Reception** 6PM to 7:30PM

Carco Theater, 1717 SE Maple Valley Hwy, Renton, WA 98057

Tasveer SSAFF 2016 Jury Award

Select feature films will be eligible for the Third SSAFF jury award.

Tasveer SSAFF 2016 Audience Awards

Best Narrative

Best Short

Best Documentary

Tasveer Emerald Award

Mostofa Farooki for significant contributions to the cinema of Bangladesh

SSAFF 2016 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Aynabaji (Bangladesh) - Opening Night Film: October 14 @ 7pm, Screening at Seattle Art Museum & Reception at The Triple Door, Seattle

Ayna is gifted with the natural talent of acting - he is an interchangeable man and can morph into anyone he wants. We see the dark side of Dhaka (Metro) life as Ayna plays on some unusual roles. It's all a game until he falls in love and someone changes the rules. **Director Amitabh Reza Chowdhury and Actor Chanchal Chowdhury in attendance**



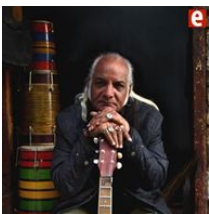
Erotic Shorts Program: October 15 @ 9pm, SIFF Film Center, Seattle

Four short films that explore different aspects of sexuality: *While You Slept* | *Tell Me a Story* | *The Woman . . . and the Man* | *Memories of a Machine* **Director of Memories of a Machine Shailaja Padindala in attendance**



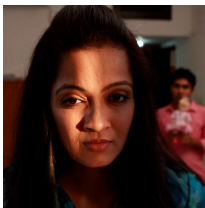
Symposium: Race, Sexuality and Censorship: Film, Art and Activism in India and Beyond: October 18 @ 11am-9pm, Thompson Hall, University of Washington, Seattle

We present film screenings, presentations and panel discussions that explore race relations in South Asia and here in the US and sexuality from the lense of LGBTQ cinema. We will also explore how migration from South Asia to the Middle East affects not only migrant workers but also the families they leave behind. **Presented in Partnership with UW South Asia Center | Panel discussions with visiting filmmakers**



Song of Lahore (Pakistan): October 19 @7pm Stroum Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island

Lahore was once a haven for a musical culture passed down for centuries to the beat of the tabla drum. Today, Islamization, ethnic divisions, war, and corruption have torn apart the cultural fabric of Pakistan. **Director Andy Schocken in attendance | Presented in Partnership with Seattle Jewish Film Festival**



Ant Story (Bangladesh) - Centerpiece Film & Reception: October 20 @7pm, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Seattle

The story of a struggling young graduate Mithu who keeps gazing at the dazzling city of Dhaka. To find his place in the city, Mithu embarks on a journey of faking, lying, and fantasizing which leads to a dangerously creative game of sex-lies- and videotape. **Director Mostofa Farooki in attendance**



Unbroken Glass (USA): October 22 @ 12pm, Carco Theater

Unbroken Glass is a documentary about filmmaker Dinesh Sabu's journey to understand his parents, who died 20 years ago when he was just six years old. Traveling to India, Louisiana, California, and New Mexico, Dinesh pieces together the story of his mother's schizophrenia and suicide, and how his family dealt with it in an age and culture where mental illness was often misunderstood, scorned and taboo. **Director Dinesh Sabu in attendance**



Zeal for Unity Program (India & Pakistan): October 22 @ 6pm, Carco Theater, Renton

Zeal for Unity is a peace initiative in which Indian and Pakistani filmmakers endeavor to bring together thought leaders from across the borders. Zeal for Unity films Jeewan Hathi (Pakistan) and Silvat (India) will be screened followed by a panel discussion. Presented in collaboration with Zee Cinema HD. **Panel discussion to follow screening**



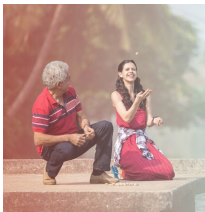
Gardaab (Pakistan): October 22 @ 8pm, Carco Theater, Renton

Trapped in the web of ethnic strife in the brutal underbelly of Karachi, Gardaab is a tale of two lovers' journey, as they struggle to break away from the unending cycle of violence that haunts the metropolis. **Director Harune Massey in attendance**



Kalo Pothi (Nepal): October 23 @ 2pm, Carco Theater, Renton

During a ceasefire, in the midst of the 10-year civil war in Nepal, two boys, Prakash and Kiran, belonging to different castes, embark on a journey to repossess a missing hen which they had raised together. They soon learn of the violence entrenched in the civil war when they are caught unaware in a clash between the fighting forces. **Director Min Bahadur Bham and Actor Benisha Hamal in attendance**



Waiting (India) - Closing Night Film: October 23 @ 4pm, Carco Theater, Renton

A retired professor whose wife has been in a coma for eight months meets a terrified young wife whose husband has slipped into coma after a sudden accident. Will grief drive them both insane, or can two lonely strangers support each other? **Starring Kalki Koechlin and Naseeruddin Shah**

EXPECTED FILMMAKERS AT SSAFF 2016

Here is a listing of filmmakers and cast members expected to attend SSAFF 2016. Please contact **Sara Huey** (sara.huey@hueypr.com) for contact information for visiting filmmakers and for filmmakers who may not be attending but may be available for phone/skype interviews.

Name	Role & Program	Program Date
Chanchal Chowdhury	Actor featured in <i>Aynabaji</i>	October 14, 2016
Amitabh Chowdhury	Director of <i>Aynabaji</i>	October 14, 2016
Jacquile Kambo	Director of <i>Help Wanted</i>	October 15, 2016
Jasleen Kaur	Producer of <i>Help Wanted</i>	October 15, 2016
Varun Tandon	Director of <i>Syaahi</i>	October 15, 2016
Erik Koto	Director of <i>The Song Collector</i>	October 15, 2016
Andrew Hinton	Director of <i>Tashi and the Monk</i>	October 15, 2016
Shailaja Padindala	Director of <i>Memories of a Machine</i>	October 15, 2016
Reshel Shah	Director of <i>Black Sheep</i>	October 16, 2016
Andy Schocken	Director of <i>Songs of Lahore</i>	October 19, 2016
Mostofa Farooki	Director of <i>Ant Story</i>	October 20, 2016
Baljit Sangra	Director of <i>Many Rivers Home</i>	October 21, 2016
Harune Massey	Director of <i>Gardaab</i>	October 22, 2016
Dinesh Sabu	Director of <i>Unbroken Glass</i>	October 22, 2016
Min Bahadur Bham	Director of <i>Kalo Pothi</i>	October 23, 2016
Debaki Rai	Producer of <i>Kalo Pothi</i>	October 23, 2016
Shanti Rai	Producer, Assistant to Dir. <i>Kalo Pothi</i>	October 23, 2016

SSAFF 2016 TICKETING INFO

Online Ticket Sales

Tickets for each program can be purchased online at www.tasveer.org until 11:45PM the night before respective show times. Tickets will be available at the venue's Will Call.

Box Office Sales

Tickets for each program will be available on site at the ticket counter on the day of screenings based on availability. Please note the onsite ticket price is higher for the Opening Night Gala.

Opening Night Gala

Friday, 10/14/16 from 7PM to 12AM
\$50 Regular | \$40 Student (with ID)
\$40 Early Bird (Purchase before 9/30/2016)

Film Screenings

\$12 Regular | \$10 Student (with ID)
\$10 Early Bird (Purchase before 9/30/16)

Special Screening Pricing

10/19/2016: \$15 Regular | \$10 Student (with ID)

Centerpiece Screening & Reception

\$35 Regular | \$25 SAM Members
\$25 Early Bird (Purchase before 9/30/16)

Closing Film + Awards Ceremony & Closing Reception

Screening Only:
\$15 Regular | \$12 Student (with ID) and Early Bird (Purchase before 09/30/16)
Screening & Closing Reception:
\$25 Regular | \$20 Student (with ID) and Early Bird (Purchase before 09/30/16)

Panels are FREE to attend

SSAFF 2016 FESTIVAL PASSES: LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

ALL ACCESS

\$150 Regular | \$100 Early Bird (Before 9/30) | **\$80** Student (with ID)
Get easy access to all events and films!

WEEKEND 1 PASS

\$75 Regular | **\$50** Early Bird (Before 9/30) | **\$40** Student (with ID)
All events from Oct. 14 through Oct. 18, including Opening Night Gala and Symposium

WEEKEND 2 PASS

\$75 Regular | **\$50** Early Bird (Before 9/30) | **\$40** Student (with ID)

All events from Oct. 19 through Oct. 23, including Centerpiece and Closing Night Events

Seating

No reserved seating is available. First come, first served. Films will start on time.

Note: Children 12 and under may attend events and screenings for FREE but please be advised that some content may not be suitable for young viewers.

PRESS INFORMATION

Press Contact Information

Sara Huey
Festival Publicist
206-619-0610
sara.huey@hueypr.com

Festival Screenings and Event Access

For media access to screenings and events of the Seattle South Asian Film Festival, please contact the Festival publicist listed above.

Screener Access

For access to physical and online screeners of the films of the 11th annual Seattle South Asian Film Festival, please contact the Festival publicist listed above.

Interview and Media Inquiries

Please contact the Festival publicist listed above to request interviews with visiting filmmakers or Festival organizers, and for all additional media inquiries.

Media Materials

Media can download film stills, press kits, and other publicity materials by visiting ssaff.tasveer.org/2016/ and clicking "Press" in the upper right-hand corner. For attribution information, please contact the Festival publicist listed above.

Media Guidelines

All media requesting access to events, screeners, and press assets of the 11th annual Seattle South Asian Film Festival presented by Tasveer (SSAFF 2016) must be on editorial assignment and should be prepared to provide proof of assignment or editorial contact upon request.

Recording and photography of the events of SSAFF 2016 should be limited to red carpet events, pre- and post-screening interviews, and lifestyle elements. Photography should be for editorial use only. Any other use, including but not limited to commercial and promotional use, is expressly prohibited and strictly enforced. Footage of any film shown at SSAFF 2016 may not be used without the filmmaker's consent.

All footage clips intended for television broadcast or online streaming shall not exceed 15 minutes in length and no individual clip shall exceed three minutes in length. Streaming of any Festival films or events is strictly prohibited and Tasveer reserves streaming rights for all SSAFF 2016 content and events.

Print and online media may create capsule reviews, feature articles, and mentions for any Festival film regardless of format, on the condition that reviews for films with US distribution be held until the film is released commercially. Any violations of these guidelines will result in revocation of media credential(s) and removal from SSAFF 2016, and may result in legal action.

SSAFF 2016 SPONSORS

Title Level

Zee Cinema HD

Premium Media Sponsor

KCTS9 PBS

Gold Level

City of Redmond
UW South Asia Center
The Triple Door
Gardner Center for Asian Arts & Ideas
Spreeha

City of Renton
Wicked Karma
Seattle Art Museum
Bellevue Arts Museum

Silver Level

Pratham USA
Sukarya

Madison Avenue Realty, LLC
Moksha

Bronze Level

Best in Class Education Center

Pride Foundation

Media Sponsors

Zee Cinema HD
KUOW 94.9 NPR
International Examiner
Capitol Hill Seattle Blog

KCTS9 PBS
Desi 1250AM
Seattle Globalist
Crosscut.com

Festival Partners

The Whole Gamut
Spreeha
Stroum Jewish Community Center

SSAFF 2016 TEAM

Festival Director: Kiran Dhillon

Festival Co-Director: Madhuri Kudaravalli

Tasveer Executive Director: Rita Meher

Bangladesh Country Director: Rashed Noman

Event Manager: Archana Soy

Festival Publicist: Sara Huey

Partnership Lead: Suryanka Kalra

Sponsorship Leads: Rita Meher, Anwasha Das

Symposium Organizers: Alka Kurian, Keith Snodgrass(South Asia Center, UW)

Volunteer Coordinators: Shuba Iyer, Tanushree Chowdhury, Rumela Ganguly, Sheraz Malik

Programming Committee

Ananya Rabeya (Lead)

Jayant Swamy

Nalini Iyer

Rashed Noman

Rebeka Noman

Tanushree Chowdhury

Archana Soy

Pallavi Somusetty

Lyle Pearson

Marketing Committee

Linishya Sequiera Vaz

Mithun Menezes

Rumela Ganguly

Nidhi Chaudhry

Varun Gupta

Sarah Bal

Website Committee

Jitendra Joshi (Architect)

Mudit Gupta (Lead)

Pooja Galgali

Abhishek Kulkarni

Festival Writers

Sumathi Raghavan
Jayant Swamy
Talha Sabri

Festival Coordinators

Rasanga Weerasinghe
Sandhya Sridhar
Meera Saxena
Devyani Charde
Ravi Sangha
Faiza Ateeq

Guest Liaisons

Tanushree Chowdhury
Rumela Ganguly
Anita Akerkar

The Tasveer Board

Rita Meher, Co-founder and Executive Director, Tasveer
Farah Nousheen, Co-founder, Tasveer
Alka Kurian, Board President
Pallavi Garg, Secretary
Rashed Noman, Treasurer
Archana Soy
Rituja Indapure
Shahina Piyarali
Sheraz Malik
Tameem Ansari
Uzma Khan
Debadutta Dash
Priya Frank