

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### TASVEER REVEALS PROGRAM LINEUP FOR THE 13TH TASVEER SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

**SEATTLE** - On Tuesday afternoon, Tasveer revealed the full lineup for the 13th Tasveer South Asian Film Festival. Nineteen of the sixty three films - about a third - are from this year's focus country Pakistan. The films were all thoughtfully chosen by Programming Director Laila Kazmi and Festival Director Rita Meher in collaboration with a selection committee.

"We are bringing you some of the best, most unique films to come out of South Asia in the last year, particularly from Pakistan," said Laila Kazmi. "And you won't see them anywhere else in Seattle except at the Tasveer festival."

This year's film list promises an exciting lineup, beginning with highly acclaimed Pakistani film *Cake*. Director Asim Abbasi along with many visiting filmmakers, including stars Sanam Saeed and Aamina Sheikh, will walk the red carpet at the opening night gala, along with other filmmakers.

"I am extremely honoured that *Cake* has been selected as the opening night film for Tasveer this year," said Abbasi. "During our general release in the US this year, we did not get a chance to open the film in the State of Washington, so I am really excited that people in Seattle will finally get a chance to see it now."

The following days are filled with meaningful films and panel discussions. The films in this lineup are strong and bold, exploring important political and social issues in South Asia and the diaspora.

Some highlights:

- In *A Better Man*, director Atiya Khan goes back to confront an abusive ex and reveals a surprising healing process.
- *Do We Belong ?* Explores the contested question of who is American, and whether South Asians belong here through the experience of Sunayana Duamala, whose husband was killed in a hate crime in Kansas in 2017.
- *Drawn Together*, a film and panel discussion questions what a superhero looks like in order to explore representation in the media.
- *Honeygiver Among the Dogs* from Bhutan, a country with a small film industry and an even smaller pool of women directors.
- *My Pure Land*, UK's entry for the Oscars in the foreign language category.
- *Pataakha*, the Seattle premiere of critically acclaimed director Vishal Bhardhwaj's upcoming film.

In addition to shorts and feature films, the program also includes Virtual Reality films, shown on multiple days during the festival as free screenings. The program, listed below, is now public and available online: [tasveer.org](http://tasveer.org)

## 13th ANNUAL TASVEER SEATTLE SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM

### 1. **A Better Man**

*Attiya Khan & Lawrence Jackman, 73 min, Canada, 2017*

**[Oct. 1th, 7pm, Bellevue Art Museum]**

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. **Seattle Premiere.**

### 2. **A Girl In the River: The Price of Forgiveness** *Sharmeen*

*Obaid-Chinoy, 40 min, Pakistan, 2016*

**[Sept. 13, 6:30pm, Seattle University, Pigott Auditorium]**

A woman in Pakistan is sentenced to death for falling in love and becomes a rare survivor of the country's harsh judicial system.

### 3. **A Letter to the President**

*Roya Sadat, 1 hr 23 min, Afghanistan, 2017*

**[Sept. 30th, 4pm, SIFF Film Center]**

Soraya is a public official struggling to enforce the law in Afghanistan today. When she decides to save a young woman accused of adultery from the justice of a clan, things spiral for the worse. **Seattle Premiere.**

### 4. **A Prayer for the Childless**

*Sandeep Ravindranath, 9 min, India, 2018*

**[Sept. 30th, 2pm, Northwest Film Forum]**

A woman trapped in the dutiful bondage of an Indian arranged marriage struggles against the crippling stigma of childlessness.

### 5. **Afghan Cycles**

*Sarah Menzies, 90 min, Afghanistan, 2018*

**[Oct. 6th, 4:30pm, Northwest Film Forum ]**

What lengths would you go to in order to ride a bicycle? Following a new generation of young Afghan women cyclists, *Afghan Cycles* uses bicycle to tell a story of women's rights - human rights - and the struggles faced by Afghan women on a daily basis, from discrimination to abuse, to the oppressive silencing of their voices in all aspects of contemporary society.

### 6. **Beyond the Heights**

*Mirza Ali, 47 min, Pakistan, 2015*

**[Oct. 6th, 1pm, Northwest Film Forum ]**

*Beyond the Heights* is a documentary film based on the true story of the first Pakistani female mountaineer to climb Mount Everest at the age of 22. **Seattle Premiere.**

**7. Cake**

*Asim Abbasi, 125 minutes, Urdu, UK/Pakistan, 2014*

**[Sept. 28th, 6:30pm, Seattle Art Museum]**

When the ageing parents of the Jamali family in Karachi are taken ill, the eldest daughter and sole caregiver, Zareen, is forced to reconnect with her sister, Zara, on her return from London. Burdened with guilt and resentments, the sisters must confront the wounds of their past and find a way back. **Seattle Premiere.**

**8. Chaabii**

*Kishlay Singhai, 14 min, India, 2018*

**[Sept. 29th, 4pm, SIFF Film Center]**

In the middle of the night, a neighbor knocks on the door and asks for help.

**9. Chudala**

*Maaria Sayed, 15 min, India, 2016*

**[Oct. 6st, 12pm, Northwest Film Forum]**

Based on an Indian mythological story of a woman turning into a man in order to seem significant to her family, this film tells the story of a Muslim girl Rukhsana who returns to her house as a man- and is haunted by the memories of her life as a woman.

**10. Counterfeit Kunkoo**

*Reema Sengupta, 15 min, India, 2017*

**[Sept. 30th, 2pm, SIFF Film Center, Theatre B]**

In a country where marital rape is not a legal crime, it took a lot for Smita to escape an abusive marriage. She lives in a one room apartment in Mumbai, earning her living by making imitation mangalsutras (necklace worn by married women). But the recent tranquility of her life is shaken when the doorbell rings. Smita finds herself fighting beasts of a different kind as she discovers a strange prerequisite to renting a house in middle-class Mumbai. Will Smita find her space? Is there any hope for liberation - societal and/or sexual? Will the doorbell ever stop ringing - again and again? Counterfeit Kunkoo isn't a feisty feminist retort to the deep-seated misogyny that finds its way into everyday life. It is an exploration of the idiosyncrasies that come with it, the battles one must fight, and whether winning or losing those battles matters at all.

**11. Do We Belong?**

*Sofian Khan, 14 min, US, 2018*

**[Oct. 7th, 12pm-Short Films, Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University]**

An Indian immigrant in Kansas is shot and killed in a senseless hate crime, leaving his wife to grapple with the question of whether America is truly her home.

**12. Drawn From Life**

*Adrienne von Wolffersdorff, Celine Francois, 16 min, USA, 2017*

**[Sept. 29th, 2pm-with Drawn Together, SIFF Film Center ]**

Raj is a talented artist who creates detailed pencil drawings of people's faces, including portraits of the Sikh gurus he most admires. After struggling with depression and anxiety for years, Raj is now returning to his artwork with a renewed sense of purpose and connection to his faith and family.

Reengaged with his community, Raj now works to help others through his art by sharing his personal experiences.

### **13. Drawn Together**

*Harleen Kaur, 52 min, USA, 2017*

**[Sept. 29th, 2pm-after Drawn from Life, SIFF Film Center ]**

'Drawn Together: Comics, Diversity and Stereotypes' looks at the pervasive culture of racist stereotyping in U.S. society through the lens of comics and their dynamic creators. **Seattle Premiere.**

### **14. Dreams**

*Athithya Kanagarajan, 10 min, India, 2017*

**[Oct 6, 4pm-Short Films, Northwest Film Forum]**

A paper boy wants to invite Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to his school annual day event. Kalam Sir accepts the invitation too. What happens next is the rest of the short film.

### **15. Dust to Dust**

*Mahnoor Zaidi, 12 min, Canada, 2017*

**[Oct. 6th, 1pm-Short Films and Beyond the Heights, Northwest Film Forum]**

'Dust to Dust' touches upon the fundamental truth of life - death - and the eternal human quest to transcend it. In the ageless city of Lahore, Pakistan, it is business as usual for Ashraf as he digs yet another grave. His work as a gravedigger requires him to deal with death on a daily basis. Nevertheless, as he digs deeper, he grows firmer in his resolve to rise above darkness.

### **16. Facing Sunrise**

*Julia Kwan, 9 min, Canada, 2018*

**[Sept 30th, 2pm, SIFF Film Center ]**

While dealing with one of the darkest times of her life, processing family trauma and recovering from injury, Azzah overhears a conversation around the question, "what do you want to do before you die?" Inspired and energized, she rushes home and begins her bucket list. Although she has never seen herself as much of an adventurer, she realizes she's capable of more than she ever imagined.

We pick up with Azzah in her own personal sunrise as she redefines what she wants her life to look like. Her story is one of identity, self-discovery and answering the call of the natural world. It reminds us that there's a difference between living and just being alive.

### **17. Gorakh Dhanda**

*Ali Osman Bajwa, 17 min, Pakistan, 2016*

**[Sept. 29th, 6pm-Short Films and Lala Begum, SIFF Film Center ]**

A movie that juggles between the character and the writer and defines who drives a story - the writer or his characters?

### **18. Grains of Gold**

*Ali Atif, 11 min, Pakistan, 2017*

**[Oct. 6th, 1pm-Short Films, Northwest Film Forum ]**

A nomadic tribe searches for gold specks along the riverbed in the remote areas of Northern Pakistan.

**19. Grandpa and I**

*Ali Sohail Jaura, 23 min, Pakistan, 2018*

**[Oct 6, 4pm-Short Films, Northwest Film Forum]**

After the death of her parents, Erum (Saboor Ali) goes on to spend her childhood with her loving grandfather (Qavi Khan). The two live happily together until it is time for Erum to pursue studies abroad, and the two bid farewell to each other with heavy hearts, promising to keep in touch through letters. Erum's life abroad moves further and further away from her grandfather, until she receives a letter from him one day, and realizes it is time for grandfather's little sparrow to return to her nest.

**20. Half Widow**

*Danish Renzu, 91 min, India, 2017*

**[Oct. 6th, 8pm, Northwest Film Forum ]**

Amid the backdrop of the Kashmiri conflict, a young woman must come to grips with the disappearance of her doting husband and embarks on a harrowing journey of self-discovery.

**21. Her. Him. The Other**

*Prasanna Vithanage, Vimukthi Jayasundara, Asoka Handagama, 114 min, Sri Lanka, 2018*

**[Oct. 6th, 11, Northwest Film Forum ]**

Three Sri Lankan filmmakers renowned for their internationally acclaimed films based on the Sri Lankan civil war, join in to make one film to express their views on post-war reality. **Seattle Premiere.**

**22. Honeygiver Among the Dogs Dechen**

*Roder, 135 min, Bhutan, 2016*

**[Oct 6th., 5pm, Northwest Film Forum ]**

In this “Buddhist noir” an undercover detective (Kinley) 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.” **Seattle Premiere.**

**23. If You Dare Desire...**

*Debalina Majumder, 52 min, India, 2017*

**[Sept. 30th, 12PM, SIFF Film Center]**

In February 2011, two girls Swapna and Sucheta commit suicide in West Bengal, India. Their bodies remained unclaimed by family and society. If You Dare Desire/ Abar Jadi Icchha Karo ... builds on this protest of love and death. **Seattle Premiere.**

**24. Inshallah Democracy**

*Mohammed Naqvi, 1 hr 22 min, Pakistan, 2017*

**[Oct. 3rd, 7pm, University of Washington Seattle, Thomson Hall 101]**

Insha'Allah Democracy chronicles one voter's journey: to see if democracy is compatible with an unstable Muslim country. The filmmaker Mo has a tough choice – either vote for religious

hardliners or for secular liberal leader General Musharraf, a former military dictator. **Seattle Premiere.**

**25. Ishu**

*Utpal Borpujari, 91min, India, Assamese, 2017*

**[Sep 29th, 12pm, SIFF Film Center]**

Ambika, little Ishu's favourite aunt, has gone missing after being declared a witch. Will Ishu get her back?

**26. Jasoosni**

*Anandana Kapur, 52 min, India, 2017*

**[Oct. 6th, 5:30pm-with Zahida, Northwest Film Forum]**

Extra marital affairs. Missing persons. Corporate espionage. A newbie in her twenties, two mid-career entrepreneurs who don disguises and conduct stings, a freelancer who isn't shy of using sex, a corporate honcho whose phone never stops ringing, along with a retiree who battled prejudice to become India's first known woman detective – an intimate reflection on women in the business of intelligence. **Seattle Premiere.**

**27. JTL's Amar, Prem**

*Mujeer Pasha , 12 min, United Kingdom, 2018*

**[Sept. 30th, 12PM-Short Films and If You Dare to Desire, SIFF Film Center ]**

Amar and Prem call their relationship quits and choose to be friends. But soon, loneliness rekindles longing. Can they go back?

**28. Just a Cup of Tea**

*Muhammad Belaal Imran, 15 min, Pakistan, 2018*

**[Oct. 6th, 5:30 -Short Films, Northwest Film Forum ]**

Tea is that one thing everyone loves to have but can it be so special for someone that he can wait for just that special cup for years? A narrative journey of Ghulam Raees who takes us back in time where he used to work at the tea store owned by Ahmedeen and they both used to enjoy tea together. Who made that special tea? Why was it so special to both the characters is? These questions unfolds with beautiful visuals and engaging music in *Bas Ek Piyali Chai*.

**29. Lala Begum**

*Mehreen Jabbar, 60min, Pakistan, 2016*

**[Sept. 29th, 6pm-after Short Films, SIFF Film Center]**

Two estranged sisters meet at their family home after 20 years and end up unearthing many skeletons in their closet. **Seattle Premiere.**

**30. Loug The People**

*Zafeer Butt, 8min, Pakistan, 2017*

**[Oct. 3rd, 7pm-with Insha'Allah Democracy, University of Washington Thomson Hall]** An old couple is mysteriously held in a police station of their town in Pakistan. Their crime is unknown, and their insult is extreme. What have they done?

**31. Lock and Key**

*Shilpi Gulati, 89min, India, 2017*

**[Oct. 3rd, 3:30PM, UW Bothell]**

Five addicts at a rehabilitation center in Punjab, India, are helping families recover from the rampant drug problem in the state. While they struggle to establish new relationships with their pasts, their partners strive to redefine the meaning of love. **Seattle Premiere.**

**32. Malai**

*Rajdeep Paul & Sarmistha Maiti, 15 min, India, 2018*

**[Sept. 30th, 2pm, SIFF Film Center ]**

Set in the rough rocky terrain of interior Odisha, the film is a tale of a little boy's loss of innocence and a cinematic protest against the social injustice and inequalities like caste hierarchy, female exploitation and child abuse prevalent in our society and the indifference and hypocrisy of the empowered and educated people towards them. 

**33. Mehndi**

*Sudeshna Sen, 4 min, USA, 2018*

**[Sept. 30th, 12PM-Short Films and If You Dare Desire, SIFF Film Center ]**

On the threshold of womanhood, amidst the bright colorful flurry of an Indian bridal shower, two young girls pass a secret designed to alter their lives forever.

**34. My Pure Land**

*Sarmad Masud, 98min, Pakistan, 2017*

**[Sept. 29th, 8PM, SIFF Film Center]**

My Pure Land is a story of Nazo and her mother who live in an isolated farmhouse in Pakistan and their struggle to defend their home after a bitter family feud leads to her father's incarceration. It is based on a true incident, and Oscar entry from UK, 2017. **Seattle Premiere.**

**35. Pehchaan**

*Chirag Khatri, 15 min, India, 2017*

**[Sep 30th, 12pm-Short Films, SIFF Film Center ]**

Suraj tackles with his feelings towards Chandu and tries to come face to face with this sexuality, but can't save his friendship.

**36. Parween Rahman: The Rebel Optimist Mahera**

*Omar, 1 Hour, 7 min, Pakistan, 2016*

**[Oct. 5th, 10am-Film+Panel, UW Bothell]**

An architect and urban planner, Parween Rahman dedicated her life for the poor of Pakistan. She was shot dead by armed assailants on her way home in March 2013. Parween was developing a low-cost sanitation model for migrants in Orangi when that led her on a collision course with the various mafias in the city.  **Seattle Premiere.**

**37. Pataakha**

*Vishal Bhardwaj, India, 2018*

**[Oct. 7th, 3:30pm, SIFF Cinema Egyptian]**

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. **Seattle Premiere.**

**38. Physicality**

*Ramanathan Vaidyanathan, 18 min, India, 2017*

**[Oct. 6st, 12pm, Northwest Film Forum]**

Despite being successful in the societal recognition of their preferred and lived gender, Krithika realises that her recognition as woman in society is still a distant dream.

**39. Pinky Gurung**

*Gopal Shivakoti, 13 min, Nepal, 2018*

**[Oct. 6th, 12pm, Northwest Film Forum]**

Pinky Gurung is of the view that there is a need for representation of transgender in the new parliament to raise the voices of gender and sexual minority.

**40. Rani**

*Hammad Rizvi, Pakistan*

**[Sept. 29th, 4PM, SIFF Film Center]**

A poor and socially outcast Pakistani transgender woman sets out to take care of an abandoned baby.

**41. Rawaa'n**

*Ikram Khan, 66 min, Pakistan, 2017*

**[Oct. 3th, 4:30pm-After Short Film, UW Seattle, Thomson Hall 101]**

Coming of age story of two people in post apocalyptic setting going on a road trip to save their lives, it's about making peace with your demons and seeing life differently.

**42. Rubai**

*Fahd Shah, 15 min, India, 2018*

**[Oct. 6th, 1pm-Short Films and Beyond the Heights, Northwest Film Forum]**

Rubai documents a day in the life of Kashmir through accounts of four people. A young girl who faces daily struggles to go to school and study, an outsider who is both excited and apprehensive about getting married in Kashmir, his wife who has bittersweet memories of growing up in the valley, and a native poet who finds peace in the spiritual connection of Kashmir. The film recalls the strength and love of the people of Kashmir as they hope against the prevailing turmoil.

**43. Salam - The First \*\*\*\*\* Nobel Laureate**

*Anand Kamalakar, Omar Vandal, Zakir Thaver, 1 hr 15 min, Pakistan, USA, 2017*

**[Oct. 4th, 7pm, UW Seattle, Ronald Geballe Auditorium (Physics-Astronomy Bldg)]**

'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. **Seattle Premiere.**

**44. Seher**

*Manas Shashidharan Jacob, 19 min, India, 2017*

**[Sept. 29th, 4pm-Short Films, SIFF Film Center]**

What seemed like a normal cab ride in the chill of the night turns out to be a night with a plan in store for Seher.

**45. Shunyata**

*Chintan Sarda, 22 min, India, 2017*

**[Sept. 29th, 4pm-Short Films, SIFF Film Center]**

Madhur works as a hitman for a gang in Mumbai. He leads a bleak existence and a life full of regrets. He is friendly with a kid who lives on the street. Madhur sees this kid getting into crime and decides to intervene to give the kid a chance he never had.

**46. Simple Simon**

*Maninder Chana, 8 min, Canada, 2018*

**[Oct. 3th, 4:30pm- Before Rawaa'n, UW Seattle, Thomson Hall 101]**

The parents of a young girl are dismayed when she begins bullying her imaginary friend.

**47. Sinam**

*Anand Murthy, 19 min, India, 2017*

**[Sept. 30th, 2pm, SIFF Film Center ]**

The call is unsuspecting and it piques the interest of a documentary film-maker, when the caller identifies herself as a prostitute. And shocks her as she hears the prostitutes unexpected story.

**48. Surviving Surveillance, Catering to America: Shahina Parveen**

*Sarah Khan, 10 min, Indian American, 2017*

**[Sept. 30th, 2pm, SIFF Film Center ]**

Since 9/11, Muslims have been mapped, surveilled and entrapped by the NYPD. The damage to the families and the communities runs deep and is everlasting. Shahina Parveen's story of persistence is admirable in these times of uncertainty for immigrants. The film short is part of a larger body of work supported by the Asian Women Giving Circle and Asian Americans Writers' Workshop Open City Fellows.

**49. Temporary Peace**

*Yasser Bayani, 8 min, Afghanistan, 2017*

**[Sept. 30th, 4pm-with A Letter to the President, SIFF Film Center]**

A mid-class family who lives in Afghanistan faced major problems regarding their family connections. They trying to live as a normal family in a situation that looks everything is against them. Now their child stopped talking to them for a while.

**50. The Caregiver**

*Ruthy Pribar, 12 min, Israel, 2018*

**[Sept. 29th, 4pm-Short Films, SIFF Film Center]**

Following a short trip to visit his family back in India, Raj returns to Israel and his work as caregiver to an elderly man, only to be greeted by a Filipino woman who seems to have taken over his job. When it becomes clear that the old man prefers a female presence around the house, Raj must find a way to reclaim what he feels is rightfully his.

**51. The Grief-Life After Loss**

*Shammika Tomar, 12 min, India, 2017*

*[Sept. 29th, 6pm, SIFF Film Center ]*

An old horse carriage driver in Agra at Taj Mahal, India loses his wife. The remorse of her death leads him to five stages of grief until he finds redemption in his horse.

**52. The Kinnaras of the Dark World**

*Anas Muhassin, 5min, India, 2018*

*[Oct. 6th, 12pm, Northwest Film Forum]*

The Kinnaras of the Dark World (The Transgenders of the Dark World) is a visual representation of a poem by Bengaluru based RJ, trans activist and performer Shilok Mukkati. The film and the poem explores Shilok's angst as she battles indifference and ridicule at home and society at large.

**53. The Learning Alliance**

*Muhammad Umar Saeed, 8 min 39 sec, Pakistan, 2016*

*[Oct 6, 4pm, Northwest Film Forum]*

Collecting garbage for earning and paying their fees for school. Three brothers who are changing their future by studying and at the same time selling garbage in Lahore, Pakistan. The Learning Alliance is a portrait of children with dreams and their struggle towards achieving it.

**54. The Pits**

*Shetu Modi, 6 min, Canada, 2017*

*[Oct. 6th, 3pm, Northwest Film Forum ]*

At 13, Dhruvi is appalled to learn the Indian food she eats every day makes her armpits smell funny. Her struggle with pungent food and bold spices resurfaces years later, when she's drawn to a fellow South Asian student in university.

**55. The Red Mustang**

*Rehan Mudannayake, 18 min, Sri Lanka, 2017*

*[Sept. 29th, 4pm, SIFF Film Center]*

The Red Mustang is a dark, suspenseful drama that tackles topical themes of sexual harassment, and the abuse and manipulation of power.

**56. The Search**

*Monachan R, 19 min, India, 2017*

*[Oct. 6th, 12pm, Northwest Film Forum]*

This documentary film is about the journey of two women, one in search of self-rediscovery and one driven by unparalleled love but voiceless in patriarchal society.

**57. The Waterfall**

*Lipika Singh Darai, 20 min, India, 2016*

*[Oct 6th, 4pm, Northwest Film Forum]*

The Waterfall traces the evolution of a young city boy to appreciate the value of the environment as well as think critically about climate change and development.

**58. Three and a Half**

*Dar Gai , 120 min, India, 2017*

**[Oct. 5th, 7pm, Redmond, TBA]**

The film, shot in three long takes and a 'half-take' at the end, which exhibits the house under 3 different eras and renovation, symbolizing the emergence of new stories and the inevitable nature of change in time. The story is narrated from the perspective of the walls of the house, which are witness to all the struggles and success which encompass human life.

**59. Turup**

*Ektara Collective, 72 min, India, 2017*

**[Oct. 6th, 3pm-after Short Film, Northwest Film Forum ]**

Filed against the backdrop of a neighbourhood where chess brings men people together in friendly and sometimes unfriendly matches, a domestic worker with a secret hobby, a former journalist struggling with married life and a young woman in love, find themselves pushing boundaries and challenging the rules of the game.

**60. Zahida**

*Seemab Gul, 29min, Pakistan, 2018*

**[Oct. 6th, 5:30pm-after Jasoosni, Northwest Film Forum]**

A window into the life of the first female taxi driver in Pakistan. Zahida is a fascinating insight into the personal and professional trials undertaken by a unique woman in Pakistan.

**TasVR FILMS**

**61. Look but with Love ( A series of five VR films)**

*Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, 6 min, Pakistan, 2017*

**[Sept. 29th, 2pm-8pm and Sept. 30th, 12pm-4pm, VR/AR Screenings, SIFF Film Center, Oct. 1st, 7pm-9pm, Bellevue Art Museum ]]**

A series of five VR films by Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and Chris Milk. From a doctor in the slums of Karachi who has dedicated his life to providing free emergency care to children, to the Elite Commandos, a courageous community of women in Nowshera--the epicenter of the terrorist insurgency. *Look but With Love* explores the lives of Pakistan's most fearless and passionate citizens.

*Look but With Love* is a virtual reality documentary series presented by WITHIN about the extraordinary people of Pakistan who are changing the socio-political landscape of their communities through causes they are deeply passionate about.

**62. One Eighty (VR)**

**[Sept. 29th, 2pm-8pm and Sept. 30th, 12pm-4pm, VR/AR Screenings, SIFF Film Center, Oct. 1st, 7pm-9pm, Bellevue Art Museum ]**

Sixty-seven per cent of the Indian jail population is comprised of “undertrials”—people who have not been convicted of any crime, but are imprisoned on remand while awaiting trial. Unaware that they have the right to free legal aid, and ignorant of the nature of the charges against them, many spend years behind bars ,

**63. Notes to My Father (VR)**

*[Sept. 29th, 2pm-8pm and Sept. 30th, 12pm-4pm, VR/AR Screenings, SIFF Film Center, Oct. 1st, 7pm-9pm, Bellevue Art Museum ]]*

Flooded by memories of life in an Indian brothel, Ramadevi writes a letter to her father, who unintentionally set things in motion by marrying her off to a man she didn't know. The marriage failed and she was sold into sexual slavery, without her father's knowledge. Inspired by conversations with survivors of human trafficking, Notes to My Father is a story of love, grief and reconciliation .

-----

-

Founded in March 2002, Tasveer is a vibrant 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. Tasveer produces the annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival, now in its thirteenth year. Learn more about the festival at <http://tsaff.tasveer.org/>.

#### **CONTACT:**

For media inquiries, press screeners, and to coordinate interviews with visiting filmmakers, please contact:

Kamna Shastri, Program Manager

[kamna@tasveer.org](mailto:kamna@tasveer.org) 206 841 1902

[www.tasveer.org](http://www.tasveer.org)