

*tongues on fire*

# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

26 MAY - 6 JUNE 2021

LONDON | COVENTRY | LEICESTER | UK-WIDE ONLINE



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UK Asian Film Festival is produced annually by *Tongues on Fire*, a not-for-profit organisation run by a small team of dedicated people. This incredible festival is only possible because of the invaluable support from our sponsors, partners, advisors and friends. We are very grateful for their input.

**Special thanks to:** Chanchal Singh Chowdhry, Neeta Desor, Professor Rosie Thomas, Sonia Gandhi, Sunita Nigam, Sunita Sangar, Sushma Nayar, Vic Sethi,

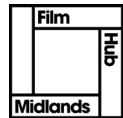
**Special thanks for support during Covid:** Aanika Bhalla, Aditya Kripalani, Alankrita Srivastava, Anjelo Leeson, Anuj Radia, Beo Zafar, Bhaskar Choudhury, Professor Dinesh Bhugra, Gurvinder Singh and their Antakshri Group, Imperial College's Indian Society, Jahangir Khan, Jyoti Chandhok, Mijwan Welfare Society, Minu Bakshi, Mrunal Thakur, Namit Das, Nazmin Chowdhury, Nileeka Bose, Nisha Aaliya, The team of *Priya's Mask*, Raaghav Ranganathan, Rehmat Rayatt, Sabiha Sumar, Dr Sadia Mohammed, Sai Pogaru, Dr Saman Khan, Sangeeta Dutta, Shabana and Baba Azmi, Shilpa Krishnan Shukla, Suzi Mann, The Bollywood Dance School, The Shahid Afridi Foundation, The UKAFF Film Wallah's Film Club, Vaani Kaur and Yanick Ghanty.

Thank you to Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and Arts Council England for the Culture Recovery Fund to our live and online programmes in Coventry and Leicester.

## PUBLIC FUNDERS



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Cover image: Raahgir

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# FOREWORD



**Rakhee Joshi**  
Chairperson  
UK Asian Film Festival

I'm delighted to be chairing the advisory board of the **23rd UK Asian Film Festival** with its theme, Ray of Hope.

Each of every one of us has faced numerous personal challenges over the past year, whether it be dealing with the unbearable pain of losing a loved one, health issues, financial uncertainty or juggling childcare responsibilities and working from home. We've all experienced those testing days and sleepless nights when we felt we simply couldn't cope, felt isolated, lonely or just uninspired with seemingly endless video calls.

The arts industry, in particular, has faced a number of difficulties: volatility in our jobs markets, productions slowing down (or being halted altogether) and funding issues. Despite these hurdles, we've supported ourselves and our wider community to overcome these as never before. Filmmakers are leaning on one another to stagger their film release dates and artists are embracing a new normal environment as part of their performances.

As always, Tongues on Fire and its "powerhouse team" remains steadfast in its dedication to the South Asian arts and has played a crucial role in supporting our communities, especially during these uncertain times. The organisation's unique offering of mental health support for South Asian artists via its Talking Therapy hotline, conceived by Dr. Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE, is truly something to be marvelled. The team has also continued to go from strength to strength, with a restructured, diverse advisory board and fresh vision to transition the UK Asian Festival into the dawn of a new era.

We are thrilled to unveil an incredibly strong line-up of events for you this year. We very much hope that you will join us as we embark on a special voyage of escape and discovery through film and the arts. Come, experience the magic and soak up a little Ray of Hope with the 23rd UK Asian Film Festival's events near you!

Very best wishes,

Rakhee Joshi  
*Chair of the Advisory Board, UK Asian Film Festival*

# VENUE PARTNERS



## **BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY**

Belgrade Square, Corporation Street, Coventry, CV1 1GS  
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[belgrade.co.uk](http://belgrade.co.uk)



## **BFI SOUTHBANK**

Belvedere Rd, London SE1 8XT  
Tel: 020 7928 3232  
[bfi.org.uk/bfi-southbank](http://bfi.org.uk/bfi-southbank)



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[genesiscinema.co.uk](http://genesiscinema.co.uk)



## **HARROW ARTS CENTRE**

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Tel: 020 3773 7161  
[harrowarts.com](http://harrowarts.com)



## **HUNDRED YEARS GALLERY**

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[hundredyearsgallery.co.uk](http://hundredyearsgallery.co.uk)



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Tel: 0116 261 6800  
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# Modern Films

## **MODERN FILMS**

11-13 Charlotte Street, London, England, W1T 1RH  
[modernfilms.com](http://modernfilms.com)

# VENUE PARTNERS

## Phoenix

### **PHOENIX CINEMA AND ART CENTRE LEICESTER**

4 Midland Street, Leicester LE1 1TG

Tel: 0116 242 2800

[phoenix.org.uk](http://phoenix.org.uk)



### **PRESTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, London, HA9 8PL

Tel: 0208 908 5700

[brentlibraries.wordpress.com](http://brentlibraries.wordpress.com)

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[richmix.org.uk](http://richmix.org.uk)



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# WELCOME



Dr Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE  
CEO & Festival Director

**UKAFF** is excited to be back offering the thrill of watching films on the big screen at cinema's nationwide and holding an array of events online too. After a difficult year for us all and the cancellation of our 2020 festival, we are looking forward to welcoming you all back.

Our team has invested a lot of time and hard work to create a safe space for audiences to enjoy a specially curated **Hybrid Festival**-screening films both at cinema venues across **London, Coventry, Leicester** and online with the **Modern Films** viewing platform. There really is something for everyone whilst we transition back in to life without covid restrictions.

This year's theme celebrates the theme **Ray of Hope**, marking the birth centenary of distinguished filmmaker **Satyajit Ray** with our quirky, enigmatic and charismatic films. The programme features curated gem's that reflect a shift in power bringing hope to the lives of the protagonists. Our events are all about sharing and celebrating unique stories, humorous anecdotes, beautiful music and all that is **Bollywood and beyond**.

**Raahgir** directed by **Gautam Ghose** opens our festival at the **BFI Southbank**. A human story of empathy and compassion, which is extremely fitting in these times of a global pandemic.

Our closing night at the BFI Southbank is the world premiere of documentary **The Beatles And India** co-directed by **Ajoy Bose** and **Peter Compton**. Our much-anticipated annual **Awards Ceremony** celebrating independent cinema will take place at the closing and will be live streamed on our Facebook page.

Our festival believes in supporting young talent by providing mentoring and practical learning opportunities. We provided a fantastic platform for flourishing film makers to share their powerful Ray of Hope vision which will be recognised with our **Digital Commissions Award**.

Throughout the year we have been holding mentoring sessions and a series of **online weekend workshops** organised by university academics and industry professionals to engage and provide valuable experiences for budding film makers to learning about film curation and critiquing. The **Short Film Competition** was judged by a **Young Critics and Industry Judging Panel** and the **Young Curators Lab** to curate the youth choice film for the festival.

We are proud of our new initiatives, the one-day conference brings together leading **South Asian Film Festivals and film curators** from across the world to share ideas and perspectives. Together we planned innovative strategies and mechanisms to tackle the adverse impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic on conventional film festival programming.

**UKAFF** is reaching out to India to help, in partnership with the **British Asian Trust** with their **Oxygen for India Emergency Appeal**.

Despite difficult times we have been able to bring together an inspirational festival with the support of our **Sponsors** who we would like to thank for their generosity. A very big thank you to all our **Supporters, Friends of the Festival** and **volunteers** for their continued commitment to UKAFF.

Enjoy the magic of Cinema!

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- 🚇 Bayswater station (7 minutes walk)
- 🚇 Queensway station (8 minutes walk)

### Reservations

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Fax: +44 (0) 207 262 3556  
Email: [reservations@thechilworth.co.uk](mailto:reservations@thechilworth.co.uk)  
[www.thechilworth.co.uk](http://www.thechilworth.co.uk)



The Chilworth is a Montcalm townhouse

OPENING GALA UK PREMIERE



## RAAHGIR THE WAYFARERS

Wed 26 May, 8:45pm  
BFI SOUTHBANK, LONDON

**Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.**

*Introduced by Mukulika Banerjee, inaugural Director of the LSE South Asia Centre from 2015-2020 and is Associate Professor in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science.*



Three of India's finest actors, Adil Hussain, Tillotama Shome and Neeraj Kabi come together on screen for the first time for this timely tale of empathy and compassion. *Raahgir* follows three unlikely strangers, living a life of poverty, who come together on a journey in search of a better life, deciding to help each other at the risk of their own lives. It's the intimate tale of humanity and kindness that we gravely need during these times of crisis.



Director: Goutam Ghosh  
Producer: Amit Agarwal  
Production Banner: Adarsh Telemedia  
Cast: Adil Hussain, Tillotama Shome and Neeraj Kabi  
India 2019, 81 mins, Hindi with English subtitles

CLOSING GALA WORLD PREMIERE



## THE BEATLES AND INDIA

Sat 29 May, 7:30pm  
**BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY**

Sun 6 June, 3:15pm  
**BFI SOUTHBANK, LONDON**

India and The Beatles aren't necessarily two things you'd immediately associate with each other. Enter this fascinating documentary which explores how India shaped the evolution of the greatest rock band of all time. Between rare archival footage, photographs and eye-witness accounts, the film is a charming chronicle of the journeys of George, John, Paul and Ringo from their high octane celebrity lives in the West to a remote Himalayan ashram in search of spirituality. An experience which is said to have inspired some of their greatest work.

**Live Q&A at BFI Southbank with directors, hosted by Anuj Radia.**

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Director: Ajay Bose and Pete Compton  
UK 2021, 92 mins, English with English subtitles

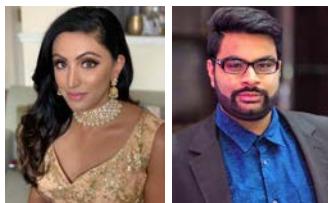
UKAFF AWARDS



# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

Sun 6 June, 7pm  
BFI SOUTHBANK, LONDON

UK Asian Film Festival closes with our star-studded awards night hosted by Suzi Mann and Anuj Radia.



# IN LOVING MEMORY



It has been, and continues to be, an unprecedented year for people around the world. A time for immeasurable pain, grief and uncertainty. And amongst all those we've lost are a number of unforgettable, and deeply talented artists who've left an indelible mark on the world of film and entertainment. Artists and storytellers who have spread so much joy, love and meaning through their art. We at the UK Asian Film Festival felt we had to do our part by paying tribute to those we've lost. While they may no longer be with us, their vibrant bodies of work, and how they made us feel will forever live on.

## BASU CHATTERJEE

Filmmaker-screenwriter Basu Chatterjee, best known for directing films like *Choti Si Baat*, *Rajnigandha*, *Baaton Baaton Mein*, *Ek Ruka Hua Faisla* and *Chameli Ki Shaadi* among many others, passed away at age 93. The filmmaker was celebrated for his distinct cinematic language as one of the pioneers of middle-of-the-road cinema.

## BHANU ATHAIYA

Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya lived a life of accomplishment. She became the first Indian to win an Oscar, for Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*. She designed for more than 100 Indian films over a career spanning nearly 60 years, making her debut with Raj Khosla's *C.I.D.* (1956) and went on to design for some of the landmark films of Indian cinema, including Guru Dutt's *Pyaasa* (1957) and *Kaagaz Ke Phool* (1959) and Abrar Alvi's Sahib *Bibi Aur Ghulam* (1962). She will always remain responsible for some of Hindi cinema's most iconic looks.

## IRRFAN KHAN

Some actors give you a part of their soul. That's what it felt like watching Irrfan Khan light up the screen. He had a presence that commanded your attention, no matter what the film or the role. He brought something to each project that transcended merely learning lines and emoting for a camera. He broke boundaries, worked across industries and brought searing empathy to each and every project. He was the rare artist who managed to stand out and blend in. The movies, and the world, are worse off without him in it.

## JAGDEEP

Veteran actor Jagdeep acted in around 400 films but it is his role in the 1975's iconic *Sholay* that remains etched in the audiences' minds. His paan-stained grin and charismatic eyes as Soorma Bhopali in Ramesh Sippy's classic shot him to popularity, as did his work in films like *Andaz Apna Apna*. His spot-on comic timing and mischievous grin will forever be missed.

## NISHIKANT KAMAT

The talented filmmaker was known for making a mark on mainstream cinema as a director in films like *Drishyam*, *Force*, *Rocky Handsome* and the award-winning *Mumbai Meri Jaan*. And as a capable actor with memorable roles in films like *Daddy* and *Bhavesh Joshi*. His directorial debut *Dombivali Fast (2005)* won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Marathi.

## RISHI KAPOOR

Rishi Kapoor was the rare Bollywood legend who got better with age. Not only did he build an impressive body of work as a young romantic hero, he took on his most challenging roles much later in life, leaving us with beloved characters in films like *Luck By Chance*, *Mulk* and *Aurangzeb*. He was one of the biggest stars of his time, and one of the finest actors of his generation. He leaves behind a lifetime at the movies and a fine roster of movies and characters which will be cherished for the ages.

## SAROJ KHAN

The beloved choreographer first won people's hearts with her brilliant dance lessons on TV, Fondly called Masterji in Bollywood, she choreographed over 2000 songs spanning over three-and-a-half decades. She started out in the early '70s and her most successful collaborations were with actors Sridevi and Madhuri Dixit. She choreographed songs like *Ek Do Teen*, *Hum Ko Aaj Kal Hai Intezaar*, *Dhak Dhak Karne Laga*, *Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai*, and *Tamma Tamma* among many, many others.

## SHASHIKALA

Veteran actor Shashikala starred in over 100 films in an illustrious career spanning six decades. She was best known for her supporting roles in the 1960s and 70s in films like *Anupama*, *Phool Aur Patthar*, *Ayi Milan Ki Bela*, *Gumrah*, *Waqt* and *Khubsoorat*. In 2007, Shashikala was honoured with the Padma Shri - the fourth highest civilian award in the country - for her immense contribution to Indian cinema.

## SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE

Actor Soumitra Chatterjee was most known for incarnating the beauty and fragility of youthful idealism in the films of the great Satyajit Ray. Soumitra appeared in more than 350 movies, but is most known for playing the title character in Ray's *The World of Apu (1959)*. His unforgettable work and contribution to the movies will forever be cherished.

## SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT

Sushant Singh Rajput was one of the rare few who was actor first and star second. There was a simplicity and pleasantness to his presence, with performances that didn't draw too much attention themselves but still stuck with you long after. Whether it was *Kai Po Che*, or *Kedarnath* or *Sonchiriya* or *Chhichhore*, he had an inherent goodness and purity that shone through that will forever be cherished.

## VANRAJ BHATIA

Vanraj Bhatia was an Indian composer best known for his work in Indian New Wave cinema. He was one of the leading composers of Western classical music in India. Commercial film credits include *Damini*, *Pardes*, *Beta*, *Chameli*, and the epic TV series *Bharat ek Khoj*.

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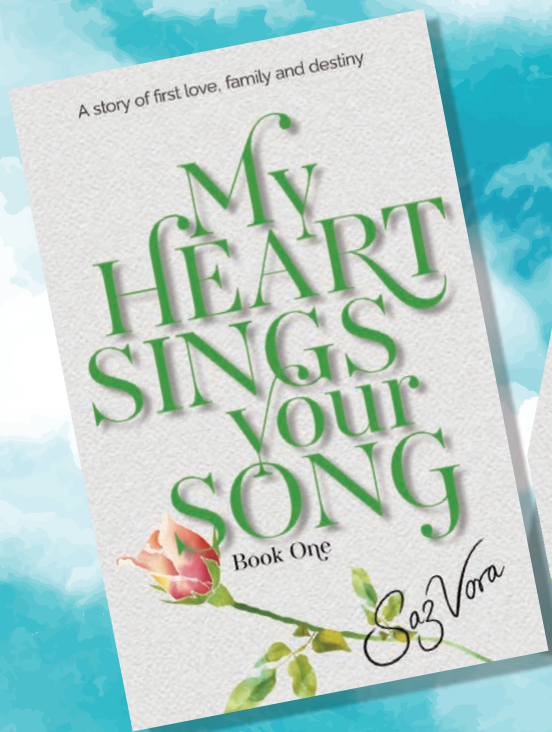
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*Where Have We Come – Finalist The Wishing Shelf Book Award 2020*

Teeming with Gujarati culture and steeped in tradition... Reena and Nik begin the story so filled with love and joy that it feels like a fairytale. Then comes the sharply felt and poignantly written heartbreak and loss. **Editorial Review Indies Today**



A good-looking boy with brains, a beautiful smile and a love of Bollywood.  
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[Saz] has a unique style of blending striking themes with her favourite songs,  
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UK PREMIERE

## CHRONICLE OF SPACE STHALPURAN



Wed 26 May, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

Fri 28 May, 6pm  
**GENESIS, LONDON**

Dighu, an eight-year-old boy, migrates to the coastal area of Konkan with his mother and sister, amidst torrential rain and harsh terrain. Reeling from the absence of his father and the struggles of keeping his family safe, young Dighu struggles with being forced to grow up all too soon. Seeing the world through the eyes of a child can yield to some of the most sublime moments in cinema. A child's gaze, bursting with wonder and innocence can give us a new way of seeing the world. *Sthalpuran* does just that, painting a delicate portrait of childhood and how it can be full of pain and pleasure.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Akshay Indikar  
Cast: Neel Deshmukh, Anushree Wani and Rekha Thakur  
India 2020, 85 mins, Marathi with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## CHOTE NAWAB



Wed 26 May, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

Tue 1 June, 6pm  
**GENESIS, LONDON**

Sat 5 June, 8:30pm  
**LCB DEPOT, LEICESTER**

His first visit to his hometown in Lucknow becomes a transformative rollercoaster for a 13-year-old Londoner. Attending a simple family wedding escalates into a defining experience where he falls in love for the first time but also experiences the depths of patriarchy, classism and toxic tradition. Through a young boy's bittersweet journey, *Chote Nawab* sees through the facade of the big Indian wedding to examine restriction, hypocrisy and contradiction in conservative communities.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Kumud Chaudhary  
Cast: Plabita Borthakur, Svar Kamble, Shataf Figar, Ekalavi Khanna  
India 2020, 109 mins, Hindi and Urdu with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## THE FALSE EYE KALLA NOTTAM



Wed 26 May, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

Thu 3 June, 6pm  
**GENESIS, LONDON**

Two boys steal a GoPro camera to make a movie, in a small village in Kerala. But what begins as an innocent adventure quickly escalates to darker territory as more of the village locals discover the camera and things take a turn toward the worst. Director Rahul Riji Nair's thrilling found-footage style is both visually distinctive and absorbing in how it showcases a camera bringing out the worst in people, from moral policing to voyeurism to sexism and beyond.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

---

Director: Rahul Riji Nair  
Cast: Shreejith Babu, Vijay Induchoodan, Vinitha Koshy, Suryadev Sajeesh Marar, Vasudev Sajeesh Marar, Srikanth Mohan and Vishnu Premkumar  
India 2020, 72 mins, Malayalam with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## BULBULE



Wed 26 May, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

Fri 4 June, 6pm  
**GENESIS, LONDON**

Two friends, Harmeet and Irfan, from two different minority communities in India, meet after a gap of 5 years. What begins as a conversation amongst two friends catching up on old times, soon becomes an intricate and profound conversation about all the fault lines of modern Indian society as they examine all the things in our society designed to divide. From politics, religion, justice, discrimination and beyond, *Bulbule* offers a poignant snapshot of modern India through the lens of a conversation between two friends.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Manpreet Singh Dhani  
Cast: Sachin K Jaryal and Jasmeet Bhatia  
India 2020, 95 mins, Hindi with English subtitles



 **British Asian Trust**  
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### THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE

Our 'Oxygen for India Emergency Appeal' will raise funds for these oxygen concentrators, and together with our local partners in India we will rapidly deploy them to the hospitals and patients that need them most.

As always, we are only able to do this with your support.

There are three ways you can help:

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- If you are giving up to £100 you can have it doubled by following the instructions here: <https://givematch.com/charity/british-asian-trust-uk>
- If you are giving more than £100, please donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/indiacovidappeal>
- If you want to give more than £10,000 please call Colman Cawe, Director of Fundraising on 07496 131 665.

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EVENT

## MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME: UNTOLD STORIES



Mon 10 May - Mon 31 May  
**ONLINE VIA HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM'S WEBSITE**  
<https://headstonemanor.org/events/my-home-away-from-home-untold-immigration-stories-and-mental-health>

### Untold Immigration Stories and Mental Health

To mark Mental Health Week, Headstone Manor & Museum have partnered with Mental Wealth and ReRoute to co-curate a digital exhibition to share stories from Harrow's community on all aspects of Immigration and Mental Health. The exhibition will touch on themes like food, film, music and mental health in the hope to shed some light on the untold immigration stories from the South Asian community in Harrow. There will be a special screening of ***Movies, Memories, Magic***, directed by Dr Ashvin Devasundaram. Featured in the exhibition will be pre-recorded roundtable discussions and personal reflections from the community.



EVENT

## THE BIG BOLLYWOOD QUIZ



Fri 14 May, 7:30pm  
**ONLINE VIA HARROW ARTS CENTRE**  
<https://harrowarts.com/classes/hmm-big-bollywood-quiz>

Headstone Manor is really excited to announce their big family quiz evening on everything Bollywood related! Grab your family, get comfy at home and come and join Harrow based Mental Health charity, Mental Wealth for a family fun filled evening featuring well known films, music, actors and actresses! Dr Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE, co-founder of Tongues on Fire Ltd will be attending as a guest!



UK PREMIERE



## MANNY

Thu 27 May, 6pm  
RICH MIX, LONDON

Sat 5 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
ONLINE, MODERN FILMS

An Indian woman travels to Latvia for a writer's retreat to finish her novel, with the help of her AI assistant Manny. As she climbs deeper into the recesses of her mind in search of inspiration, her smartphone assistant starts to evolve and turn increasingly aggressive in this heady sci-fi thriller that brings to life our reliance on technology like few films before it.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Dace Pūce  
Cast: Sonal Sehgal, Jurijs Dyakanovas and Darta Danevica  
India and Latvia 2020, 69 mins, English, Hindi with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## ZINDAGI TAMASHA CIRCUS OF LIFE

Thu 27 May, 6pm  
**GENESIS, LONDON**

Fri 28 May, 7pm  
**BELGRADE THEATRE,  
COVENTRY**

Letting people live their lives freely isn't exactly part of the traditional Asian experience. Rahat is, by all accounts, a 'good Muslim man'. He sings hymns to the Prophet, takes care of his bedridden wife and is considered a pillar of support for his community. But he has a guilty pleasure - enjoying old Punjabi movies. At a wedding, egged on by friends, he breaks into a dance paying homage to his film idols. The video of a bearded man dancing freely goes viral and Rahat's life begins to crumble as he is shunned by his family and the wider community. *Zindagi Tamasha* is a deeply affecting look at how society condemns those who refuse to fall in line and dare to express themselves freely. **Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.**

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Director: Sarmad Khoosat

Cast: Arif Hassan, Samiya Mumtaz, Eman Suleman and Ali Kureshi  
Pakistan 2020, 142 mins, Punjabi and Urdu with English subtitles

DOCUMENTARY



## I AM BELMAYA

Thu 27 May, 7pm  
**WATERMANS, LONDON**

Thu 3 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

Supported by Tony Matharu, chairman of Blue Orchid Hotels, Founder and chairman of Integrity International Trust and Founder and Director of Central London Alliance C.I.C.



*I Am Belmaya* is the rousing documentary about a young woman's transformational journey from oppressed wife to pioneering filmmaker. Born as a dalit in a patriarchal community, orphaned at the tender age of 9 and trapped in an abusive marriage with a baby daughter, Belmaya, 21, has had a difficult life. Yet during her darkest days, she decides to return to her love of photography and filmmaking, as we witness a young woman take charge of her own destiny and prove what can be achieved if we allow every human being the opportunity of becoming. As Belmaya grows in confidence and ability, she turns from subject to co-director of her own story, in this fascinating tale of how making a documentary about a young girl's inspiring story becomes itself a defining part of her journey to award-winning filmmaker. **Q&A with director.**

Director: Sue Carpenter and Belmaya Nepali

Cast: Belmaya Nepali

UK and Nepal 2021, 81 mins, Nepali and English with English subtitles

**WORLD PREMIERE**



## **TOOFAN MAIL**

**Thur 27 May, 7pm**  
**BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY**

**Fri 28 May, 6pm**  
**RICH MIX, LONDON**

**Sat 5 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)**  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

This was a heist like no other. There was no gun, no elaborate escape plan, and they almost got away with the whole thing. It also happens to be a true story. In 1974, a woman landed at the New Delhi Railway station and asked to meet Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by claiming she was the Queen of Awadh; a story which quickly became a media sensation. Director Akriti Singh's film is a fictional retelling of crazy events that followed, which remain a living breathing testament to the idea that truth is, in fact, far stranger than fiction.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Akriti Singh  
Cast: Akriti Singh, Surya Rao, Arshad Mumtaz  
India 2021, 97 mins, Hindi with English subtitles

DOCUMENTARY

## IN THUNDER, LIGHTNING AND RAIN



Thu 27 May, 6:30pm & 8:30pm  
**HUNDRED YEARS GALLERY, LONDON**

Sun 30 May, 6pm (*valid 48 hrs*)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

A fascinating documentary which depicts the endurance of three women, a footballer, a fisherwoman and a cremator, who have endured more physical and mental pain than an average human being could imagine. But these are women who refuse to let their stories be defined by sorrow and pain, instead choosing to face and overcome all the challenges life has thrown at them with humour and compassion. The result is a portrait of three unforgettable women who refuse to back down from a fight against the status quo and in doing so, light up the screen, keep you laughing, and who will stay with you long after the credits roll.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

---

Director: Rajesh James  
India 2019, 40 mins, Malayalam with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## FIREFLIES



Fri 28 May, 6pm (*valid 48 hrs*)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

“Isn’t your brother getting too girly?” Jahnu lives in a remote village in rural Assam and dreams of getting an operation to become a woman. The villagers mock him for his femininity and treat him as an outcast. In a world where you’re made to deny your identity to protect your family’s reputation, Jahnu has no chance at living freely. *Fireflies*, a battlecry for acceptance and sensitivity, follows his journey of embracing his truth. In a world where there are thousands of Jahnus who struggle every day to fight for basic acceptance, and self respect. *Fireflies* offers a turbulent, yet beautiful tale of resilience and embracing who you are, rather than conforming to the limited views of society.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Prakash Deka  
Cast: Benjamin Daimary  
India 2019, 92 mins, Assamese with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## MISS MAN



Fri 28 May, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

Mon 31 May, 4:30pm  
**SOHO SCREENING ROOMS, LONDON**

Manob is in love with another man. But for those like him, in our world, there's always a price to pay. Not only because of restrictive society around him, but also because of his own homophobic father who often resorts to physical violence to "cure his son of the disease of loving another man". Dejected, Manob decides to travel to the city to look into the possibilities of acceptance, while his father arranges his marriage with the daughter of a relative. Cornered, Manob must now make a choice between giving up his struggle or standing up for who he truly is, in this painfully poetic short film which explores one person's search for their identity.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

---

Director: Tathagata Ghosh  
Cast: Arghya Adhikary, Bimal Giri, Payel Parna, Manoj A Michigan, Ratrish Saha and Riddhish Dhar  
India 2019, 25 mins, Bengali with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## GUTTER BOY



Fri 28 May, 7pm  
**WATERMANS, LONDON**

Tues 1 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

When we hear terms like 'gutter' and 'sewage', we picture dirty underground tunnels that we have the privilege of never having to see or experience. But not everyone has that privilege. Some are made to live in it and risk their lives as a means to earn a living. Sandeep belongs to a poor, lower caste family. Struggling to earn a living, he moves to the big city in the hopes of a better life. Instead he is merely reminded of his place in society when the only job he's offered is of a sewage cleaner. *Gutter Boy* is the piercing story that examines the caste divide, societal segregation and how we dehumanise those we see as lesser to have them do the jobs no one else would.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

---

Director: Anupam Khanna Baswal  
Cast: Ajeet Kumar, Laxmi Kant Baswala and Ankit Mahna  
India 2020, 58 mins, Hindi with English subtitles

**EVENT**

# **CURATION IN THE TIME OF COVID: SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVALS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2021**

Sat 29 May, 1:30pm  
**ONLINE EVENT**

This one-day conference brings together leading South Asian film festivals and film curators from across the world to share perspectives and ideas and develop innovative strategies to tackle the adverse impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic on conventional film festival programming. Commencing with a short film montage comprising vignettes of the approach festivals took to engage with the existential scenarios precipitated by the pandemic, the conference will feature streamlined panel discussions. The grand finale round table discussion will bring together all attendees to synthesise specific discussion points from the panel conversations in order to chart cogent and robust outcomes that could assist and bolster global film curation practice in the days to come. **Closing with a round-table discussion and audience Q&As.**

## **PANEL 1: CURATING AROUND COVID: INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES & WORKAROUNDS**

**CHAired BY DR. ASHVIN DEVASUNDARAM, *QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON***

**PANELLISTS:**

**SABIHA SUMAR, *FILMMAKER BASED IN PAKISTAN***  
**ANUPAM SHARMA, *DIRECTOR AT AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA***  
**PETRA KLAUS & BINU K JOSEPH, *DIRECTORS AT FRANKFURT NEW GENERATIONS FILM FESTIVAL***

## **PANEL 2: FILM FESTIVALS' STRATEGIES FOR HYBRIDISM AND CO-CREATION**

**CHAired BY DR. MONIA ACCIARI, *DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY***

**PANELLISTS:**

**SMRITI KIRAN, *DIRECTOR AT THE MUMBAI ACADEMY OF MOVING IMAGE (MAMI)***  
**KETKI PARIKH, *DIRECTOR AT CHICAGO SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL***  
**MANOJ SHRINIVASA, *DIRECTOR AT DIORAMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL***

## **PANEL 3: CURATING DIVERSITY: PROGRAMMING THEME-BASED CONTENT**

**CHAired BY DR. ROHIT DASGUPTA, *UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW***

**PANELLISTS:**

**PUSHPINDER CHOWDHRY, *DIRECTOR AT UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL***  
**DANIEL LUTHER, *CO-FOUNDER AT QUEER ASIA***  
**SRIDHAR RANGAYAN, *DIRECTOR AT KASHISH MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL***



Dr. Ashvin Immanuel Devasundaram is Senior Lecturer in World Cinema at Queen Mary University of London. He is author of *India's New Independent Cinema: Rise of the Hybrid* (Routledge, 2016) and *Indian Cinema Beyond Bollywood: The New Independent Cinema Revolution* (Routledge, 2018) - the first book and edited anthology on new Indian Indie films. At Queen Mary University, he convenes New Independent Indian Cinema, a unique undergraduate module dedicated to contemporary currents in Indian cinema. Ashvin is Associate Director of the UK Asian Film Festival - London and has directed the UK Heritage Lottery-funded documentary *Movies, Memories, Magic (2018)*. He is currently working on his third book on new independent Indian cinema.



Dr. Monia Acciari is an Associate Professor in Film and Television History at De Montfort University, Leicester (UK). She was Visiting Professor at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad (India) in 2019 and had worked widely in the UK, India and US. Her principal research interests are: Film festival studies; Indian Film distribution; new-wave Indian cinema; Film curatorship, film restoration and preservation of Indian film heritage and archives. She is Associate Director and co-curator at the UK Asian Film Festival (Leicester Programme), and Director of the Indian Cinema Archive at De Montfort University. She has actively worked towards the acquisition of private Indian cinema collections for De Montfort, relevant to the Diaspora in the UK. She has been publishing on film festivals in India, co-edited special issues and is currently working towards her monograph.



Dr. Rohit K Dasgupta is senior lecturer in cultural industries at University of Glasgow. He is also a Labour Party councillor and commissioner for social integration in the London Borough of Newham. His published books include *Digital Queer Cultures in India* (Routledge, 2017); *Styling South Asian Youth Cultures* (Bloomsbury, 2018), *Friendship as Social Justice Activism* (Chicago UP/Seagull, 2018) and *100 Essential Indian Films* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2019).

EVENT

# CONTRIBUTION OF PUNJABIS IN BOLLYWOOD



Sat 29 May, 2pm

ONLINE

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/contribution-of-punjabis-in-bollywood-tickets-153493678725>

Baljeet Parmar in conversation with Tanu Banaik

Punjabis have played an instrumental role in the development of Bollywood. Before Partition, Lahore was a major centre of the Indian film industry whose talent migrated to Bombay in 1947. However, the portrayal of Punjabis over the years has been less than flattering considering the large number of prominent film makers, musicians and actors who hail from Punjab.

Baljeet Parmar, a journalist who has made his name exposing many a Bollywood scandal, will explore the Contribution of Punjabis to the Bollywood film industry and reflect on the portrayal of Punjabis.

THE POTHOHAR  
ASSOCIATION UK

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WORLD PREMIERE

# KHAPE



Sat 29 May, 2pm

BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY

Thu 3 June, 7pm

WATERMANS, LONDON

Thu 3 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)

ONLINE, MODERN FILMS

Fri 4 June, 6:45pm

LCB DEPOT, LEICESTER

Ali lives in a world where education has no worth. His friends work as labourers. Despite living in a community where education is frowned upon, Ali's father insists he be educated for the opportunities it offers. *Khape* explores the power of education to break down barriers and help people rise above their circumstances to aspire to a better life.

**Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.**

Director: Suchita Bhhatia

Cast: Aditya Lakhia, Karan Patel, Prashant Barot and Chirag Modi.

India 2020, 78 mins, Gujarati with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE



## FIRE OF TEAK FLAME OF CHINAR

Sat 29 May, 4:30pm  
**BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY**

Sun 30 May, 7pm  
**RICH MIX, LONDON**

Sun 6 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

A young refugee girl living in an orphanage in Kolkata writes a letter to her grandmother, not knowing if they'll ever meet again. Elsewhere, a young Kashmiri boy struggles with life in the volatile region. When the two meet, they form an unlikely bond and dream of a life beyond their countless hardships. Through their story *Fire of Teak Flame of Chinar* finds the heart and humanity amidst hardship, and is also the first Indian film to explore the harrowing reality of the persecuted Rohingya tribe who fled for their lives from Myanmar.

**Q&A with director and cast.**

---

Director: Kumar Chowdhury

Cast: Piyali Samanta, Arman Shaw, Iqbal Sultan, Nilanjana Biswas, Ranajay Bhattacharya and Ranjini Chattopadhyaya  
India 2020, 121 mins, Bengali, Hindi, English and Rohingya with English subtitles

FEATURE

## PROFESSOR SHONKU AND EL DORADO



Sat 29 May, 5:15pm  
**RICH MIX, LONDON**

The latest film from Sandip Ray, son of the late great Satyajit Ray. Need we really say more? The Bengali adventure film follows scientist and inventor Professor Shonku (an iconic character created by Satyajit Ray). Shonku's adventures, bordering on the fantastic, took him to all corners of the globe as seen in Ray's 'Shonku Stories.'

Now Sandip Ray offers a modern day adaptation of the beloved character as Professor Shonku embarks on a tour of Brazil, where he gets embroiled into an adventure involving native tribesmen, anacondas and the quest to find the mythical city of El Dorado.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

---

Director: Sandip Ray  
Cast: Dhritiman Chatterji, Suhashish Mukherjee  
India 2019, 95 mins, Bengali and English with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## NIRVANA INN



Sat 29 May, 8:30pm  
**RICH MIX, LONDON**

Sun 6 June, 6pm (*valid 48 hrs*)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

What's it like to be haunted by your past? Boatman Jogiraj Chakraborty (Adil Hussain) acts on his suicidal thoughts and capsizes his vessel mid-journey, killing every passenger on board. Months later, he signs up to be the caretaker of Himalayan resort Nirvana Inn, only to find that the guests who check in are the very people he presumed dead. Are these literal 'ghosts' or projections of Jogi's guilt? Or is the inn a kind of purgatory, a layover he will only be able to move on from once he atones for his sins? *Nirvana Inn* depicts Jogi's descent into paranoia amid the increasingly unsettling atmosphere, but offers no easy answers.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

---

Director: Vijay Jayapal  
Cast: Adil Hussain, Rajshri Deshpande, Sandhya Mridul  
India 2019, 102 mins, Hindi with English subtitles

SINGALONG

# RAY OF HOPE THEMED SING-A-LONG WITH SINGING SENSATION DR GARGI BANERJEE



HOSTED BY  
GURVINDER SINGH

**ONLINE EVENT ON SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 2PM (BST)**

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## HOLY RIGHTS MUQADDAS SAFAR

Sun 30 May, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
ONLINE, MODERN FILMS

Safia, a devout Muslim woman from Bhopal believes that Muslim women are denied equality and justice because of the patriarchal interpreters of Sharia law. To take things into her own hands, she joins a program for training women as Qazis (judges of Sharia court). *Holy Rights* documents her inspiring journey, and that of several others like her, as they navigate the difficult terrain and tensions that arise when women try to take charge of their own narratives in a male dominated society, and attempt to challenge the status quo.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

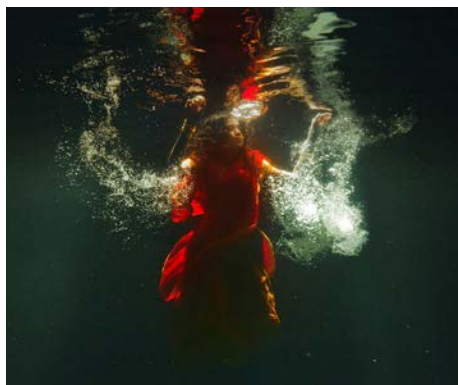
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Director: Farha Khatun  
Cast: Safia Akhtar, Syed Jalil Akhtar, Noorjehan Safia Niaz, Zakia Soman, Nasreen Metai  
India 2020, 52 mins, Urdu with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

DOUBLE BILL

## KANYA



Sun 30 May, 4:45pm

**RICH MIX, LONDON**

Sun 6 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)

**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

*Kanya* is an intimate exploration of adolescence through the journey of a young girl experiencing puberty in a traditional Indian family. Kanya is a successful swimming champion with a promising career in sports. Her world collapses when she gets her first period and her family demands that she accepts the traditional status of a woman. Kanya's physical and psychological transformation are neglected by her close ones who also curb her freedom, forcing her to take a stand and revolt against the system that looks to restrict the freedom of women.

**Pre-recorded Q&A with *Kanya* film director, Apoorva Satish.**

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Director: Apoorva Satish  
Cast: Tarunya Satish, Harish Kumar, Mona Kakkade and Balaji Rajashekar  
India and Czech Republic 2020, 16 mins, Tamil with English subtitles

WORLD PREMIERE

## PERIOD



Set in a dystopian UK, *Period* is an ambitious short film set in a world where women across the country suddenly find themselves with no immediate access to menstrual products. How did this happen and more importantly, what are they going to do? This inventive dark comedy brings to light the sad fact that this dystopia isn't too far off from reality for a lot of women.

**Live in conversation with *PERIOD* director, Rema Chandran and Binti International CEO, Manjit K. Gill MBE. Hosted by Vaani Kaur.**



*Rema* has featured as a guest writer on publications like *Asiana*, *Brown Girl Magazine* and *Burnt Roti*. *PERIOD* is her first short film. *Manjit* is the Founder and CEO of the phenomenal charity, *Binti International*, which was the first period charity registered in the UK, India and the US. *Vaani Kaur* is a secondary school English teacher. She is passionate about using education as a tool to decrease the stigma of taboo topics such as menstrual and mental health.

**Binti.** | Dignity.  
Period.

---

Director: Rema Chandran  
Cast: Alice Simpson, Rema Chandran and Reizel Ori  
UK 2020, 2 mins, English with English subtitles

YOUNG TONGUES



## SHORT FILM SCREENING

Mon 31 May, 2pm  
SOHO SCREENING ROOMS

Fri 4 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
ONLINE, MODERN FILMS

HOSTED BY



SAZ VORA



DAVID KURADIA



SONNY CHOHAN



REHMAT RAYATT



ANARPAL GAIHD



ATTIKA CHOUDHARY

This year's shortlisted competition films, on the theme of *Ray of Hope*.

- BAANG by Junaid Imam Shaikh
- HIDING by Nirusha Wijayamohan
- INCREDIBLE INSIGHT by Dr. Kushal Dasgupta
- LAST NIGHT IN VEGAS by J. Nicholas Meese
- LOOK AT US by Hussina Raja
- PASSPORT LADAKH by Sean Whitaker
- REFRIGERATE AFTER OPENING by Kevin Ung
- THE END by Adeel uz Zafar
- UCHKI by Bharat Mohan Sunita
- UNTOUCHABILITY by Haresh Narayanan

UK PREMIERE



## NOT TODAY

Mon 31 May, 6pm  
RICH MIX, LONDON

Sat 5 June, 6pm  
LCB DEPOT, LEICESTER

A 24-year-old from a traditional Muslim family in Mumbai goes to work secretly as a suicide prevention counsellor. On her first day, she encounters a 52-year-old man, standing atop a high-rise, wanting to jump. In trying to bring him down, she is forced to confront why she became a Suicide Prevention Counsellor in the first place, and also share a lot of herself to get him to share and open up. At a time when mental health is arguably more important than it's ever been with so much of the world struggling through unprecedented times, *Not Today* seeks to foster important discussions with warmth and compassion. It's a simple message, but a beautiful one - sometimes what people really need is a conversation and to know that someone cares enough to just listen. ***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

---

Director: Aditya Kripalani  
Cast: Rucha Inamdar and Harsh Chhaya  
India 2020, 93 mins, Hindi with English subtitles

FEATURE

## THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN



Tue 1 June, 6pm  
**RICH MIX, LONDON**

There have been many films that discuss patriarchy, but you've never seen patriarchy brought to life in such an impactful and cinematic way. It's a singular and uniquely immersive experience that takes you into the life of a newly married girl, as you experience her day-to-day routine of tending to the needs of her husband and in-laws. What begins as routine and responsibility slowly becomes nothing short of a harrowing ordeal. Not only is it phenomenal filmmaking, *The Great Indian Kitchen* is a penetrating portrait of the life that too many women Indian lead.

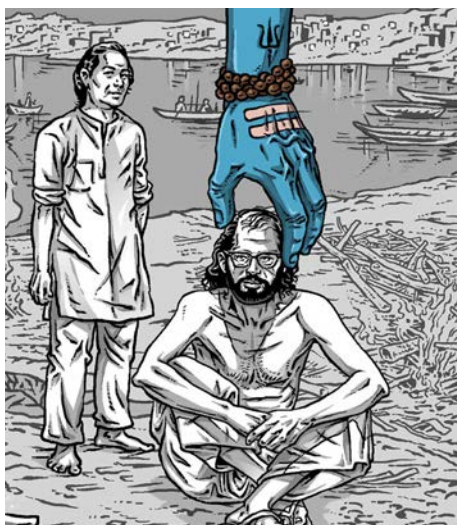
***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Jeo Baby  
Cast: Nimisha Sajayan, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Ajitha V.M.  
India 2020, 100 mins, Malayalam with English subtitles

DOCUMENTARY

## GINSBERG'S KARMA



Tue 1 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
**ONLINE, MODERN FILMS**

Sat 5 June, 4pm  
**LCB DEPOT, LEICESTER**

*Ginsberg's Karma* is an insightful, entertaining look at the transformative phase in the poet Allen Ginsberg's life - his first trip to India in 1962. An experience which would transform him into America's first hippie. While in India, he experimented with mind-altering drugs and spiritualism, a path which eventually led him to becoming a political activist. The documentary follows poet Bob Holman as he travels to India to try and piece together Ginsberg's life there to revisit his various adventures and how they defined him.

***Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.***

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Director: Ram Devineni  
USA & India 2021, 25 mins, English with English subtitles

**YOUNG TONGUES**



## **DIGITAL COMMISSIONS**

**Wed 2 June, 7pm**  
**SOHO SCREENING ROOMS,**  
**LONDON**

**Sat 5 June, 4pm**  
**LCB DEPOT, LEICESTER**

**Commissioned by Tongues on Fire**  
**for UK Asian Film Festival with**  
**support from Arts Council England.**

Nine digital commission winners showcase their three minute short films featuring their interpretation of this year's festival theme *"Ray of Hope"*, inspired by the works of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

Followed by a panel discussion with the nine artists hosted by digital commissions coordinator and author Saz Vora. Join us for an exclusive opportunity to hear from UK-based artists providing an insight in to their project journey from idea to completion and the worldwide collaborators they worked with.



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# DIGITAL COMMISSION WINNERS

ANNUSHEH



Annusheh Rahim Qureshi  
presents **RUKHS**

Pakistan 2021, 3 mins,  
Urdu w/ English subtitles

DEYALI



Deyali Mukherjee presents  
**ANAND DHARA STREAM OF JOY**

India & UK 2021, 3 mins

MAHENDERPAL



Mahenderpal Sorya  
presents **SAECULUM**

UK 2021, 3 mins, English

NIMRITA



Nimrita Kaur presents  
**(IM)PERFECTION**

UK 2021, 3 mins, English

ROBBY



Robby Khela presents  
**BETTER DAYS**

UK 2021, 3 mins, English

SHAI



Shai Hussain presents  
**THE WAVING MAN**

UK 2021, 3 mins, English

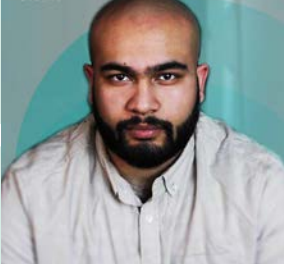
SUE



Sue Carpenter presents  
**STRONGER**

UK 2021, 3 mins

SHAYAN



Shayan Ali presents  
**ALIF ALPHA**

Pakistan & UK, 3 mins

UMISHA



Umisha Gheewala presents  
**SAME AS YOU**

UK 2021, 2 mins, English



Join the NM Bollywood Castings agency for opportunities to work in the film industry. The agency works with world-class producers and directors, creating opportunities for artists to showcase their talent and be a part of mainstream South Asian arts and film projects. NM Bollywood Castings are JL Stream's official UK Partners, for artists to stream their talent and get noticed on the new app launched by Businessman Raj Kundra and Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty.

For more information, email: [info@bollywoodcastings.com](mailto:info@bollywoodcastings.com)



## GRANADA NIGHTS

Wed 2 June, 6pm  
RICH MIX, LONDON

Who among us hasn't wanted to escape into the unknown in search of adventure and distraction to mend a broken heart? After his girlfriend leaves him, a British-Pakistani tourist seeks closure and connection in the vibrant city of Granada, Spain. There he befriends an unlikely group of international students and learns to heal from the old and open himself up to the new in this sparkling coming-of-age tale of love, loss and new beginnings.

**Q&A with director and cast.**

---

Director: Abid Khan

Cast: Antonio Aakeel, Oscar Casas, Virgile Bramly, Laura Frederico, Alice Sanders, Tabata Cerezo and Ezra Khan

UK 2020, 85 mins, English, Spanish, Swedish, Urdu English subtitles

LUNCH



## WOMEN IN COMEDY, IN CONVERSATION WITH NINA WADIA

Fri 4 June, 1pm (Invite only event)  
WELLINGTON HOTEL, LONDON

Nina Wadia OBE has won awards and acclaim starring in the UK drama, *Eastenders* and the breakout BBC hit show *Goodness Gracious Me*. Her career encompasses starring roles and appearances in every medium invented including *Dr Who*, *Death in Paradise*, *Skins*, Disney Favourite *Aladdin* with Will Smith, the Tony award winning *Vagina Monologues* and *Macbeth* with Oscar winner Mark Rylance. She has repeatedly performed for Queen Elizabeth at jubilees, birthdays and alongside Monty Python legend Sir Michael Palin at the Royal Albert Hall. Her recent shows *MAXXX* and *Too Close* are on HULU and ITV. She's currently shooting Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* series for Netflix, Mel and Sue's *Hitmen* and Stephen Merchant's new comedy/drama *The Offenders*.

Hosted by Rakhee Joshi.

UK PREMIERE

## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER

MRUGTRUSHNA



Fri 4 June, 7pm  
WATERMANS, LONDON

Fri 4 June, 6pm (valid 48 hrs)  
ONLINE, MODERN FILMS

Four ordinary children with extraordinary dreams live on the banks of a river, constantly fantasizing about the world that lies on the other side of it in this heartfelt slice-of-life drama. But their simple dreams of crossing the river to explore what lies beyond is shot down and discouraged by their families and those around them, who desperately cling to their ways of life, reluctant to embrace the changing times. *The Other Side Of The River* is an allegory about the curiosity and capability of the young who dare to question and discover and chase progress, in a world set on limiting them and maintaining the status quo.

**Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.**

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Director: Darshan Ashwin Trivedi  
Cast: Jayesh More, Arya Sagar, Nishma Soni, Karan Patel and Khush Tahliramani  
India 2020, 107 mins, Gujarati with English subtitles

UK PREMIERE

## THE WANDERING LIFE



Sat 5 June, 7pm  
WATERMANS, LONDON

Are people born criminals or are they forced by circumstance? *The Wandering Life* tells the turbulent true story of one family who, in the face of insurmountable challenges, get sucked into a life of crime. Sumathipala is a peaceful young man who lives in a rural village in Sri Lanka along with his sister Kumari. After she's brutally attacked and murdered by a group of men, among them a police officer, Sumathipala is sucked into a cycle of revenge and violence to avenge his sister.

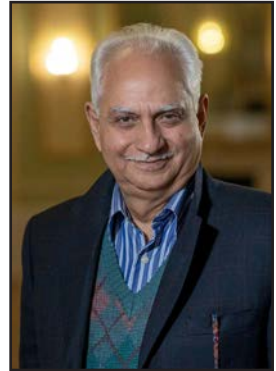
**Pre-recorded Q&A with director and cast.**

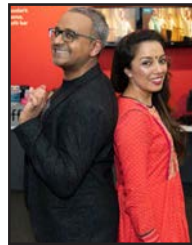
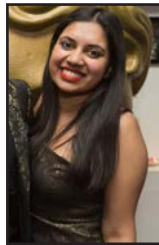
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Director: Crishantha Manamperi  
Cast: Dineth De Silva, Mahendra Perera, Jayani Senanayake, Kumara Thirimadura, Marion Weththasinghe, Damitha Abeyrathna, Jagath Chamila and Sarath Kothalawala  
Sri Lanka 2019, 112 mins, Sinhala with English subtitles

# 22 YEARS OF MEMORIES

Our festival is full of glitz and glamour from Bollywood and beyond. Just take a look at the stars bringing style and substance to the festival from our archives! All due to the immense support and enthusiasm we receive from great film makers, fantastic celebrities and passionate film buffs.





# JOURNEY TO POWERFUL STORIES WITH



TOP DIRECTORS  
ORIGINAL STORIES  
DIGITAL PREMIERES

ALSO WATCH ON



# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL NATIONAL

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
27 May	19:00	<b>TOOFAN MAIL</b>	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	£5
28 May	19:00	<b>ZINDAGI TAMASHA</b>	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	£5
29 May	14:00	<b>KHAPE</b>	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	£5
29 May	16:30	<b>FIRE OF TEAK, FLAME OF CHINAR</b>	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	£5
29 May	19:30	<b>THE BEATLES AND INDIA</b>	Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	£5
4 June	18:45	<b>KHAPE</b>	LCB Depot, Leicester	£5
5 June	16:00	<b>GINSBERG'S KARMA &amp; DIGITAL COMMISSIONS DOUBLE BILL</b>	LCB Depot, Leicester	£5
5 June	18:00	<b>NOT TODAY</b>	LCB Depot, Leicester	£5
5 June	20:30	<b>CHOTE NAWAB</b>	LCB Depot, Leicester	£5

# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL LONDON

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
26 May	20:45	<b>RAAHGIR, THE WAYFARERS</b>	BFI Southbank	£12.50
27 May	18:00	<b>MANNY</b>	Rich Mix	£6
	18:00	<b>ZINDAGI TAMASHA</b>	Genesis	£7.50
	18:30	<b>IN THUNDER, LIGHTNING AND RAIN</b>	Hundred Years Gallery	£5.50
	19:00	<b>I AM BELMAYA</b>	Watermans	£10
	20:30	<b>IN THUNDER, LIGHTNING AND RAIN</b>	Hundred Years Gallery	£5.50
28 May	18:00	<b>TOOFAN MAIL</b>	Rich Mix	£6
	18:00	<b>CHRONICLE OF SPACE, STHALPURAN</b>	Genesis	£7.50
	19:00	<b>GUTTER BOY</b>	Watermans	£10
29 May	17:15	<b>PROFESSOR SHONKU AND EL DORADO</b>	Rich Mix	£6
	20:30	<b>NIRVANA INN</b>	Rich Mix	£6
30 May	16:45	<b>DOUBLE BILL KANYA &amp; PERIOD</b>	Rich Mix	£6
	19:00	<b>FIRE OF TEAK FLAME OF CHINAR</b>	Rich Mix	£6
31 May	14:00	<b>SHORT FILMS FOLLOWED BY Q&amp;A</b>	Soho Screening Rooms	£8
	16:30	<b>MISS MAN</b>	Soho Screening Rooms	£5.50
	18:00	<b>NOT TODAY</b>	Rich Mix	£6
1 June	18:00	<b>THE GREAT INDIAN KITCHEN</b>	Rich Mix	£6
	18:00	<b>CHOTE NAWAB</b>	Genesis	£7.50
2 June	18:00	<b>GRANADA NIGHTS</b>	Rich Mix	£6
	19:00	<b>DIGITAL COMMISSIONS PANEL DISCUSSION</b>	Soho Screening Rooms	FREE

# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL LONDON

CONT.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
3 June	18:00	<b>THE FALSE EYE, KALLA NOTTAM</b>	Genesis	£7.50
	19:00	<b>KHAPE</b>	Watermans	£10
4 June	13:00	<b>WOMEN IN COMEDY, IN CONVERSATION WITH NINA WADIA</b>	Wellington Hotel	FREE
	18:00	<b>BULBULE</b>	Genesis	£7.50
	19:00	<b>THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, MRUGTRUSHNA</b>	Watermans	£10
5 June	19:00	<b>THE WANDERING LIFE</b>	Watermans	£10
6 June	15:15	<b>THE BEATLES AND INDIA</b>	BFI Southbank	£12.50

# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL ONLINE

<https://www.tonguesonfire.com/virtual-screenings>

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
10 May - 31 May		<b>MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME: UNTOLD IMMIGRATION STORIES AND MENTAL HEALTH</b>	Headstone Manor & Museum	FREE
14 May	19:30	<b>THE BIG BOLLYWOOD QUIZ</b>	Harrow Arts Centre	£2
26 May	18:00	<b>CHRONICLE OF SPACE, STHALPURAN</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>CHOTE NAWAB</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>THE FALSE EYE</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>BULBULE</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
28 May	18:00	<b>FIREFLIES</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>MISS MAN</b>	Modern Films	£5.50
29 May	13:30	<b>FESTIVAL CONFERENCE</b>	Facebook Live	FREE
	14:00	<b>PUNJABIS IN BOLLYWOOD</b>	Zoom	FREE
30 May	14:00	<b>ONLINE SINGALONG WITH DR GARGI BANERJEE</b>	Zoom	FREE Limited
	18:00	<b>IN THUNDER LIGHTNING AND RAIN</b>	Modern Films	£5.50
	18:00	<b>HOLY RIGHTS, MUQADDAS SAFAR</b>	Modern Films	£5.50
1 June	18:00	<b>GUTTER BOY</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>GINSBERG'S KARMA</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
3 June	18:00	<b>I AM BELMAYA</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>KHAPE</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A

Films will be available to watch for 48 hours after receiving the online streaming link by email once tickets have been purchased. Films are available to be purchased only up to the scheduled time of the screening on the Modern Films website page.

# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL ONLINE

CONT.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKET
4 June	18:00	<b>SHORT FILM SCREENING</b>	Modern Films	£8
	18:00	<b>THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, MRUGTRUSHNA</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
5 June	18:00	<b>MANNY</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>TOOFAN MAIL</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
6 June	18:00	<b>NIRVANA INN</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>FIRE OF TEAK FLAME OF CHINAR</b>	Modern Films	£5.50 plus £2 Q&A
	18:00	<b>DOUBLE BILL KANYA &amp; PERIOD</b>	Moderns	£5.50

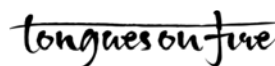
## TONGUES ON FIRE

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Tel: +44 20 8961 8908

[info@tonguesonfire.com](mailto:info@tonguesonfire.com)

[www.tonguesonfire.com](http://www.tonguesonfire.com)

The logo for Tongues on Fire, featuring the words "tongues on fire" in a lowercase, cursive, handwritten-style font.

Twitter: [#cometoukaff](https://twitter.com/cometoukaff) [#ukaff2021](https://twitter.com/ukaff2021)

Facebook/Instagram: [ukasianfilmfestival](https://www.facebook.com/ukasianfilmfestival)

Youtube: [tonguesonfire](https://www.youtube.com/tonguesonfire)

Due to circumstances beyond our control, screening times, titles and speakers may change. Please check with Tongues on Fire prior to booking. All tickets are subject to availability and early booking is recommended.

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# UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL TEAM

<b>FESTIVAL DIRECTOR</b>	Dr. Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE
<b>CREATIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Sâmîr Bhamra
<b>OPERATIONS DIRECTOR</b>	Saba Syed
<b>ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS &amp; YOUTH CURATOR LEADS</b>	Dr. Ashvin Immanuel Devasundaram & Dr. Monia Acciari
<b>FESTIVAL &amp; PROJECTS MANAGER</b>	Amandeep Dhillon
<b>SHORT FILM COMPETITION COORDINATOR</b>	Saz Vora
<b>COMMUNICATIONS DESIGNER &amp; MARKETING EXECUTIVE</b>	Hardish Matharu
<b>FESTIVAL ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Hridya Manek
<b>FESTIVAL CURATOR &amp; AMBASSADOR INDIA</b>	Suchin Mehrotra
<b>DEVELOPMENT OFFICER</b>	Aashish Parmar
<b>DIGITAL CONTENT</b>	Behzad Ahmad
<b>INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CHAIRS</b>	Dr. Ashvin Immanuel Devasundaram, Dr. Monia Acciari & Dr. Rohit Dasgupta
<b>PR, PRESS AND PUBLICITY</b>	Media House Global
<b>COPYWRITER</b>	Suchin Mehrotra
<b>HOSTS</b>	Aerica Singla, Anuj Radia, Ashvin Devasundaram, Ash Kotak, Bhaskar Choudhary, Feroza Adam, Harpal Bobby, Kaushik Bhattacharya, Meeta Joshi, Mukulika Banerjee, Nisha Aaliya, Rakhee Joshi, Suzi Mann, Vaani Kaur & Vasudha Wantu
<b>SHORT FILM COMPETITION INDUSTRY PANELISTS</b>	Amarpal Gaiind, Attika Choudhary, Rehmat Rayatt, Sonny Michael Chohan & David Kukadia at Smooth Demon Productions
<b>SHORT FILM CRITICS PANEL</b>	Anoushka Chakrapani, Diyin Lian, Gayatri Pasricha, Lynn Hong Wanlin, Morisha Moodley, Rupinder Kaur, Sofia Sadullah & Uma Kalyani
<b>YOUTH CURATORS &amp; CURATORS</b>	Adam Harcourt, Aditya Mittal, Amisha Patel, Anoushka Chakrapani, Christina Valentine, Devendra Modi, Hariharan Sivaji, Jędrzej Płociennik, Jessica Goodwin, Katharina Reichel, Kreet Tanna, Lola Mckinnon, Radha Bhandari, Ramakaushalyan, Ria Mathews, Sahil Bhardwaj, Shabana Sarguro, Sheeba Sehgal & Simona Liandzbergaitė
<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>	Aarti Thobhani, Amisha Patel, Anastasia Zarkogianni, Annietha Raj, Antonia Pyke, Aruna Reddy, Bobby Gurvinder Singh, Diyin Lian, Hariharan Sivaji, Juneyna Kabir, Katherine Pole, Mayukh Gayen, Nazeer Vawda, Nidhi Uppal, Puravi Kumar, Rainu Jansz, Ravinah Kapoor, Reshma Sharma, Roshni Sedani, Saanvi Gupta, Sheeba Sehgal, Tanvi Patankar, Vikash Tailor, Wanlin Hong & Yasmin Hales
<b>FESTIVAL FOUNDERS</b>	Dr. Pushpinder Chowdhry MBE & Mrs Harvinder Nath
<b>FESTIVAL CHAIR PERSON</b>	Rakhee Joshi
<b>ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS</b>	Jaanuja Sriskantha, Payal Seth, Saima Khan, Sana Soni, Suniya Quereshi, Vandana Dass & Vikas Dhir
<b>PATRONS</b>	Abhishek Bachchan, Lord Diljit Rana, Meera Syal CBE, Prof. Rachel Dwyer, Sabiha Sumar & Sunita Sangar



# THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

## Save The Date

Saturday June 26 & Sunday June 27, 2021

### KHUSHWANTSingh**lit**fest LONDON First Digital Edition

12.30 - 2.30 PM BST | 5.00 - 7.00 PM IST | 7.30 - 9.30 AM EDT

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Navtej Sarna | Zed Cama | Vikramjeet Sahney |  
Camellia Panjabi | Baroness Tessa Blackstone

#### FESTIVAL ADVISORY BOARD

Imtiaz Dharker | Sir Mark Tully | Purshottam Dhir

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