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Media Contact:
Sara Huey, Festival Publicist
sara.huey@hueypr.com | 206-619-0610

Contact Info for Publication:
info@tasveer.org | www.tasveer.org

Tasveer presents
The 9th Annual Seattle South Asian Film Festival
Stories that dare . . .
October 31, 2014 – November 9, 2014

SEATTLE, WA (*October 10, 2014*) – This fall, Tasveer invites the Pacific Northwest community to delve deeper into the beating heart of South Asia through ten days of **celebration, exploration, and conversation** during the **2014 Seattle South Asian Film Festival**. Highly anticipated, SSAFF brings socially relevant topics to the forefront through engaging features, shorts, and documentaries and meaningful post-screening exchanges between audiences and filmmakers with roots in South Asia and across the globe.

In keeping with this year's theme, *Stories that dare . . .*, SSAFF spotlights tales of vision, determination, and resilience in the face of adversity. ***ARE YOU LISTENING!*** celebrates the common people of Bangladesh and their strength of spirit as they recover from a tidal surge. ***IN BETWEEN DAYS*** brings us close to two young transgender friends who strike out to make their own way in the world. In the inspiring documentary ***GOONGA PEHELWAN***, India's most successful deaf athlete dares to wrestle his way to the World Championships. And sometimes daring can lead to laughter, as in ***SULEMANI KEEDA (WRITERS)***, a comedy that presents two slacker brothers with the audacity to peddle their mediocre film script in Bollywood.

"Thanks to an unprecedented number and quality of submitted films, we are proud to include a **broader range and greater depth of programming** than ever before," says Festival co-founder and executive director Rita Meher. "We are partnering with 18 visiting filmmakers and various Seattle organizations to connect with social causes and engage the local film community."

SSAFF 2014 also includes a number of acclaimed films that continue to raise the profile of serious and thoughtful South Asian cinema around the world, including the 2013 submissions for **Best Foreign Language Oscar** from both Nepal (***SOONGAVA***) and India (***The Good Road***). **Cannes 2014 official selection *TITLI*** brings us the story of a young Delhi man desperate to leave behind a life of crime. ***WITHOUT SHEPHERDS***, which took home the **Grand Chameleon Award** from the 2013 **Brooklyn Film Festival**, provides a rare glimpse into six brave lives trapped in the turbulent waters of Pakistan today. ***FANDRY***, which won the **Grand Jury Prize** at the 2013 Mumbai International Film Festival and went on to win the **Indira Gandhi Award for Best First Film of a Director**, takes on caste-based discrimination through the lens of a romantic drama; ***FANDRY*** is supported by Pratham, largest Indian non-profit working in the field of primary education in India.

For the first time, SSAFF will include a competition adjudicated by a jury of local film luminaries. Jurors will evaluate a selection of this year's titles and award the **SSAFF 2014 Jury Award** to the film with the

best storytelling and strongest alignment with the mission of Tasveer. Audience members will also have the chance to vote for the coveted **SSAFF 2014 Audience Awards** in three categories – Best Feature Film, Best Short Film, and Best Documentary. SSAFF Audience Awards have been claimed by the likes of Nila Madhab Panda for *I Am Kalam* and Satish Manwar for *The Damned Rain* in past years. Winners will be announced at SSAFF's **Awards Ceremony and Closing Night Reception**, following the screening of *WITH YOU, WITHOUT YOU* on Sunday, November 9th.

Tasveer has partnered with Washington Filmworks to start an important conversation with the Seattle filmmaking community: **Filmmaking for Global Audiences: Stories that Travel**. The event will take place on November 1st at Mobius Hall on the Cascadia Community College campus in Bothell and will be moderated by Warren Etheredge (host of *The High Bar*). Says Etheredge, "Stories that travel do so because they have global appeal; it's not about the race or culture of the characters, but about the relevance of their honest, personal narratives. I am happy to launch this crucial dialogue with filmmakers who have made **films that have successfully crossed borders and oceans.**"

"This festival represents a great opportunity for the Washington film community to engage on multiple levels - from a business perspective and from a creative perspective - and to discuss **cross-cultural communication in a global marketplace**," adds Washington Filmworks Executive Director Amy Lillard. "This panel is the start of an important conversation about storytelling and international filmmaking in Washington."

SSAFF film screenings will take place at Mobius Hall on the Cascadia Community College campus in Bothell and Roxy Cinema in Renton, with special events and panels to be held at the Renton Pavilion Event Center, Roy Street Coffee & Tea in Seattle, and the SIFF Film Center.

The full lineup and tickets for all events of the 9th annual Seattle South Asian Film Festival will be available at <http://ssaff.tasveer.org/2014/> beginning Thursday, October 9.

About SSAFF and Tasveer

Running Friday, October 31st through Sunday, November 9th, SSAFF 2014 includes 24 feature films and 17 shorts representing nine countries to inspire, inform, and provoke audiences throughout the Festival.

For more information, please visit <http://ssaff.tasveer.org/2014/>.

Founded in 2002 by Rita Meher and Farah Nousheen, Tasveer strives to curate thought-provoking artistic work of South Asians through films, forums, visual art, and performances that engage and empower the community.

Tasveer presents three keystone events each year: AAINA, a women-focused arts gathering (spring); South Asian International Documentary Festival (spring), and Seattle South Asian Film Festival (fall).

The purpose of Tasveer is to increase awareness of South Asian countries and cultures from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka; to provide a platform for South Asian filmmakers and artists; to initiate dialog that bridges communities; to provide an alternative to corporate media; and to employ independent South Asian film as a vehicle to give voice to marginalized communities.

For more information, please visit www.tasveer.org.

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