



The 12th Annual
TASVEER SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL
Press Kit

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TASVEER BACKGROUND

Mission: To inspire social change through through-provoking South Asian films, art, and storytelling

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

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

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

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

Tasveer: *Tasveer.org*

Tasveer South Asian Film Festival: *<http://tsaff.tasveer.org>*



TSAFF FACT SHEET

The 12th Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF) is a 10-day festival of enlightening films and forums from and about South Asia and its diaspora to engage its viewers to dialogue openly on South Asian issues. TSAFF is the largest and most diverse South Asian film festival in the country with over 4,000 attendees, and 53 films shown in over 6 cities in 2017. TSAFF is produced by Tasveer and presented by Zee Cinema HD.

Festival Dates: October 6 – 15, 2017

TSAFF 2017 Details:

- Opening Night, Centerpiece and Closing/Award Night Galas with live music, performances, DJs, and more
- 19 features and 35 shorts
- Symposium at University of Washington: *Boundaries and Belongings*
- 25+ filmmakers and actors expected in attendance
- 11 countries represented including: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, France, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tibet, United Kingdom, United States
- Nepal in the Spotlight
- Festival Theme: We Belong
- Social Hashtag: #WeBelong #TSAFF2017

DATES TO NOTE

Special Festival Public Preview

Friday, September 8, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at Bellevue Arts Museum
510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Opening Night Gala: An evening showcasing Seattle premiere of the Nepali feature *Bijuli Machine* and short *The Woodpeckers of Rotha*, followed by Q&A, meeting with the filmmaker, food, drinks, music, and more.

Friday, October 6, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
Screening at Seattle Art Museum, 1300 1st Ave, Seattle, WA 98101
Reception to follow at Seattle Art Museum

Weekend 1: TSAFF Film Screenings

Saturday, October 7, 2017 | 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 8, 2017 | 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122



Monday, October 9, 2017 Screenings

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

UW Bothell

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Northwest Film Festival

Symposium: Boundaries and Belongings

Co-sponsored by the South Asia Center, University of Washington Seattle and Tasveer

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. to 9pm

Thomson Hall, University of Washington, Seattle

Filmmaking Workshop Led By Subarna Thapa

Monday & Tuesday, October 10 & 11, 2017 | 6pm to 10pm

Northwest Film Forum

Centerpiece Gala – Sonata

Friday, October 13 | 7:00 p.m. to 10pm

Regal Bella Bottega Stadium in Redmond, 8890 161 Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

Weekend 2: TSAFF Film Screenings

Saturday, October 14, 2017 | 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 15, 2017 | 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Followed by Closing Awards & Reception 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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

Tasveer TSAFF 2017 Audience Awards

Best Narrative

Best Short

Best Documentary



TSAFF 2017 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bijuli Machine (Nepal)

Opening Night feature film and reception
October 6, 2017
at Seattle Art Museum

Bijuli Machine is a social story revolving around two individuals' sense of responsibility to take an action. With a focus on human curiosity and the pursuit of excellence, this pioneer Nepali science film shows the power of thinking outside of the box, optimism, and perseverance against unfavorable odds. **Director Navin Awal is expected to attend.**

Pinky Beauty Parlor (India)

Sunday, October 8
at Northwest Film Forum

Pinky Beauty Parlour is an engaging and poignant tale of the repercussions this obsession for fairer skin has on a human mind, families and society in general. The Film takes us on a touching journey of two sisters' lives, Pinky and Bulbul, who run a beauty parlor. We enter a unique colorful world of the beauty parlor, and are drawn into a complex and engaging story of inter-mingled loyalties and insecurities. Also leaving a timely message for the audience to take home and chew on. **Director and Actor Akshay Singh and Co-Producer Bahnishikha Das Singh are expected to attend.**

Dobara Phir Se (Pakistan)

Closing Night feature film
October 15, 2017
at Carco Theatre

Dobara Phir Se is the unlikely love story of soul mates who just can't seem to be in the right place at the right time for the right reasons. A journey that teaches Hammad and Zainab that romance does not guarantee happiness, that relationships require unexpected sacrifices, and that love will find it's own way if you set it free. **Director Mehreen Jabbar expected to attend.**

Sonata

October 12, 2017
Regal Bella Bottega Stadium in Redmond

Sonata is the psychological exploration of three unmarried women namely Aruna Chaturvedi (Professor), Dolon Sen (Banker) and Subhadra Parekh (journalist) played by Aparna Sen, Shabana Azmi and Lillete Dubey respectively. Set in the recent contemporary past, it is about three friends, their lives, ups and downs, the men in their lives and a twist in the tale. It is a subtle, cosmopolitan, contemporary, film on women and the uncertainties of life, based in an urban scape. **Director and actress Aparna Sen is expected to attend.**



Program: LGBTQ Shorts

Centerpiece Gala Event

Monday, October 9

at Northwest Film Forum

I Am Bonnie - Bonnie has been on the run from his family and sports fraternity since failing 'sex test' right before the Bangkok Asian Games in 1998. A born Intersex, raised by poor, illiterate and confused parents as a girl child named 'Bandana', s/he went on to become one of the finest strikers in Indian women's football in her/his short career.

Poshida: Hidden LGBT Pakistan - Holding a mirror up to the Pakistani media, this rare and authoritative investigation spotlights a serial killer who preyed on gay men and the hunting of transgender women for TV entertainment. With unprecedented access, the film uncovers the hidden experiences of transgender men and lesbian women whilst dissecting the legacy of British colonialism and the impacts of US government's gay rights advocacy in Pakistan.

Escaping Agra - After being held against their will in India when their gender and sexual orientation is discovered, Naveen Bhat battles their parents in court and pieces their life back together.

Film subject Naveen Bhat expected to attend.

The Ritual of Exhile (Virtual Reality Experience Booth)

Available at all TSAFF 2017 programs

Creator and artist photographer Poloumi Basu expected to attend.

#WeBelong Program

Saturday, October 14

at Carco Theatre

A collection of shorts that capture the experiences of immigrants struggling to belong to their new home:

From the Land of Gandhi - A story of 4 immigrants, a decade after they came to study in the US, places a human face to the broken high-skilled immigration system. It sheds light on this largely unattended story of one million dreams waiting for freedom. It also highlights the need for reforming America's high-skilled immigration at a time of intense globalization and the retirement of the baby boomers.

Himalayan Refugee - This film documents the lives of asylum-seeking Pakistani Ahmadis in Nepal. Without government recognition as refugees and clearance to be resettled, some 350 asylum seekers are left in a limbo. This film is about their plight and their aspirations of a peaceful and dignified resettlement.



Over Time - It is a film about the impact that gentrification and technology are having on a tight-knit community living and working in Regent Park - the oldest low-income housing neighbourhood in Toronto. The film follows Shafiq Hoque, a Bangladeshi storeowner who is looking for new alternatives to supplement his income.

Five o-Clock Shadow - An Indian-American mother's worst fear rises to the surface when she is the victim of racial abuse.

Gorka Earthquake Program

Tuesday, October 10

at University of Washington's South Asia Center

Nepal Earthquake: Heroes, Survivors and Miracles - The film documents the devastation caused by the April 25th Earthquake in Nepal (April 25th, 2015, 11:56AM, 7.8 MHZ) and the physical and psychological scars left on the Nepali people.

107.2Mhz - Radio Melamchi 107.2 is a documentary about Radio Melamchi, a community based FM station situated at Dubachaur, Sindhupalchowk. This documentary is all about how Radio Melamchi helped the people as a media after the massive earthquake hit Nepal on April 25, 2015 being victim themselves.

Himalayan Peaks – the first-ever Tibetan program

Sunday, October 8

at Northwest Film Forum

Silent Dusk - Deeply moving and beautifully shot, Tibetan-language short Silent Dusk tells the tale of two people finding love in their twilight years.

My Son Tenzin - A monk from Tibet arrives in Oakland in California searching for his son, Tenzin, who is untraceable. He meets another Tenzin, a Tibetan taxi driver, who offers help in locating his son. The two embark on a journey and, along the way, discover things about themselves and each other that put in sharp relief the inescapable realities of their common fate: as a people of imperiled identity and vanishing culture. **Tenzin Lungtok, Supporting Actor and Dickyi Wangmo, Co-Screenwriter of My Son Tenzin are expected to attend.**



Window Into My Life Shorts Program

Saturday, October 7

at Northwest Film Forum

Three incredible short films from India:

Khidkee – A housewife, Madhu and a screenplay writer, Ashween live across the road from each other, and get glimpses of one another's lives from their living room windows. Little do they know that their minds have their own windows.

Leeches – Raisa lives with her Ammi and three younger sisters in Hyderabad's Old City. When Ammi promises her 13-year old daughter, Zainab, in marriage to a foreign businessman, Raisa decides to save her little sister at any cost. Desperate to find a way out, she hatches a dangerous and improbable plan involving an archaic remedy that claims to restore a girl's virginity.

Shanivaar Ko Do Baje – It is the story of an extramarital affair between two working people. They have a clandestine rendezvous, practically every Saturday at two, at a borrowed nest; or is it just that? The story explores the connection that has formed between the two within and despite the restrictions imposed by the clandestine nature of the relationship. **Parimal Alope, lead actor and director of *Shanivaar Ko Do Baje* expected to attend.**



EXPECTED FILMMAKERS AT TSAFF 2017

NAME	ROLE/PROGRAM	PROGRAM DATE
Abinash Pradhan	Producer, <i>Sambalpuri Weaver</i>	Saturday, October 14
Akshay Singh	Director, <i>Pinky Beauty Parlor</i>	Sunday, October 8
Aparna Sen	Director, <i>Sonata</i>	Thursday, October 12
Bahnishikha Das Singh	Co-Producer, <i>Pinky Beauty Parlor</i>	Sunday, October 8
Bidyut Kotoky	Director, <i>Guns and Guitar- a musical travelogue</i>	Sunday, October 8
Bimal Subedi	Producer, <i>Dying Candle</i>	Saturday, October 7
Dickyi Wangmo	Co-Screenplay Writer, <i>My Son Tenzin</i>	Sunday, October 8
Erin Galey	Director, <i>Sahasi Chori</i>	Sunday, October 15
Faizan Faiz	Director, <i>Poshida</i>	Friday, October 13
Hiran Balasuriya	Director, <i>The Joyous Farmer</i>	Sunday, October 15
Mehreen Jabbar	Director, <i>Dobara Phir Se</i>	Sunday, October 15
Naresh Kumar	Director, <i>Dying Candle</i>	Saturday, October 7
Naveen Bhat	Director, <i>Escaping Agra</i>	Friday, October 13
Navin Awal	Director, <i>Bijuli Machine</i>	Friday, October 6
Paloumi Basu	Director, <i>The Ritual of Exile</i>	October 6-15
Parimal Alope	Director, <i>Shanivar Ko Do Baje</i>	Saturday, October 7
Rajesh James	Director, <i>Naked Wheels</i>	Saturday, October 14
Subarna Thapa	Director, <i>Chhora</i> Filmmaking Workshop	Sunday, October 15
Sushan Prajapati	Director, <i>The Shame</i>	Sunday, October 15
Tenzin Lungtok	Supporting Actor, <i>My Son Tenzin</i>	Sunday, October 8

To arrange interviews with attending or non-attending filmmakers or talent, please contact Michelle S. Leyva at michelle@michellesanderspr.com.



TSAFF 2017 TICKET INFO

Online Ticket Sales

Tickets for each program can be purchased online at www.tasveer.org until 11:59 p.m. the night before respective show times. Tickets will be available at the venue's Will Call.

Box Office Sales

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

Opening Night Gala

Friday, October 6, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

\$50 Regular

\$40 SAM Members

Film Screenings

\$12 Regular | \$10 Senior & Student (with ID)

\$10 Early Bird (Purchase before 9/30/17)

Special Screening Pricing

10/12/2016: \$15 Regular | \$10 Senior & Student (with ID)

Centerpiece Screening

\$25 Regular | \$20 Senior & Student (with ID)

\$20 Early Bird (Purchase before 9/30/17)

Closing Film + Awards Ceremony and Closing Reception

Screening & Closing Reception:

\$25 Regular | \$20 Student (with ID) and Early Bird (Purchase before 09/30/17)

Script to Screen Filmmaking Workshop

\$150 Registration Required

Panels are FREE to attend



TSAFF 2017 FESTIVAL PASSES: LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

ALL ACCESS

\$150 Regular | \$100 Early Bird (Before 9/30) | \$80 Student (with ID)

Get easy access to all events and films!

WEEKEND 1 PASS

\$100 Regular | \$80 Early Bird (Before 9/30)

All events from Oct. 6 through Oct. 11, including Opening Night Gala and Symposium (excludes filmmaking workshop)

WEEKEND 2 PASS

\$100 Regular | \$80 Early Bird (Before 9/30)

All events from Oct. 12 through Oct. 15, including Centerpiece and Closing Night Events

Seating

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

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



PRESS INFORMATION

Festival Publicist:

Michelle S. Leyva, [Michelle Sanders Communications](#)
(206) 595-1151
michelle@michellesanderspr.com

Festival Screenings and Event Access

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

Screener Access

For access to physical and online screeners of the films of the 12th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival, please contact the Festival publicist listed above.

Interview and Media Inquiries

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

Media Materials

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

Media Guidelines

All media requesting access to events, screeners, and press assets of the 12th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival presented by Tasveer (TSAFF 2017) must be on editorial assignment and should be prepared to provide proof of assignment or editorial contact upon request. Contact Festival Publicist with questions.

Recording and photography of the events of TSAFF 2017 should be limited to red carpet events, pre- and post-screening interviews, and lifestyle elements. Photography should be for editorial use only. Any other use, including but not limited to commercial and promotional use, is expressly prohibited and strictly enforced. Footage of any film shown at TSAFF 2017 may not be used without the filmmaker's consent. All footage clips intended for television broadcast or online streaming shall not exceed 15-minutes in length and no individual clip shall exceed three minutes in length. Streaming of any Festival films or events is strictly prohibited and Tasveer reserves streaming rights for all TSAFF 2017 content and events. Print and online media may create capsule reviews, feature articles, and mentions for any Festival film regardless of format, on the condition that reviews for films with U.S. distribution be held until the film is released commercially. Any violations of these guidelines will result in revocation of media credential(s) and removal from TSAFF 2017, and may result in legal action.



TSAFF 2017 SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

Zee Cinema

SILVER SPONSORS:

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VENUE PARTNERS

Gardner Center for Asian Art & Ideas
Bellevue Arts Museum
Northwest Film Forum
Carco Theatre

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Blanket Fort Films
Consulate General of India
Trikone Northwest
Port of Seattle
Nepal Rising
Nepal Seattle Society
Northwest Sherpa Association
Seattle chapter of Newah Organization of USA
Northwest Tamu (Gurung) Society
Bhutanese Nepali Group



TSAFF 2017 TEAM

Festival Director: Rita Meher
Programming Director: Kiran Dhillon
Festival Manager: Tameem Ansari
Marketing Lead: Nidhi Chaudhry
Sponsorship Lead: Khenrab Palden
Symposium Lead: Alka Kurian, Keith Snodgrass,
Maya Magarati, Pasang Sherpa

Nepal Country Advisor
Maya Magarati

Festival Publicity
Michelle Sanders Communications

Programming Committee
Nalini Reddy
Srivatsava Sreedhara
Jayanika Lawrence
Jayant Gupchup
Paramita Ghosh
Abhishek Kulkarni
Rajesh Korde
Rasanga Weerasinghe

Marketing
Nidhi Chaudry
Jayant Gupchup
Smeeta Hirani

Website
Sumathi Raghavan
Tameem Ansari
Pooja Galgali
Devyani Charde

Content Writers
Alka Kurian
Pasang Sherpa

Festival Coordinators
Yolekha Mallier
Uzma Khan
Prachi Vora

Guest Liaisons
Shannon Kohli

Tasveer Board
Rita Meher, Co-founder and Executive Director,
Tasveer
Farah Nousheen, Co-founder, Tasveer
Alka Kurian, Board President
Archana Soy
Debadutta Dash
Shahina Piyarali
Sheraz Malik
Uzma Khan
Prachi Vora (Incoming)