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## Full Film and Programming Slate Announced for 12th Annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival, Set to Open with Nepali Feature, **BIJULI MACHINE**

October 6-15, 2017 throughout greater Seattle

**SEATTLE, Wash. (September 6, 2017)** – With great excitement, the United States largest of its kind, Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF) proudly announces its programming lineup for the 12th annual Festival being held at venues throughout greater Seattle. The Festival will take place October 6-15, 2017 and includes 18 feature films and 38 shorts from 11 countries, plus a filmmaking workshop and a symposium examining the homogenization of film and art as well as sexual politics in South Asia. For the first time ever, TSAFF will also offer a Virtual Reality Experience Booth at every programmed event, featuring “Blood Speaks: A Ritual Of Exile,” a photography exhibit from Indian artist, Poulomi Basu, amongst others. This Friday, September 8, TSAFF will host a special launch party preview event of the Festival at Bellevue Arts Museum, showing shorts and offering other Festival previews all while celebrating Nepali culture, the theme of this year’s Festival. Tickets are on sale now to the public and can be purchased at [tsaff.tasveer.org](http://tsaff.tasveer.org) or by calling (206) 349-4478.

The Opening Night Gala celebration will be held at Seattle Art Museum and kicks off the ten-day Festival on Friday, October 6, featuring the Nepali feature film *Bijuli Machine*, the story of two scientists on a quest for an alternative energy source, set to be honored after the screening with a reception at SAM. The film’s director Navin Awal is expected to attend.

On Tuesday, October 10, in partnership with the South Asia Center at the University of Washington, faculty, students, TSAFF filmmakers, and the public will come together for a one-day symposium titled “Boundaries and Belongings,” an opportunity to gather and dialogue on timely and relevant cultural and political, national and intra-national issues that plague the eight nation-states of South Asia. “The annual Symposium we host at the University of Washington during the Festival is a critical opportunity for us to fulfill our mission in a unique way. We provide an opportunity for filmmakers to visit one of the best institutions in the country and engage in a discussion with the academia and inspire a positive change or awareness for the students, staff, and the general public,” Rita Meher, Tasveer Executive Director said. On October 9 and 10, Tasveer will also host a Master Class filmmaking workshop led by highly acclaimed Nepali filmmaker Subarna Thapa, director of *Soongava*, the 2014 official entry for the Oscars from Nepal. This is the first-time Tasveer has brought a South Asian director from overseas to this Festival and in the hope of offering attendees a truly unique South Asian perspective and style in filmmaking.

This year’s Centerpiece Gala on Friday, October 13 at Redmond’s Regal Bella Bottega Stadium theater will present the contemporary film, *Sonata*, a film featuring renowned actress and director Aparna Sen who is also expected to be in attendance.

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The Festival's Closing Awards and Reception in Renton on Sunday, October 16 features *Dobara Phir Se*, a Pakistani romantic drama that is the unlikely love story of Zainab, a divorced mother, and Hammad who learn that romance does not guarantee happiness, that relationships require unexpected sacrifices, and that love will find its own way if you set it free. This feature will be accompanied by a screening of *Cola*, a short that follows a young man in search of a long-lost acquaintance and a glass of cola that unlocks a door to many memories. "We're closing out TSAFF with a fantastic Pakistani film, giving audiences a preview of what's to come in 2018 with our upcoming focus on Pakistan and Pakistani film and culture," Meher said.

Nepal is in the spotlight at TSAFF 2017 with a diverse array of truly remarkable films. The films selected from Nepal highlight how diverse and intricate Nepali culture and stories truly are.

In addition to its country of focus each year, TSAFF also selects a theme that weaves through its entire Festival of programming. This year's theme is #WeBelong. "We were moved to select #WeBelong as the theme of not only the Film Festival this year, but of all Tasveer events because of the recent upswing in incidents of hate and violence against immigrants," Meher explained. "TSAFF will provide a much needed platform for both artistic expression and community discourse on the subject of belonging in this nation of immigrants."

Over the past decade, TSAFF has grown to become the largest, longest, and most diverse South Asian film festival in the United States. It is the only one of its size with an emphasis on human rights and social justice, instigating vital and groundbreaking conversations about minority oppression, immigration, women's issues, and globalization engaged through the art of film from across the South Asian sub-continent.

A full schedule of screenings and special events is available online at [tsaff.tasveer.org/2017/](http://tsaff.tasveer.org/2017/). Single tickets are \$10-\$12 general admission; various discounts available. Special event ticket prices vary. Passes cost \$100-\$150 with full-fest, first weekend, and second weekend passes available. All proceeds support Tasveer. Sponsorship levels and benefits available online or contact the Executive Director at [info@tasveer.org](mailto:info@tasveer.org).

### **COMPLETE SCHEDULE**

#### **12th TASVEER SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

*The latest schedule can always be found at [tsaff.tasveer.org/2017](http://tsaff.tasveer.org/2017)*

#### **Opening Night Gala**

Friday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. – Seattle Art Museum

**Bijuli Machine** (dir. Navin Awal, 1 hr 45 min, Nepal)

*Seattle Premiere*

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

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film shows the power of thinking outside of the box, optimism, and perseverance against unfavorable odds.

***The Woodpeckers of Rotha*** (dir. Pooja Gurung, Bibhusan Basnet, 16min, Nepal)

Atimaley and Devi's village is haunted by memories. When a dear friend leaves the village without saying "goodbye", the old couple faces a dilemma; to keep living with the memories or to leave the village for good?

Opening Night Gala to follow at Seattle Art Museum.

### **Animated Youth Program**

Saturday, October 7 – Northwest Film Forum

12:00 p.m.

***Three Braves*** (dir. Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, 95min, Pakistan)

Roshan Basti was a vibrant and thriving colony before one event changes the town for a long time to come. For ten years, the townsfolk live in fear of Mangu and his thugs and no one is brave enough to stand up to them. Armed with courage and super powers, young Saadi, Amna, and Kamil must rise to the occasion and save their town from the evils that plague it.

### **Youth & Sports Program**

Saturday, October 7 – Northwest Film Forum

2:00 p.m.

***Dribbling Dreams*** (dir. Varun Tandon, 7min, India)

*Seattle Premiere*

Dribbling Dreams is a short documentary about a rural basketball movement brewing in India and how sports are being used by a spirited individual to empower children coming from difficult backgrounds.

***Zaffar and Tuddu*** (dir. Kavita Carneiro, 67min, India, Afghanistan)

*World Premiere*

Zaffar, an Afghan-born Indian from Kolkata, goes to Kabul to coach Afghanistan's National Rugby team for its first international game. Tudu returns home to start a grassroots movement to bring Rugby to every Dalit child. The challenge of bringing an unfamiliar sport to an atypical place brings out their distinct personalities. What unravels is a story of perseverance and self-discovery.

***Makaan*** (dir. Salik Ansari, 36min, India)

*North American Premiere*

Makaan is a story of construction worker community through one's family struggle. The film expresses differences in the way of response through the perspectives of children and the elderly,

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where the children transform the hard reality. In their games, leaves are turned into money and a ten rupee note becomes a butterfly.

Saturday, October 7 – Northwest Film Forum  
4:00 p.m.

***Tulasi Apa*** (dir. Amiya Patnaik, 120min, India)

Born and brought up in a tribal region of Odisha, Tulasi Munda did not allow the poverty, illiteracy discourage her in educating her village children, which eventually grew into a huge movement. She self taught herself to be able to teach them. Tulasi Munda protested each and every act of injustice and discrimination and turned the tide in favor of her fellow beings. The film encapsulates the essence of Tulasi Munda's life and highlights her achievements.

**Shorts – Window Into My Life**

Saturday, October 7 – Northwest Film Forum  
7:00 p.m.

***Khidkee*** (dir. Rohan Kanawade, 39min, India)

*World Premiere*

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.

***Shanivaar ko do baje*** (dir. Parimal Alope, 30min, India)

*Seattle Premiere*

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.

***Leeches*** (dir. Payal Sethi, 27min, India)

*Seattle Premiere*

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.

Saturday, October 7 – Northwest Film Forum  
9:00 p.m.

***Dying Candle*** (dir. Naresh Kumar, 127min, Nepal)

*Seattle Premiere*

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A sister fights against all odds to take care of her younger brother. When things fall apart, she is left with no option but to sell her dignity to save him.

***Heaven is Black*** (dir. Raj Kumar Rai, 4min, Nepal)

*United States Premiere*

*Heaven is Black* is a film about child psychology and perception towards heaven. Among three boys, Buddhi decides to go to heaven.

**Program: Video Art Installation in The Lobby of Northwest Film Forum**

Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7

***The Bookshelf*** (dir. Sandeep Ravindranath, 3 min, India)

*International Premiere*

Acts of intolerance towards books, films, faiths, people of alternate sexual orientations, paintings, art installations, individuals, institutions, eating habits and so on that do not tug a majority narrative, have become an everyday occurrence in India. This narrative portrays the intolerance towards one such group - books, authors and publishers, and what that portends for our progeny.

***Connections*** (dir. Nikhil Ghodke, 9min, USA)

An experimental piece that presents a comparative visual study between East and West, with a reflective, interpretive tone.

***Shutter Down*** (curator Anam Abbas and various, 22min, Pakistan)

Curated video installation programming containing experimental work of Pakistani artists. Shorts include: Shor Bazaar, Lahore Bites, Lanat, Chota Dev, A Poem for Sabeen, White as Snow, The First Light and Main.

**Himalayan Peaks**

Sunday, October 8 – Northwest Film Forum

12:00 p.m.

***My Son Tenzin*** (dir. Tashi Wangchuk/Tsultrim Dorjee, 70min, Tibet)

*Seattle Premiere*

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.

***Silent Dusk*** (dir. Dandrin Dorje, 35min, Tibet)

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

Sunday, October 8 – Northwest Film Forum  
12:00 p.m.

***Arifa*** (dir. Sadia Saeed, 91min, UK/Pakistan)

*Arifa* faces a crisis in her life when her escalating feelings for the intriguing but evasive 'professional gamer,' Riccardo, coincide with the reappearance of her estranged black-market-tobacco-peddling father, Hameed.

Sunday, October 8 – Northwest Film Forum  
2:00 p.m.

***Guns and Guitar – a musical travelogue*** (dir. Bidyut Kotoky, 94min, India)

*Guns and Guitars* track the journey of the director Bidyut back to his root - northeast India. Filmed as a travelogue, this musical quest brings to light the positive influence of music emanating from the youth living in this region, which is crippled by state and non state violence for the last half a century. The journey finally culminates on the celebratory night of 24th May with Bob Dylan's birthday concert.

Sunday, October 8 – Northwest Film Forum  
4:00 p.m.

***Pinky Beauty Parlor*** (dir. Akshay Singh, 127min, India)

*United States Premiere*

*Pinky Beauty Parlour* is an engaging and poignant tale of the repercussions the obsession with 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.

Monday, October 9 – UW Bothell  
1:00 p.m.

***Blood Leaves Its Trail*** (dir. Iffat Fatima, 93min, India)

*North American Premiere*

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The film *Blood Leaves its Trail* enters the vexed political scenario in Kashmir through the lives of families of the victims of enforced disappearances. The film is a non-sequential account of personal narratives and reminiscences ruptured by violence, undermined by erasure and over-ridden by official documents that challenge truth. Made over nine years it explores memory as a mode of resistance, constantly confronting and morphing- from the personal to political, individual to collective. It looks at the ways in which those affected by violence have no choice but to remember.

Monday, October 9 – Northwest Film Forum  
6:00 p.m.

***Script to Screen*** – Filmmaking Workshop

Nepali director Subarna Thapa will be conducting an intensive filmmaking masterclass, teaching aspiring filmmakers how to take a film concept from the script all the way through filming.

7:00 p.m.

***I Am Bonnie*** (dir. Sourabh Kanti Dutta, Farha Khatun, 45min, India)

*North American Premiere*

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*** (dir. Faizan Fiaz, 29min, Pakistan)

*Seattle Premiere*

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*** (dir. Pallavi Somusetty, 23min, USA)

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.

Tuesday, October 10 – UW, South Asia Center

**Boundaries and Belongings**

Despite the shared cultural, political, and historical legacies, the eight nation-states of South Asia—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives—stand divided along national and intra-national borders by means of conflicts, wars, and brutalizations of

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caste, ethnic, religious, and gendered bodies. And yet, alternative imaginaries of South Asia by means of dialogue and dissent through art (film, music, literature) demonstrate the ways in which we all belong despite the borders that separate us from each other. Join us for two panel discussions that bring students, professors, filmmakers, and the public together for a thoughtful and engaging conversation on these topics. Panel participants will explore the ways in which film, literature, popular music, and TV dramas diversify South Asian cultural production and resist monolithic forces of universalism, such as those perpetuated by Bollywood.

11:00 a.m.

**Panel 1: Cultural Homogenization and Dissent in South Asia**

Panel participants will discuss the ways in which a growing number of protests led by young, non-mainstream feminists in South Asia are targeting the culture of misogyny in the region using a global language of dissent, and initiating a ripple effect for a plethora of other movements in South Asia against forces of internal/neo-colonialism.

2:00 p.m.

**Panel 2: Decolonizing Sexuality in South Asia**

This panel will examine the issue of sexual politics in South Asia. Lead panel organizers will write a comprehensive panel descriptor enumerating the ways in which a growing number of protests led by young, nonmainstream feminists in South Asia is targeting the culture of misogyny in the region using a global language of dissent, and initiating a ripple effect for a plethora of other movements in South Asia against forces of internal/neo-colonialism.

4:00 p.m.

***Nepal Earthquake: Heroes, Survivors and Miracles*** (dir. Ganesh Panday, 45min, Nepal)

*North American Premiere*

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

***107.2Mhz*** (dir. Rajeela Shrestha, 5min, Nepal)

*North American Premiere*

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.

6:30 p.m.

***Maya's Husk Husband*** (dir. Jyoti Simha Thakuri, 47min, Nepal)

*United States Premiere*

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Embarrassed by her prolapsed uterus, Maya hides her pain. From dawn to dusk, she tenaciously completes her chores, fearing the uncertainties that could befall her and her family. Sundare, Maya's Husk Husband (Bhusko Logne), fails to be the husband she deserves.

***The Knot*** (dir. Saaya Ashok, 10min, Nepal)

In seven and a half hours, Ramakanta and Tulasi fight over everything. They blame their age, they blame their circumstances, but in the end they show that love tramples differences of caste, and of desires.

### **Centerpiece Gala**

Friday, October 13 – Regal Bella Bottega Stadium Redmond  
7:00 p.m.

***Sonata*** (dir. Aparna Sen, 103min, India)

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.**

Saturday, October 14 – Carco Theatre (Renton)  
12:00 p.m.

***Maple*** (dir. Jasleen Kaur, 47min, Canada)

*World Premiere*

Maple Batalia, a 19 year old health sciences student, aspiring actress and model, was gunned down on September 28, 2011. This documentary sheds light on prevalent issues in the community, such as gender inequality and domestic violence, particularly in the South Asian community.

***Our Time*** (dir. Arpita Kumar, 10min, USA)

Through fragmented recordings on devices such as iPhones and iPads and the fallibility of human perspective, a child discovers the rupture in her family and is forced to make a difficult choice.

**Program: #WeBelong**

2:00 p.m.

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***From The Land of Gandhi*** (dir. Prakash Wadhwa, 49min, India)

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*** (dir. Nikhil Singh Rajputt, 28min, Nepal)

*Seattle Premiere*

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.

***Code-Switched*** (dir Karan Sunil, 15min, USA)

A group of first-generation South Asians in Chicago face the pressures of living double lives between their families and society while chasing their own ambitions in love and the workplace.

***Five o'Clock Shadow*** (dir. Sangeeta Agrawal, 7min, USA)

*Seattle Premiere*

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

### **Program: Naked Wheels**

4:00 p.m.

***Ladies and Gentlewoman*** (dir. Malini Jeevarathanam, 46min, India)

The first movie in the Tamil scenario, this documentary tends to dialogue about the conspicuous silence about the body politics and relationship which is misspelled as social stigma. Acceptance of such norms emerges from constant fight against socially acclaimed identities.

***Naked Wheels*** (dir. Rajesh James, 30min, India)

The film is about the journey undertaken by a diverse group of people comprising males, females and transgenders across South India in a truck. The film seeks to explore many compelling thoughts on life, love, and gender.

***Is It Too Much To Ask?*** (dir. Leena Manimekalai, 30min, India)

The film follows the journey of two friends Smile and Gladys - looking for a rental apartment in Chennai and the obstacles and social stigma they encounter in not just looking for a home but being single and the fact that they are transgender women.

### **Program: Short Docs**

6:00 p.m.

***The Eldest Son*** (dir. Amy Benson, 30min, Nepal)

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A short documentary about Kumar Darnal, a young Nepali man who goes as a migrant laborer to Malaysia. The film is an intimate look at the financial and emotional toll this risk took on him as well as this whole family.

***Cotton Fields from the Ivory Tower*** (dir. Faisal Hossai/Non Fiction Media, 17min, Pakistan)

The lives of two struggling Pakistani farmers are juxtaposed against that of an academic film maker from the University of Washington and his proposed solutions. This documentary sheds light on an innovative approach to bridging the chasm between peer-reviewed research and real, on-the-ground implementation of new environmental technologies.

***Sambalpuri Weavers*** (dir. Abinash Pradhan, 20min, India)

A film about the struggle of the Sambalpuri weavers. This unique art has been proudly passed to the generations of Western Odisha for generations producing 'ikat' fabrics. The Ikat technique of manufacturing handlooms is known as 'tie and dye technique' and is also known as bandha' technique in Odisha.

8:00 p.m.

***Saawan*** (dir. Farhan Alam, 138min, Pakistan)

*United States Premiere*

Saawan is a story of a 9-year-old Baluchistani boy, stricken by polio in Pakistan. Touching upon the true story of a disabled child, the film is a "quest for survival" and survival against all odds. Shot in a barren wasteland of Baluchistan, Saawan, who initially feels helpless because of his disability, but eventually rises above evils that surround him. The film that seems to depict harsh realities of life may prove to be inspiring for all those disabled people who think their disability can hinder their growth in anyway.

### **Program: Shorts Special**

Sunday, October 15 – Carco Theatre (Renton)

11:30 a.m.

***The Joyous Farmer*** (dir. Hiran Balasuriya, 15min, Sri Lanka)

*Seattle Premiere*

Ratnapala is an impoverished and alcoholic farmer living in Sri Lanka's dry zone. Having sold all his possessions to drown his sorrows, he lacks industry and motivation. His environment is desolate and his future is bleak. After an encounter with a government official, he is prescribed an experimental drug to enhance his work ethic. **Director Hiran Balasuriya expected to attend.**

***The Shame*** (dir. Sushan Prajapati, 20min, Nepal)

Individuals born into a life of a bonded labor (kamaiya) never have a voice of their own. What

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happens when they suddenly find the freedom that they always wished for? Such is the plight of one innocent man, who is torn between the life of unpaid slavery that he has left and this new existence where he is struggles to find his identity. All he wants is two yards of cloth, enough to reclaim his dignity.

***Sisak*** (dir. Faraz Arif Ansari, 15min, India)

Drawing its opening lines from Haruki Murakami's *Sputnik Sweetheart*, the beginning sets the tone for what is to follow — an expected trajectory played out in the most unexpected way. *Sisak* is likely to strike a chord on an individual and interpersonal level, regardless of whether the story is one that seems plausible in one's own life. A return to the unspoken, unsaid and universal expressions of love, on the path of subtlety and humanity, *Sisak* is the result of the belief that if love knows no bounds, it need not be bound with words, either.

1:00 p.m.

***Ghraan (The Smell)*** (dir. S M Kamrul Ahsan, 30min, Bangladesh)

*The Smell (Ghraan)* is a nostalgic episode of an established businessman- "Ahkam". One day, stuck in traffic, he takes an unusual road that eventually connects his child-hood memory.

***Chhora*** (dir. Subarna Thapa, 25min, Nepal)

Krishna is allowed to leave prison in order to spend the Christmas holidays with his young son, Simon, and his wife, Irene. A few hours before his return to prison, Krishna realizes that what will keep him alive behind bars is the love of his son, as well as his wish to pass on to him what is both their culture. **Director Subarna Thapa expected to attend.**

***Sahasi Chori (Brave Girl)*** (dir. Erin Galey, 20min, Nepal)

Curious and determined 13-year-old, Bhumika (Albina Dahal), leaves her Himalayan village for the first time, only to discover that the city is not what she imagined and that her friend, Krishna (Jeewan Adhikary), is keeping a secret that may change her life forever.

3:00 p.m.

***Dobara Phir Se*** (dir. Mehreen Jabbar, 126min, Pakistan)

*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.**

***COLA*** (dir. Abhay Raha, 13min, India)

*North American Premiere*

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A young man ventures out to perform the last rights of his mother, he finds himself in search of an elderly man, a conversation ensues once he finds the man and the realize their connection and become closer than ever before.

### **Program: Virtual Reality Experience Booth Available At All Festival Programming**

#### ***Yeh Ballet*** (dir. Sooni Taraporevala, India)

Dancing is a passion of the rich, believes Manish Chauhan, the 21-year-old son of a taxi driver in suburban Mumbai. Yet he, like his friend, 15-year-old Amiruddin Shah daydream of becoming principal ballet dancers in big American companies. Ballet arrived in their lives as a lucky accident only three years ago, when Yehuda Maor discovered their talent. A scholarship to study at New York's prestigious Joffrey Ballet School doesn't materialize after they are rejected for US visas. Today Amir Shah is poised to attend ABT (American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Onassis School). He is being funded by a billionaire Indian scientist Dr. Yusuf Hamied chairman of Cipla. Since this film was made Amir's story has caught the global eye and he has been written about and filmed extensively. His BBC story got 2 million hits. Yeh Ballet is Manish Chauhan's story before they found global recognition.

#### ***When Borders Move*** (Shubhangi Swaroop, India)

Hunderman, a village at the Indian border, has witnessed four wars. From 1949 to 1971, it belonged to Pakistan. During the 1965 war, it was disputed land for around three months. In 1971, the Indian Army captured Hunderman. Overnight, the people in the village became Indian and the ones left behind in Pakistan, refugees. Ghulam Hussein's fate was among those caught in the fluid nationalities and shifting borders. Through all his years in exile, he longed for home. His family, in turn, memorialized him by transforming his home into a Museum of Memories.

#### ***Submerged*** (Nishtha Jain, India)

Every year during monsoons, the rivers flowing through Bihar submerge over 60% of the state under water. Since the construction of a spate of dams and barrages across the state in the past few decades, the rivers have started to silt and the spill-over water washes away entire villages. In most cases without any warning. In July 2016, in the wake of rising water levels, panicking villagers cut away a portion of a mud dam, leading to a torrential burst of water that inundated hundreds of villages downstream. With houses and crops destroyed, the film moves through the submerged landscape of the people affected by the most devastating flood in Bihar since 2008. Repeated disasters leave people here to live with lower incomes perennially.

#### ***Blood Speaks: A Ritual of Exile*** (Poulomi Basu, India/UK)

Blood Speaks is an immersive investigation into the causes and consequences of normalized violence against women perpetrated under the guise of tradition. Focused on the ritual of Chaupadi in Nepal, which strikes at the roots of patriarchy, viewers experience the domestic monthly exile suffered by Nepalese women during menstruation and following bleeding at childbirth.

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Blood Speaks is a co-production between Nonny de la Peña's Emblematic Group and JAPC. TASVEER presents a preview of the forthcoming project, which is due to be released in late 2017.

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

**WHAT:**

***Tasveer South Asian Film Festival***

The 12th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF) is 10-days of meaningful films and forums on South Asia and its diaspora, aimed at engaging its viewers in open dialogue on issues of human rights and social, political, and economic injustice. This year's Festival will focus on Nepal and its art, culture, and stories. Festival goers will have access to 52 films that will screen in six cities throughout greater Seattle, making TSAFF the largest South Asian film festival in the United States.

**WHEN:**

**October 6-15, 2017**

**WHERE:**

Seattle Arts Museum (Seattle)  
Northwest Film Forum (Seattle)  
Carco Theatre (Renton)  
UW Seattle  
UW Bothell  
Bellevue Arts Museum (Bellevue)  
Regal Bella Bottega Stadium (Redmond)

**TICKETS:**

**ON SALE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

**PHOTOS:**

For available images or artwork, please inquire.

**SOCIAL:**

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**About Tasveer**

Farah Nousheen and Rita Meher founded Tasveer in March 2002 in Seattle, soon after 9/11/2001. Troubled by the stereotyped and highly prejudicial images of South Asians depicted in the mainstream media at that time, they sought to dispel those mischaracterizations by giving South Asians a chance to

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speak for themselves. They selected storytelling—specifically, through art and film—accompanied by community dialogue, as their method. Tasveer means picture in Hindi/Urdu.

Tasveer's first screening was held at The Elliot Bay Book Company during Gay Pride Month 2002, and since then, Tasveer has become an arts and culture fixture in the Seattle and Eastside area. Each year it produces three major festivals: the South Asian Film Festival; the South Asian International Documentary Film Festival; and Aaina – South Asian Women's Focus festival. Tasveer also organizes and sponsors numerous other programs related to South Asia and its diaspora. Since 2002, Tasveer has shown over 800 films, has welcomed over 15,000 audience members to its events, and has empowered over 100 women to share their life experiences onstage in Yoni Ki Baat. Tasveer was incorporated as a non-profit organization in March 2004 and is fully federally recognized 501c3 organization.

*The 12th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival is sponsored in part by Zee Cinema, City of Bellevue, City of Renton, City of Redmond, People Tech, UW South Asia Center, Sukarya USA, Pratham Seattle, Best in Class Education Center, DuBois Cary Law Group, PLLC, Friends of WPC Nepal, Hamid Ali: Realtor, Broker, MBA, MS, K&L Gates, Madison Avenue Realty, LLC, Mayuri Family of Businesses, Philip N. Georgas / Assist2Sell, 4Culture, Office of Arts & Cultur, ArtsWA, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Desi 1250AM, ParentMap, Seattle Globalist, The Stranger, International Examiner, KBCS, KUOW, The Seattle Pipeline, Gardner Center for Asian Art & Ideas, Bellevue Arts Museum, Northwest Film Forum, Carco Theatre, 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.*

**For Festival screeners, interviews, press kits, and available images, please send requests to:**

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