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**AN OPEN CALL TO “KNOW ME”: TASVEER SEEKS SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
13TH ANNUAL TASVEER SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL
SEPT 28T- OCT 7TH, 2018**

SEATTLE, WA, April 17th, 2018: Tasveer announces an open call to all filmmakers to submit films with content covering South Asia and its diaspora for the 13th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF), the largest South Asian film festival in America. This year’s spotlight is Pakistan, and the theme - #KnowMe - asks filmmakers and audience members alike to challenge narratives and assumptions about South Asia. TSAFF will open with a red carpet event on September 28, featuring filmmakers from around the world to kick off ten days of film screenings and panel discussions at multiple venues across the Greater Seattle area.

The festival will feature work by two-time Oscar-winning Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy. One full day will be dedicated to a symposium with visiting filmmakers at the South Asia Center, University of Washington. Panels with filmmakers will let audiences participate in conversations about current social, political, and economic justice in South Asia, the diaspora and beyond. The festival will commence by honoring recipients of the Tasveer Emerald Award, Archana Soy Audience Award, and Jury Award. Filmmakers are encouraged to submit their entries by the early bird deadline of May 15th or June 15th, the late deadline. Submissions can be entered at [FilmFreeway](#). Entrants from Pakistan will receive an entry fee waiver.

Tasveer is thrilled to welcome NW Emmy® Award-winning producer Laila Kazmi as the Programming Director for TSAFF2018. “I’m truly honored to be part of a festival, which for so many years has made a valuable contribution to our region here in the Pacific Northwest,” says Kazmi. “The unique and thoughtful programming that TSAFF presents not only entertains but also deepens our understanding of the diverse cultures of South Asia and its diaspora. As programming director for this year’s festival, I look forward to continuing that tradition.”

TSAFF2018’s theme is timely and relevant especially in light of the divisive political and social climate around the world. #KnowMe is an attempt to bridge that divide with thoughtful films that will allow Northwest audiences a unique insight into the peoples and cultures of South Asia. Tasveer’s Executive Director Rita Meher says the hashtag is a perfect fit: “There have been so many stereotypes and prejudices faced by the South Asian community. We just want to be known by the stories we present.” With a question mark, #KnowMe? challenges societal definitions of being Pakistani and/or South Asian. Add a period, and #KnowMe. becomes a statement. This year’s theme is an invitation to engage and get to know the people of South Asia on their own terms, through their own stories.

Co-founders Rita Meher and Farah Nousheen formed Tasveer after witnessing the prejudice and hate that targeted Muslims and South Asians following 9/11. Since their first film screening in 2002, Tasveer has become a beacon, illuminating South Asian voices from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the diaspora. With its year-round programming, Tasveer harnesses the power of art through film and storytelling to engage in dialogue, debunk stereotypes, and celebrate culture.

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