



## 13th ANNUAL TASVEER SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Press Kit

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## **ABOUT TASVEER**

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

**About Tasveer:** Founded in March 2002, Tasveer is a vibrant and vital platform for artistic expression serving Seattle's South Asian community—those with roots in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Tibet. Tasveer is dedicated to providing a space and stage for South Asians to share their truths aloud, without being stifled by culture, community, fear, or stigma. Through films, visual art, stage performances, and--most importantly--dialogue among artists, activists, and the community, Tasveer brings to light difficult issues that demand attention and discussion.

**Our Story:** Tasveer (meaning “picture” in Hindi/Urdu) was co-founded by Rita Meher and Farah Nousheen. At a chance meeting in Seattle in 2001 the two women discovered a shared passion for telling the stories of South Asians as well as a commitment to dispelling stereotypes about their community—an urgent need in the United States post-9/11. Later that year they attended a South Asian Festival in San Francisco, which helped to cement their ideas for a festival and an organization in Seattle. Tasveer emerged within a few short months and quickly became the platform for South Asians living in the Puget Sound area to share their stories with the broader community. Screening independent films, documentaries, and shorts throughout the city, the organization started small, but had a big vision.

**Programs:** Tasveer produces three key events each 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, and the Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF) is held in the fall.

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

Website: *Tasveer.org*

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

## TSAFF 2018 FACT SHEET

The 13th Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF) is an 11-day festival of illuminating films from and about South Asia and its diaspora. Forums and panel discussions bring together filmmakers, community leaders, and audiences to engage in open dialogue on South Asian issues, with a focus on questions surrounding human rights and social justice. TSAFF is the largest and most diverse South Asian film festival in the country with over 4,000 attendees viewing films in three cities in the Greater Seattle Area. Sixty-five films, including thirty from female directors, are screened. TSAFF is produced by Tasveer.

### **Festival Dates: September 28 – October 7, 2018**

#### TSAFF 2018 Highlights:

- Opening Night, Centerpiece, and Closing/Award Night Galas with live music, performances, DJs, and more
- 22 features and 42 shorts
- Symposium at the University of Washington on freedom of speech in Pakistan, featuring panel discussion of *Perween Rehman* -- 22+ filmmakers and actors expected to be in attendance
- 10 countries represented: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Canada, India, Israel, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States
- Pakistan and its emerging film industry in the spotlight
- Festival Theme: Know Me
- Social Media Hashtag: #KnowMe #TSAFF2018

### **Tasveer TSAFF 2018 Awards**

Archana Soy Tasveer Audience Award

Feature Narrative

Feature Documentary

Short Film

Tasveer Emerald Award for Contribution to Film in South Asian

## TSAFF 2018 DATES TO NOTE

### **Thursday, September 13**

**TSAFF Launch: An Evening with Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy, two-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker from Pakistan. Including, screening her Oscar-winning film *A Girl In the River*, and a Festival Sneak Peak**

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m

Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University  
901 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122

### **Friday, September 28**

**Opening Night Red Carpet Gala: Seattle Premiere of Pakistani feature *Cake* (2018), followed by Q&A with the filmmaker and reception and musical performance by local band Nasha**

5:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Seattle Art Museum  
1300 1st Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

### **Saturday, September 29 - Sunday, September 30**

**Weekend 1 Seattle Screenings, including VR shorts**

Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. | Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. |  
tasVR screenings both days 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

SIFF Film Center  
305 Harrison Street, Seattle, WA 98109

### **Monday, October 1**

**Bellevue Art Museum**

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

Bellevue Arts Museum  
510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

### **Tuesday, October 2**

**Industry Panel: Get Your Movie Made and Seen**

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Roy Street Coffee & Tea  
700 Broadway Ave E.  
Seattle, WA, 98102

### **Wednesday, October 3**

University of Washington South Asia Center

7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m

Thomson Hall 101, UW Seattle

**Thursday, October 4****Centerpiece: Salam: The First \*\*\*\*\* Nobel Laureate**

7:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m

University of Washington South Asia Center/Department of Physics sRonald Geballe Auditorium  
(Physics-Astronomy Auditorium) UW Seattle**Friday, October 5****Symposium: Freedom of Speech in Pakistan**

University of Washington Bothell

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thomson Hall, University of Washington  
King Lane Northeast, Seattle, WA 98105**Saturday, October 6****Weekend 2 Seattle Screenings, Panels: Full weekend of films, panel discussions**

1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Northwest Film Forum

1515 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

**Sunday October 7****Seattle Premiere of *Pataakha*, Q&A with the filmmaker Vishal Bhardhwaj,**

12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Egyptian, Capitol Hill

**TSAFF 2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS****Opening Night Red Carpet Gala with screening of *Cake*****(Pakistan, 2018, 125 minutes)***September 28, 2018, Seattle Art Museum 6:30pm*

The most anticipated event of TSAFF features the groundbreaking, internationally acclaimed Pakistani comedy-drama *Cake* (2018).

“*Cake* changes the game for Pakistani cinema.” – The Globe & Mail

A family drama, where the sisters must confront the wounds of their past and find a way back.

**Director Asim Abbasi and cast members Sania Saeed are expected to attend.**

**Screening and Panel Discussion: *Drawn Together: Comics, Diversity, and Stereotypes* (USA, 2017, 52 minutes)***September 29, 2018, SIFF Film Center 2:00pm*

The panel discusses the pervasive culture of racist stereotyping in U.S. society through the lens of

comics and their dynamic creators.

**Director Harleen Kaur and comic book artist Vishavjit Singh are expected to attend.**

**Screening: *Lala Begum* (Pakistan, 2016, 58 minutes)**

*September 29, 2018, SIFF Film Center 6:00pm*

Two estranged sisters meet at their family home after 20 years and end up unearthing many skeletons in their closet. **Director Mehreen Jabbar is expected to attend.**

**Screening: *My Pure Land* (UK, 2017, 98 minutes)**

*September 29, 2018, SIFF Film Center 8:00pm*

Selected as the British entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2017 Academy Awards, *My Pure Land* tells the true story of Nazo, a teenage girl, who with her younger sister and mother take up arms to defend their rural home after a bitter family feud leads to her father's incarceration.

**Screening: *A Letter to the President* (Afghanistan, 2017, 83 minutes)**

*September 30, 2018, SIFF Film Center 4:00pm*

*A Letter to the President* explores justice for women under Afghan law. Director Roya Sadat is one of the first female directors from Afghanistan to bring Afghan films to the west. Her film was selected as her country's entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2017 Academy Awards.

"Roya Sadat...has emerged as one of her nation's most important artistic voices for women." - *Los Angeles Times*

**Screening and Panel Discussion: *A Better Man* (Canada, 2017, 73 minutes)**

*October 1, Bellevue Art Museum 7:00pm*

Illuminating a unique paradigm for domestic-violence prevention, *A Better Man* offers a fresh and nuanced look at the healing and revelation that can happen for everyone involved when men take responsibility for their abuse. It also empowers audience members to play new roles in challenging domestic violence, whether it's in their own relationships or as part of a broader movement for social change.

A panel discussion with activists from API Chaya following the screening will explore the impact of #MeToo on South Asian communities.

**Centerpiece Screening: *Salam - The First \*\*\*\*\* Nobel Laureate* (Pakistan, 2018, 75 minutes)**

*October 4th, University of Washington 7:00pm*

*Salam* is the definitive story of Abdus Salam, the first Pakistani to win the Nobel Prize. The film captures in vivid detail his life's journey—from a small village in Pakistan to worldwide scientific acclaim—and his fraught relationship with his homeland, where he faced rejection for being a member of the "heretical" Ahmadiyya movement. **Directors Zakir Thaver and Omar Vandal are expected to attend.**

**Symposium at University of Washington Bothell**

*October 5, 2018 at University of Washington Bothell 10 a.m.*

Screening of the feature film *Perween Rehman: The Rebel Optimist* (Pakistan, 2016, 67 minutes)

followed by a panel discussion.

**Screening: Dechen Roder, *Honeygiver Among the Dogs* (Bhutan, 2016, 92 minutes)**

*October 6th, Northwest Film Forum 5:00pm*

In this “Buddhist noir,” an undercover detective investigates the case of a missing Buddhist nun and falls into a risky alliance with his only suspect--Choden, an alluring woman known as the village “demoness.”

**Closing Night: An Afternoon with Renowned Bollywood Director Vishal Bhardwaj**

**Following a screening of his latest film, *Pataakha* (India, upcoming release September 2018)**

*October 7th, Seattle University 3:30pm*

Based on Charan Singh Pathik's short story Do Behnein, *Pataakha* narrates the story of two feuding sisters who realize the true nature of their relationship only after marriage separates them.

**EXPECTED FILMMAKERS AND CAST AT TSAFF 2018**

NAME	ROLE/PROGRAM	PROGRAM DATE
Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy	Director, <i>A Girl in the River</i>	Thursday, September 13
Asim Abbassi	Director, <i>Cake</i>	Friday, September 28
Sanam Saeed	Star, <i>Cake</i>	Friday, September 28
Aamina Sheikh	Star, <i>Cake</i>	Friday, September 28
Mehreen Jabbar	Director, <i>Lala Begum</i>	Saturday, September 29
Harleen Kaur	Director, <i>Drawn Together</i>	Saturday, September 29
Vishavjit Singh	Subject/Actor, <i>Drawn Together</i>	Saturday, September 29
Sarah Khan	Director, <i>Surviving Surveillance</i>	Sunday, September 30
Mo Naqvi	Director, <i>Inshallah Democracy</i>	Wednesday, October 3
Zakir Thaver	Director, <i>Salam</i>	Thursday, October 4
Omar Vandal	Director, <i>Salam</i>	Thursday, October 4
Sarah Menzies	Director, <i>Afghan Cycles</i>	Saturday, October 6
Sudeshna Sen	Director, <i>Mehndi</i>	Saturday, October 6
Danish Renzu	Director, <i>Half Widow</i>	Saturday, October 6
Seemab Gull	Director, <i>Zahida</i>	Saturday, October 6
Sunayana Dumala	Subject, <i>Do We Belong?</i>	Sunday, October 7
Pulkit Datta	Producer, <i>Do We Belong?</i>	Sunday, October 7
Vishal Bhardwaj	Director, <i>Pataakha</i>	Sunday, October 7

To arrange interviews with attending or non-attending filmmakers or talent, please contact Kamna Shastri, 206-841-1902, [kamna@taveer.org](mailto:kamna@taveer.org)

## TSAFF 2018 TICKETING INFORMATION

### **Online Ticket Sales**

Tickets for each program can be purchased online at [www.tasveer.org](http://www.tasveer.org) until 11:59 p.m. the night before respective show times. Tickets can be picked up 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 screening based on availability. Please note the on-site ticket price is higher for the Opening Night Gala.

#### TSAFF Launch and Festival Sneak Peek

\$55 VIP  
\$35 Regular  
\$15 Student

#### Opening Night Gala

\$55 Regular  
\$45 SAM Members

#### VIP Reception

\$100 Regular  
\$90 SAM Members

### **Film Screenings**

\$10 Early Bird (through 9/15/18)  
\$12 Regular | \$10 Senior & Student (with ID)

### **Special Screening Pricing**

\$15 Regular | \$10 Senior & Student (with ID)

### **Centerpiece Screening**

\$20 Early Bird (through 9/15/18)  
\$25 Regular | \$20 Senior & Student (with ID)

### **Closing Film + Awards Ceremony and Closing Reception**

Screening & Closing Reception:

\$35 Regular | \$30 Student (with ID) and

Panels are FREE



**TSAFF 2018 FESTIVAL PASSES: LIMITED AVAILABILITY!**

**ALL-ACCESS PASS**

**\$150 Early Bird (through 9/15)**

\$250 Regular || \$150 Seniors and Students (with ID)

Get easy access to all events and films!

**WEEKEND 1 PASS**

\$80 Early Bird [through 9/15]

\$125 Regular | \$80 Seniors & Students

The Weekend 1 pass gives you access to all events from September 28th through October 2nd, including the Opening Night Gala. (\$200 value)

**WEEKEND 2 PASS**

Early Bird \$80 [through 9/15]

Regular \$125 | \$80 Seniors & Students

The Weekend 1 pass gives you access to all events from October 3rd through October 7th, including the Closing Night Gala. (\$200 value)

**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: Kamna Shastri

206-841-1902

[kamna@taveer.org](mailto:kamna@taveer.org)

### **Festival Screenings and Event Access**

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

### **Screener Access**

For access to physical and online screeners of the films of the 13th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival, please contact the festival publicist.

### **Interviews and Media Inquiries**

Please contact the festival publicist 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](http://tsaff.tasveer.org) and clicking “Press” in the upper right-hand corner. For attribution information, please contact the festival publicist.

### **Media Guidelines**

All media requesting access to events, screeners, and press assets of the 13th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival presented by Tasveer (TSAFF 2018) must be on editorial assignment and should be prepared to provide proof of assignment or editorial contact upon request. Contact the festival publicist with questions.

Recording and photography of TSAFF 2018 events 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 2018 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 3 minutes in length. 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 2018, and may result in

legal action.

**TSAFF 2018 SPONSORS**

**SILVER SPONSORS**

City of Redmond  
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Bellevue Arts Museum  
Gardner Center for Asian Art & Ideas  
The YMCA  
ACLU Washington

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KVRU 105.7 FM

91.3 KBCS

Rishtey Cineplex

**VENUE PARTNERS**

Northwest Film Forum

SIFF

Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Blanket Fort Films

Trikone Northwest

Wing Luke Museum

Department of Gender, Women and Sexual Studies

Three Dollar Bill Cinema

Seattle NOW

### **TSAFF 2018 TEAM**

Festival Director: Rita Meher

Programming Director: Laila Kazmi

Website Lead: Sumathi Raghavan

Website Coordinator: Jitendra Joshi, Nalini Kumar

Publicity Lead/ Tasveer Program Manager: Kamna Shastri

Symposium Lead: Samuel Ostroff, Sunila Kale (South Asia Center, UW Seattle), Alka Kurian, S. Charusheela (UW Bothell)

Sponsorship Coordinator: Khenrab Palden

Tasveer Volunteers/Festival Coordinators: Soumya Chauhan, Siddhi Ghai, Pooja Choksi

Festival Coordinators; Saira Bano, Sheraz Malik, Anushey Nasar, Uzma Khan, Omar Vandal, Shahina

Piyarali, Pooja Galgali, Shannon Kohli, Mohammad Ranjbar, Bharati Ravi, Seyyada Burney, Morgan Wells

TasVR Lead: Soumita Bhattacharya

Emcee: Smeeta Hirani

Content Creator: Uma Kukathas

Photographer: Abhishek Kulkarni

### **TASVEER BOARD**

Rita Meher, Co-founder/ Executive Director, Tasveer

Farah Nousheen, Co-founder, Tasveer

Shahina Piyarali, Board President

Alka Kurian, Secretary

Debadutta Dash, Treasurer

Sheraz Malik

Prachi Vora

Ananya Rabeya

Sumathi Raghavan