

South Asian Film Festival

...dissolving boundaries

saff-2012 – Goa
October 25-28,2012

SYNOPSIS OF FILMS TO BE SCREENED AT SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2012 OCTOBER 25-28, 2012-GOA

AFGHANISTAN

After 35 Years

Dir: Alka Sadat

Dur: 40 mins

Synopsis

After 35 Years Afghanistan has one of the world's worst ratings in terms of domestic violence. All of this stems out of a lack of family law in our judicial system. Those working on reform, work very hard to find solutions for this problem but face severe opposition by the conservatives. Meanwhile, the cries of women committing self-immolation and street-children in the dynamics of a society make one face with the stories of bitter realities and inspiring struggles.

We are Post modernist!

Dir: Alka Sadat

Dur: 8 mins

Synopsis

We are Post modernist is a symbolic film that shows the situation of homeless children in Afghan society. The camera focuses on both the poverty and homelessness of children in one hand, and on the other hand continuing their life in the poorest and the most miserable circumstances.

Hot Days Of Torkham

Dir: Aziz Dildar

Dur: 45 mins

Synopsis

Farhad is a police officer. for his daughter's heart surgery he needs a lot of money. his colleague, Afzal, persuades him to sell his weapon to the opposition and leave their outpost to them in return for money. Both Farhad and Afzal experience strange incidents on their way that makes them rethink their decision.

Mr. Fazili's Wife

Dir: Hassan Fazil

Dur: 14 mins

Synopsis

This feature film is about a woman beggar who does not have any guardian and tries to lead in independent life. The woman has a young girl whose eyes are losing its sights and needs to undergo an operation, and the mother leaves no stone unturned in getting her daughter's eyes cured. But in the traditional society of Afghanistan, the people expect her to be prostitute as she does not have any guardian, and cause her problems. The women, encounters all the problems lonely to avoid selling her body and keep her independence.

BANGLADESH

A Drop Of Love

Dir: Gulam Mostafa

Dur: 71 Mins

Synopsis

“In such a multicultural city as Toronto, there are no boundaries for love; here we meet Joe—driven to find a deep connection not only with another individual but also another culture. Joe begins his journey beyond familiar boundaries by riding his bicycle to a beachside park, where he meets a Bangladeshi woman named Afrin. Joe’s enthusiasm for learning about other people is matched by Afrin’s utter openness and approachability. They strike up a conversation, and soon they’re strolling the park together. Being a deep, intellectual soul, Afrin thrives on knowledge, and for a moment she forgets common sense and is taken away by her fascinating company—intrigued as she is by the thought of a Torontonionian so eager to learn about her culture. Their intimate discussion about life and imagination brings about feelings of nostalgia, and within the space of a few short hours, Joe’s mind steers a sharp course away from reality. Little does he know how far his journey will take him into the unknown..”

Amar Bondhu Rashed (My Friend Rashed)

Dir: Morshedul Islam

Dur: 100 mins

Synopsis

My Friend Rashed is the story of 1971 liberation war seen through the eyes of a young boy. The backdrop happens to be a remote small town, and the characters are a few students of a school. Rashed, the central character, suddenly appears in the school one day. His real name is not Rashed, it is a given name by his teacher along with some of the students. When the small boys fail to comprehend the impact of extremely troubling days of 1971, in his unique way, politically conscious Rashed explains its significance to them. The Pakistan army has started its military operation in the country, and one day they reach this small town too making Rashed the witness of a cruel annihilation.

Amrai Parbo (Yes We Can)

Dir: Gias Uddin Selim

Dur: 34 mins

Synopsis

Humayun, a college dropped out student, works with his father in his shop and leads a measurable life. Nevertheless, he posses tremendous singing talent. His college friends formed a musical band where he is also an artist. But one day, having a quarrel with his father, Humayun left home and took shelter in his old school friend, Shubho’s house. However, Shubho belongs to a decent educated family and they were worried about Humayun’s intrusion. Having a smell of their unwelcomed attitude, Humayun left Shubho’s home without informing anyone. That night he slept in a tea-stall and the other morning the scenario turned upside down. Taheer, a vicious character, who recently have been bailed from imprisonment, gave shelter to Humayun. Wittily Taheer involved Humayun in his terrorizing activities. Rest follows...

Charulata (The Lonely Wife)

Dir: Saiful Islam Mannu

Dur: 104 Mins

Synopsis

Charulata is based on a story by Rabindranath Tagore, Nاستانيرھ (The broken Nest) and set in Calcutta in the late nineteenth century. Bengal Renaissance is at its peak and India is under the British rule. The film revolves around Charulata / Charu the childless, intelligent and beautiful wife of Bhupati .He edits and publishes a political newspaper. Bhupati is an upper class Bengali intellectual with a keen interest in politics and the freedom movement.

Charu is interested in the arts, literature and poetry. Though Bhupati loves his wife, he has no time for her. She has little to do in the house run by a fleet of servants. Sensing her boredom, Bhupati invites Charu's elder brother Umapada and wife Manda to live with them. Umapada helps in running of the magazine and the printing press. Manda with her silly and crude ways is no company for the sensitive and intelligent Charulata. The film has subplots with story revolving on how Charulata gets disappointed when her aspirations are denied and later the regrets of Bhupati.

Uttorer Sur (Northern Symphony)

Dir: Shahneoyaj Cacoly

Dur: 113 mins

Synopsis

Chan Mia used to play Dotara instrument and sing Bhawaiya Song (folk) in the Northern meadows. It turned into his one and only profession. His miniature earning feeds his wife Ambia and daughter Ayesha. Ayesha also plays with music well. So, father and daughter used to roam around and move far in the hope of a bit income.

But the villagers didn't even intend to listen to folk songs because of cultural invasion. ChanMia couldn't stop the impact of western culture. Gradually poverty started ruling in his life. As singing couldn't bring the meal of one noon even. Even Ambia was fed up with the struggle of life and thus couldn't play with music anymore. And so she decided to leave music as it couldn't feed the stomach. Later, the film depicts their fight for survival.

BHUTAN

Sa Dha Nam (Of the Sky and the Earth)

Dir: Lhaki Dolma

Dur: 116 mins

Synopsis

Set in modern times Bhutan and Ladakh(India), Sa Dha Nam is a story about sacrifice and true love of a man who fights against time to save his dying soul mate. Sa Dha Nam also brings to light the thriving relationship Ladakh and Bhutan shared in the 17 th century, with cultural and religious similarities and the history that co-existed between the two. The film hopes to re-kindle the relationship in religious aspects by promoting pilgrimages to both countries.

Rigzel (Chencho Dorji) and Zumsel (Lhaki Dolma) are love birds from college. True love and determination on Rigzel's part knows no bounds for him to find a way to save his dying Love, struck by a terminal disease. The sacrifice he makes on his hunt for a solution makes him cross boundaries across to faraway Ladakh, where language proves to be another obstacle.

Seday

Dir: Karma Deki

Dur: 145 mins

Synopsis

Seday a love win story is being screened at RAPA hall Thimphu. It is Directed by Tshering Wangyel, Scripted by Tshering Penjor (Paco) and produced by three ladies. The lead role players are Chencho Dorji as Lopen Lethro a teacher, Lhaki Dolma as Seday a farm gal, Phurba Thinley as Lopen Sonam, another teacher, Lhamo Dukpa as Miss Dolma, teacher, Dad played by Aup Rapey Khandu and mum by Aum Lhamo.

INDIA

Film: All I want is Everything

Dir: Shital Morjaria

Dur: 62 mins

Synopsis

What are the women friendship songs one can remember in Indian cinema? There aren't any! When we hum the popular song from the film Sholay "ye dosti hum nahin chodenge" all we can see with our straight or squinted eyes are the main men protagonists Jai and Veeru. To see three women friends in a film, having a good time, without a love angle, song or a villain has not been explored by mainstream film makers yet.

In the cosmopolitan city of Hyderabad in South India three girls; Nidhi, Vaijanti and Trisha meet for a film appreciation course and become friends. Each girl has a story to tell. The underlying emotions of fears, desires, aspirations and well kept secrets are a part of their stories. Will their individual and combined journeys get them everything they ever wanted?

Let Them Blossom...

Dir: Amrita Dasgupta

Dur: 26min 30sec

Synopsis

Learning begins at home... Today with changing times and social structure, how relevant is this dictum? Let Them Blossom... is a mother's exploration into the existing practices of early childhood care and education in India. What begins as a personal query turns into an enriching journey in the realm of 3-5 year olds. Response of subject matter experts and practitioners keeps the mother's anxiety at bay and satisfies her curiosity. The film travels with her to various early learning setups. Through her first hand experiences, one witnesses government, community state partnership and NGO initiatives to universalize this education. The film touches upon these innovative aspects of preparing a child for the challenges of formal school and beyond...

Eka Eka "Meandering Reflections"

Dir: Subas Das

Dur: 134 Mins

Synopsis

Ekaa Ekaa is a film about being alone in the world and a search for what it means to be a good human being, in the meandering flow of life in its ordinary everydayness. This is the story of Om, a filmmaker who strives to bridge the gulf between his art and life by finding a common basis for both in responsibility and concern for the other. In the process he must confront his own inner exile and contradictions, memory and longing, and the nature of human relationships,. Like the waves of the sea, the ebb and flow of life continues and through it the film essays a journey and a quest.

1:30 am (Story of a Nishi)

Dir: Sourav De

Dur: 43 mins

Synopsis

A case in point, the film '1:30 am' is about a single character, Nishi, in her teens, who is torn inside by her split personality. Her struggle within herself and her exterior world are portrayed through her swinging moods of restraint, faith, fear, joy, strength and defeat. The stark reality of human turmoil living through darkness and isolation, yet amidst a make-believe world of happiness is time and again expressed through the life of Nishi. She moves like a pendulum between the good and the ugly through the journey of being caged within herself and her soul.

As we move through the silent phases of Nishi's life, the invisible power becomes overwhelming, leaving us at a mysterious crossroad of Nishi's existence and non-existence.

Mumbhai Connection

Dir: Atlanta Nagendra

Dur:90 mins

Synopsis

When Faisal, a hard working and honest Indian IT salesman in Atlanta, is laid off from his job, his troubles seem never-ending. He has massive debts and no employer wants to sponsor his work visa. Just as he's ready to give up and go back to India, his fate changes. Through a series of fortuitous events in a wild 70s themed Indian party, Faisal lands a job at a hot new startup called BA-IT. Ka-ching! Faisal is ecstatic at his good fortune.

However, things are not what they seem. Faisal learns that BA-IT provides IT services to the US mafia and is run by a shady Indian, Kal, who has links to the Mumbai underworld. Worse, Faisal is hounded by an eccentric undercover Indian cop to turn informer against Kal. Even worse, the US mafia do not want to buy from BA-IT anymore. His only friend seems to be his colleague – the gorgeous and innocent Tara. But what is her link to Kal?

Faisal's very life is in danger as he struggles to figure out what to sell, to whom and how. Stuck with no way out, Faisal is forced to make his boldest sale yet – a sale that is going to require all the persuasion and creativity he can muster, and to... go boldly where no salesman has gone before.

Narasajjana Narsary

Dir: C V Nandeeshwar

Dur: 93 mins

Synopsis

“Narasajjana Narsary” is based on a popular short story published in the Kannada weekly “Mangala”. This story is narrated with a non linear screen play, deals with the emotions of old age person neglected by his children and his plight with rapid urbanisation of his village against the nature. Curiosity builds while revealing about God gifted children and Narasajja's unusual sacrifice to protect them.

Mariola**Dir: Joe Rose****Dur: 120 mins****Synopsis**

The desire for a son drives many people to do many a strange thing. In the upcoming Konkani movie 'Mariola – the Girl Child Story' director and scriptwriter Joe Rose relates a hitherto untold side of girl child repression. It is a tale with a difference and does not deal with regular grisly story of girl child feticide. It is a story that will make you, the audience, sit up and take notice. It will provoke a thought process. And this is simply because the scriptwriter, veteran tiatr actor, Joe Rose has ventured to tell a story related to a girl child that has hitherto never been told.

**Films by Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India.****1000 Feet of Hope****Dur: 23 mins****Synopsis**

1000 Feet of Hope looks at the efforts of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahitya Samiti (BMVSS) in ensuring artificial limb fittings for the physically handicapped; more popularly known as the 'Jaipur foot'. The film traces the overwhelming volume of the organisation's charitable work and shares stories of those whose lives have been transformed after the fitment. Even as it raises concerns over the persistent discriminatory attitude of people against the physically handicapped, it notes that the 'Jaipur foot' enables one to be engaged in all activities that people with healthy limbs do. The film is an inspiring tale of people's resilience in trying times and the commendable efforts of the organization.

Six yards of grace**Dur: 23 mins****Synopsis:**

Considered to be the most iconic Indian garment, the saree goes thousands of years back in history. In its relatively recent emergence internationally, the saree has been applauded for its celebration of femininity and its fluidity as a costume that can be refashioned to suit changing times. The film travels in time and to regions, tracing the lineage of some regional prototypes of the saree. It also raises concerns about the survival of traditional weaves by looking at the dwindling numbers of traditional weavers in the face of technological innovations and rapidly changing market preferences.

Sound Check**Dur: 48 mins****Synopsis**

Sound Check looks at the developing music culture in contemporary India and explores the exciting variations of the 'Indian Sound' emerging from musicians across the country: a variety of sounds that are coming together and exploding in India's contemporary music culture, opening avenues for experimentation and hybridizations, plugging India's tradition of classical and folk music into a global music ideology and creating soundscapes that are international and yet Indian.

Faith revisited

Dur: 25 mins

The history of Indian civilisation is a living testimony of people's interdependency on nature. Oral traditions, scriptures, literature and legends celebrate this harmonious co-existence. The film explores how a deep realisation by those who lived in forests over centuries, that human survival was dependent on the environment, evolved into sacred religious practices that sought to conserve it. Rituals of animal and plant worship have a deeply embedded scientific rationale. Conservationists today are acknowledging the sway that these rituals hold over people's lives and using them creatively in environmental interventions. A historical awareness of these systems of thought can usher in innovative ways of environment conservation.

Selected Films from India Cinema

- 1) Raja Harishchandra
- 2) Kalia Mardaan
- 3) Jamai Babu
- 4) Aag
- 5) Yeh Saali Zindagi
- 6) Udaan
- 7) Singham
- 8) Paan Singh Tomar
- 9) Rajneeti
- 10) Sahib, Biwi aur Gangster

MALDIVES

INSAAF

Dir: Yoosuf Shafeeu Ali

Dur: 155 mins

Synopsis

Witnessing a gang fight in an island a young boy agrees to testify against them. To get rid of this youth, a police officer grossly connected to the gang associated to drugs , accused the witness of a serious drug case which later was concerned by the apprehensive personals who call out for justice. As a result, a police officer is sent to investigate and bring justice.

NEPAL

DIYALEE

Dir: Sachin Ghimire & Arun D Joshi

Dur: 50 mins

Synopsis

All first time actors enact their real life in a real setting of their own village. Diyalee is a story of a called "Thokarpa" in Sindhupalchowk district in central Nepal. An illiterate village woman's struggle to make her village educated. A film about marginalized Pahari community of Nepal. Diyalee is a story of a woman in the village, fond of singing and popular among the villagers. As she could not study despite of here eternal desire, she advocates about education in the village. She is helping hand in day to day problems of the village.

Buried in Tears

Dir: Ashok Thapa

Dur: 40 mins

Synopsis

"Buried in Tears" is a story about the dreams, hopes, despair and survival of migrant workers in South Korea. The South Korean government is deporting migrant workers and more than 100,000 unregistered migrant workers will be deported in year 2012. During a crackdown on migrant workers, Amnesty International documented cases where immigration officers, sometimes accompanied by the police, used unnecessary of excessive force and subjected migrant workers to ill-treatment. South Korea was one of the first Asian countries to guarantee the right of migrant workers but today migrant workers in the country are exposed to abusive work, conditions including discrimination, verbal and physical abuse.

We Are In The Field

Dir: Gabriel Diamond

Dur: 29 mins

Synopsis

A young Nepalese man struggles to protect the wildlife and natural habitat of his country. This is the first short documentary film in an anticipated series featuring idealists in action. This documentary follows Manoj Gautam, a 26 year old Nepalese man on a passionate quest to protect animals and wildlife from cruelty and extinction. As a child he was inspired by the work of Jane Goodall, and has since become her close friend and protégé. He founded Nepal's first wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center and Roots & Shoots branch. With minimal resources and no formal training he's creating a network of allies across the country, busting smugglers, protecting fragile eco systems, and rescuing abused animals.

PAKISTAN

All that Jazz

Dir: Umbreen Butt

Dur: 40 Mins

Synopsis

"All That Jazz" explores what Karachi was like in its hey day, the swinging 1950's, 60's and 70's when Goan and Anglo Indian jazz musicians dominated a multicultural and international music scene. Musicians reminisce over the pre-prohibition days before Islamization when cabarets and clubs were common place and society generally more tolerant.

City by the Sea: The future of Karachi's coastline

Dir: Mahera Omar

Dur: 34 mins

Synopsis

This documentary explores alternatives to haphazard development along Karachi's coastline in light of the basic principles of urban planning.

A Garden in Shigar

Dir: Mahera Omar

Dur: 18 mins

Synopsis

Nusrat, Khezran, Zakia, Asiya and Sajida are five young women from the scenic Shigar Valley in the mountainous northern areas of Pakistan. As interns with the Aga Khan Cultural Service Pakistan (AKCSP), their project is to landscape the Abruzzi secondary school's garden in the village of Sainkhor, Shigar, Baltistan. Tahereh, their guide and mentor, has come all the way from Los Angeles, California, to teach the women the principles of design and landscaping. In learning these skills to transform a rubble strewn field into a one-of-a-kind teaching garden, these women sow the seeds for their own transformation.

Sri Lanka

Nildiya Yahana (Deep Blue Sleep)

Dir: Dayaratne Ratagedara

Dur: 100 mins

Synopsis

Nildiya Yahana promises to be perhaps the beautiful love story. The narrative traces the tragedy of a teenage romance against the backdrop of political intrigue, violence, and corruption in contemporary Sri Lanka. In transcending death; like in ancient legend, the star-crossed lovers moved into the region of fable. Here it encodes within itself poetic truth and social observation.