

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Seattle's 2nd Independent South Asian Film Festival
Pushing the Edges: South Asia in a New Frame**

**September 14-18, 2005, Broadway Performance Hall
Launch Party: August 27, 2005 7PM, Seattle Art Museum**

The 2nd ISAFF brings to Seattle the urban hum of Karachi, lush mountains of Bhutan, Asian vibes from London, and far-reaching corners of South Asia. This year the theme is "Pushing the Edges: South Asia in a New Frame". ISAFF will push the edges with its challenging and distinctive films, forums, and festivities - designing a new frame for South Asia. This five-day festival, presented by Tasveer, will showcase over 35 independent films from South Asia and its widespread Diaspora. ISAFF launches with a festive cultural program at the prestigious Seattle Art Museum.

FESTIVAL LAUNCH PARTY Saturday, August 27, 7PM-1AM Seattle Art Museum

We designed the festival launch party intricately to reflect the diverse forms of art of South Asia. We are proud to bring you this unique evening of film, dance, stand-up comedy and much more. Program includes speeches by festival organizers. Festival movies tickets will be sold in the lounge area.

Dance Performances

- Bharatanatyam dance style performed to Nepalian modern vibes
- Two lively dances to Bollywood songs

Short Films

The Little Terrorist (Ashvin Kumar, India, 35mm, 2004, 15min)

OSCAR ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINEE 2005

The *Little Terrorist* tells the moving story of a Pakistani Muslim boy who accidentally crosses the Pakistani-Indian border. This symbolic story of hope is a tale of human solidarity conquering all artificial boundaries. <http://www.little-terrorist.com/>

Call Center (Amyr Kaderali, USA, DV, 2004, 12 min)

Call Center is a hilarious observation on the modern-day phenomenon of overseas outsourcing.

Holly Bolly (Dishad Husain, UK, DV, 2004, 12min)

In this comedic short on racial dynamics in the UK, two edgy independent filmmakers Obi and Dil like making non-mainstream films but they just can't get funding. Shifty producer Big Al is the only one in town willing to give the boys money - but to make the ultimate cross-genre flick, English-Cockney-Gangster-meets-Bollywood film.

Stand-up Comedy: Good Girls Don't, But Indian Girls Do



Stand up Comedienne Vijai Nathan will perform her one-woman act. She takes you through growing up Indian in a Jewish community; her discovery of sex in a repressed Hindu household; and how she finds herself along the way. It's "Gandhi" meets "Pretty in Pink."
<http://www.vijaicomedy.com/>

Anjuman: A live music band with Afro-Cuban rhythms and traditional Indian Classical melodies

DJ Advent: Bollywood/Bhangra/Asian Underground Dance Music

Venue for Festival Launch Party:

Seattle Art Museum, 100 University Ave, Seattle WA 98101

Tickets

\$18 Advanced and SAM members/\$22 Door

For information on purchasing advanced tickets, visit www.tasveer.org

Sponsors

ISAFF Launch Party is:

- produced by Tasveer
- co-hosted by Planet Guru
- sponsored by Seattle Art Museum

Radio sponsor: [KBCS 91.3 FM Community Radio](#)

Co-presenters include Chaya, Retail Therapy, NW Film Forum, Jazbah, Seattle Cricket Club, Victoria Independent Film & Video Festival

If you would like to co-present this event, contact Uzma Khan ukzhmaan@yahoo.com

Schedule for Independent South Asian Film Festival, September 14-18th, Broadway Performance Hall

Wednesday September 14th

7:00 PM Opening Night Reception

Travellers and Magicians (Khyentse Norbu, Bhutan, 2004, 35mm, 108 min)

Short Film: *In Whose Name?* (Nandini Sikand, India/USA, 2004, DV, 11min)

The first feature film shot in the tiny mountain kingdom of Bhutan, a short film challenging the political usage of Hindu icons, and a reception with delicacies and lounge music.

Program Sponsored by Travelers

Thursday September 15th

7:00 PM *Wind Bird 'Sulang Kirilli'* (Inoka Sathyangani, Sri Lanka, 2002, 35mm, 120min)

Mental anguish almost breaks her when Rathie, an unmarried garment worker, gets pregnant by Santha, a married soldier.

Program Sponsored by Chaya

9:00 PM Shorts Program: Experimenta India!

From seminal archival classics to emerging moving image artist's work, Indian short experimental films and videos extend the boundaries of genre and form.

Friday September 16th

7:00 PM *The Journey *Sancharram** (Ligy Pullappally, Kerala, India, 2004, 35mm, 107 min)

In rural Kerala, two young girls, Delilah and Kiran, discover new feelings growing out of their long-time friendship.

Music Video: *Maati* (Breakthrough.tv, India, 2005, DV, 5min)

Depicts a loving heterosexual relationship in which the man unwittingly infects his wife with HIV

Program Sponsored by Trikone-NW and Three Dollar Bill Cinema

9:30 PM *White Noise* (Vinta Nanda, Mumbai, India, 2004, 35 mm, 102 min)

Fiery Gauri, TV soap writer, after being dumped from an affair with a married producer, finds refuge in editor Karan.

Short Films: *India Spiceland* (Rahul Das, USA, 2005, DV, 15min) Recent immigrant Maneesh tries sharing his nostalgia with his girlfriend Tiffany.

Paint Me Nude (Manan Singh Katohora, USA, 2004, DV, 25min) Devy, plagued with Tourette Syndrome, poses nude for a local art studio.

Saturday September 17th

12:00 PM *Highway Courtesans* (Mystelle Brabbee, India, 2005, DV, 71min)

Studied look into life as it is lived by the central India's Bachara community, for whom the sanctioned prostitution of the eldest daughter forms the backbone of the economy.

Short Film: *Unfamiliar *Paraaya** (Sahira Nair, USA, 2005, DV, 22 min)

Set in post 9/11 New York, a young Indian woman must face the changing racial attitudes.

Program Sponsored by Retail Therapy

2:30 PM *A Beautiful Flower 'Numafung'* (Nabin Subba, Nepal, 2001, 35mm, 108 min)

Numa, living in the ethnic minority Limbu community, is torn between fulfilling her desires and adhering to cultural traditions.

Program Sponsored by Nepal Seattle Society and Chaya

5:00 PM *Afghanistan After* (Waise Azimi, Afghanistan, 2004, 40min)

This documentary takes audiences on a tour of Central and Northern Afghanistan, bearing witness to the struggle and resilience of the Afghan people after the Taliban.

Three Dots 'Seh Noqta' (Roya Sadat, Afghanistan, 2004, 60min)

A narrative film depicts the life and drama of a young widow, Gul Afrooz, living in a village in northwestern Afghanistan as she struggles to survive.

Program Sponsored by Kabul Afghan Cuisine

7:30 PM Special Program: Asian Vibes –No Longer Underground!

Asian Vibes Bombay (Michael Smith & Vishal Rawlley, India, 2004, 52 min)

Asian Vibes London (Ashim Ahluwalia, UK, 2004, 52 min)

Two electrifying documentaries explore the Asian music culture of the metropolises Bombay and London. Following the screening will be the first ever forum gathering of DJs, promoters, and musicians to discuss the Asian vibes of Seattle.

Program Sponsored by Bollywood Project and KBCS 91.3 FM Community Radio

Sunday September 18th

12:00 PM Forum: Globalization, Outsourcing, and South Asia

Nalini by Day, Nancy by Night (Sonali Gulati, New Delhi, India, 2005, DV, 22 min)

A documentary about outsourcing and call centers in New Delhi.

Work In Progress, World Social Forum 2004 (Paromita Vohra, Mumbai, India, 2005, DV, 55 min)

Created from video material gathered by student crews, this is a documentation of the five-day WSF where people celebrated alternatives and resistance through speeches, processions, music, debate, performance, and conversation.

Following the screening, filmmakers, activists, and community members will come together to discuss globalization.

2:30 PM *The Distance 'Duratta'* (Morshedul Islam, Bangladesh, 2004, 35mm, 95 min)

11-year-old Putul from a wealthy family runs away from home and meets Antu and Morium, street children whom he begins a fantastic journey with.

Short Film: *System of Units* (Richie Mehta, USA, 2005, DV, 22 min)

In the near future, life exists only online when supercomputers fuse with human minds connecting people worldwide to The Network.

Program Sponsored by Bangladesh Student Association

5:00 PM Shorts Program: Urban Hum of Pakistan

Diverse selection of short films by contemporary Pakistani filmmakers varying in themes from experimental to social and political issues.

Program Sponsored by Jazbah and Chowrangji Magazine

7:30 PM Closing Night Reception

In the Forest...Again 'Abar Aranye' (Goutam Ghosh, Kolkata, India, 2003, 128 min)

Follows three of the four main characters of 1969 Satyajit Ray's film *Days and Nights in the Forest* as they return to the forest to relive their memories and have new adventures.

Short Film: *American Made* (Sharat Raju, USA, 2004, 20min)

A Sikh family confronts issues after the youngest son accuses his turban-clad orthodox father of looking like a terrorist while they are stranded on a remote desert road.

Program Sponsored by Scarecrow Video.

Venue for Independent South Asian Film Festival

Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway, Seattle

Tickets

\$8 General

\$6 Students with I/D; Senior Citizens

\$25 Day Pass (Good value for Saturday, Sunday)

\$50 Weekend Pass (Good for 2 days; Saturday and Sunday)

\$85 Festival Pass

\$100 Festival Pass + Festival Launch Party

Tickets available through Ticket Window:

www.ticketwindowonline.com

Sponsors

Seattle's 2nd ISAFF is:

- Produced by Tasveer
- Fiscally sponsored by Northwest Asian American Theater
- Website and printed materials are designed by In-Vision Productions
- Media sponsor is Planet Guru

- Made possible in part by Humanities WA, Seattle People's Fund, Seattle Art Museum, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, and additional corporate and organizational sponsorships.

Tasveer is a community-based not-for-profit organization promoting independent South Asian film in the Northwest. Tasveer hosts numerous screenings throughout the year and produces the annual Independent South Asian Film Festival (ISAFF).

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