

BFI ANNOUNCES FULL INDIA ON FILM PROGRAMME



For immediate release, Thursday 4 May 2017, London.

Already underway to a great start, attracting new audiences and sold out screenings, including the hotly anticipated UK special gala of *Baahubali 2* at BFI Southbank this week, BFI are delighted to announce the **full programme** for **India on Film**. Newly announced highlights include **Women Directors Making Waves**, shining a spotlight on a new generation of women filmmakers working in the Indian Film Industry and a focus on the **trauma of Partition** and its legacy on film. BFI Southbank will also screen new 4K restorations of **Satyajit Ray's** essential milestone of world cinema, *The Apu Trilogy*. Championing new talent alongside auteurs, BFI will release director **Shubhashish Bhutiani's** critically acclaimed feature debut *Hotel Salvation*. South Asian British culture on film is also explored in **Hanif Kureishi and Stephen Frears'** groundbreaking 80s depiction of the South Asian British community, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, which gets a new Blu-ray release. Plus 30 years on there's a chance to re-evaluate Kureishi and Frears' second film collaboration, *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid* (1987), reuniting cast and crew on stage at BFI Southbank, including Frances Barber and Claire Bloom. The BFI National Archive have digitised a collection of titles representing South Asian British culture on film, made accessible online for the first time. These programme additions build on the success of last month's **Bollywood 2.0** which featured progressive stories and themes, reflecting the changing face of Bollywood.

Encompassing many aspects of Indian Cinema past, present and future, India on Film is a comprehensive review, the biggest in the UK for over a decade, showcasing the richness and diversity of Indian filmmaking and films about India. Spanning premieres of the latest hotly anticipated Bollywood blockbusters, new boundary-pushing independent cinema, restorations and retrospectives, in conversation events, film releases, exhibitions and much more, India on Film takes place in cinemas and online, both in the UK and in India **until December 2017**.

Focus on Women Filmmakers

With a selection of contemporary films that reflect feminist themes and an accompanying panel discussion event at the BFI Reuben Library, including contributions from Meenakshi Shedde, guest curator of UK/India 2017, **Women Directors Making Waves**, at BFI Southbank in July, explores the work of a new generation of women filmmakers who are playing such a vital role in India's film industry today by challenging stereotypes and giving voice to previously untold stories. The programme includes actress turned director Konkona Sensharma's feature debut, **A Death in the Gunj** (2016), an atmospheric, exploration of masculinity at a family reunion set in the 70s, in the McCluskiegunj Anglo-Indian community.

BFI release of Hotel Salvation

Directed with humour and pathos, **Hotel Salvation**, Shubhashish Bhutiani's gentle charmer about a father and son who journey to the holy city of Varanasi, for the father to attain salvation, won the UNESCO award at last year's Venice Film Festival. The film will be released in cinemas across the UK this Autumn.

Satyajit Ray's The Apu Trilogy rises from the Ashes

Widely acknowledged as being among the most achingly beautiful and richly humane films, **Satyajit Ray's** breathtaking **The Apu Trilogy** has risen from the ashes two decades after the original film negatives were burnt. The new 4K restorations of **Pather Panchali** (1955), **Aparajito** (1956) and **The World of Apu** (1959) are drawn from various sources, including materials held by the **BFI National Archive**. Ray's influential trilogy tells the story of a free-spirited child in rural Bengal and follows him through to maturity; as an adolescent urban student and finally as a sensitive man of the world. These classic films brought India into the golden age of international art-house film, and now, having been meticulously reconstructed, will screen at BFI Southbank this Autumn.

New Blu-ray release of My Beautiful Laundrette

Presented on Blu-ray in the UK for the first time, **Hanif Kureishi's** and **Stephen Frears' Oscar®-nominated** first film collaboration, **My Beautiful Laundrette** (1985) will be released as a Dual Format Edition on 21 August. Kureishi's cross-cultural love story starring Gordon Warnecke and Daniel Day-Lewis was a cultural landmark in representing South Asian British experience on film. The film also proved a watershed moment for both fledgling broadcaster Channel 4, who went on to form Film4 Productions, and producer Tim Bevan, who went on to launch Working Title with Sarah Radclyffe.

Re-appraising Sammy and Rosie Get Laid 30 years on

BFI Southbank will reunite key cast and crew for a special 30th anniversary screening of **Stephen Frears' Sammy and Rosie Get Laid** (1987), Hanif Kuresishi and Stephen Frears' second collaboration after *My Beautiful Landrette*. Described by the author as his "declaration of war on the British establishment" this is a chance to re-appraise Kureishi's story of interracial love and extra-marital sex and take a closer look at its portrayal of gender, class, race and politics in Thatcher-era London. Starring the Hindi Bollywood star Shashi Kapoor, the film also features stand out performances from Ayub Khan-Din, who went on to be a BAFTA-nominated writer for *East is East*, Meera Syal, Roland Gift, Frances Barber and Claire Bloom.

South Asian Britain on Film

BFI will also celebrate British South Asian culture and local communities on film with a wealth of stories representing the South Asian British experience. Part of **BFI's Britain on Film, South Asian Britain on Film** will launch in **July** with 80 newly digitised archive films drawn from the **BFI National Archive and the UK's Regional and National Film Archives** with films dating back to 1902. Highlights include news footage of **Mahatma Gandhi** on his 1931 trip to the UK, for the second India Round Table Conference in St James's Palace, and **Oriental Atmosphere** (1928), a rare look at Britain's first

purpose-built mosque, the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking. The collection will be made available **online via BFI Player**, mostly for free. The **Independent Cinema Office (ICO)** will tour a special **South Asian Britain on Film** compilation to cinemas across the UK later in the year.

South Asian Britain on Film also focuses on the work of British South Asian filmmakers, including Birmingham-based **A Private Enterprise** (1974), the first British feature film to focus on the lives and experiences of immigrants from the Indian subcontinent, and Vinod Pande's stylish and distinctive **London Me Bharat** (1972). Filmed in Southall this was the first Hindi-language film made in Britain. The collection also includes early work from award-winning British South Asian directors such as **Asif Kapadia**, and his 1994 student film short **Indian Tales**, plus **Gurinder Chadha**, and her breakthrough BFI-produced documentary, **I'm British But** (1989), exploring what it meant to be a young British Asian in the 1980s.

Doc/Fest premieres material from BFI National Archive's Early Indian Film collection

As previously announced The BFI National Archive will also make an unparalleled collection of **300 newly digitised films** of **pre-Independence India** available in **August**, mostly for the first time. The largest collection of rare films from the earliest days of Indian cinema, the selection includes the oldest surviving film of India from 1899, **Panorama of Calcutta**, showing the ghats at Varanasi and early colour film of Delhi in 1909, as well as the poetic **Tins for India** (1941), directed by **Bimal Roy**, one of Indian cinema's greatest directors. This geographically diverse selection of films from the early twentieth century includes films from **Pakistan** and **Bangladesh** and will be available to audiences in the UK and across India and accessible **to view for free** on the **BFI Player**. A selection of material from the collection, **Panorama of India: A Journey Through the Archive** will premiere as part of **Doc/Fest** at Sheffield in June. Subsequently a feature length highlights compilation, **Around India With A Movie Camera**, will tour cinemas and community centre screenings here in the UK and there are plans to screen the programme internationally.

Anoushka Shankar to bring classic Shiraz back to India

As previously announced the BFI National Archive's restoration of Franz Osten's **Shiraz** (1928) will premiere as the **Archive Gala at the 61st BFI London Film Festival in partnership with American Express®** on 14 October, **co-produced by BFI and Barbican**. **Shiraz** tells the love story of the 17th century princess who inspired the construction of the Taj Mahal. The film will be performed live with a newly commissioned score by the multiple Grammy®-nominated Indian composer and sitar player **Anoushka Shankar** and her Indian and UK musical ensemble. Planning is already underway, in partnership with the **British Council**, as part of the **UK India Year of Culture**, for **Shiraz**, which has rarely been seen in India since 1928, to be screened in India once again.

Franz Osten's ground breaking Indian / British /German co-production was the second of three remarkable silent films made on location in India with the film's star and producer Himansu Rai alongside **Light of Asia** (1926) and **A Throw of Dice** (1929). These co-productions were intended by Rai to be the vanguard of a west/ east partnership to bring quality films to India. The BFI is thrilled as part of an ongoing cultural exchange **to bring Shiraz back to Indian audiences**, as a powerful symbol of the partnership between India and the UK. **Shiraz** marks Anoushka Shankar's first film score, continuing the musical legacy of her father Ravi Shankar, whose film credits include **Pather Panchali** (1955), **The World of Apu** (1959), Jonathan Miller's **Alice in Wonderland** (1966) and **Gandhi** (1982).

A free exhibition complementing India on Film, **The Art of Indian Cinema** runs at **BFI Southbank Mezzanine Gallery** until December. Drawing on the **BFI National Archive's Special Collections**, the exhibition features stunning posters and other promotional celebrating the artistry of the **golden age of Indian illustrative design**, immersing visitors in a riot of bold colour, spectacle and full blooded emotion of Indian film.

The core India on Film programme at BFI Southbank also includes:

May

Song and Dance focuses on the true stars of Bollywood film. Rooted in Indian folk song and dance, fusing poetry, music, choreography, cinematography and editing films screening at BFI Southbank includes a Sing-a-long screening of **Om Shanti Om** (2007), Farah Khan's send-up of Bollywood tropes and Satyajit Ray's exquisite **The Music Room** (1958), showing that song and dance could be integral to arthouse films as well as Bollywood blockbusters.

The musical genius of Oscar-winning® composer AR Rahman (*Slumdog Millionaire*) is explored with screenings of Mani Ratnam's **Bombay** (1995) and **I Have Found It** (Rajiv Menon, 2000), an eye-popping Tamil adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.

June

BFI Southbank hosts the **Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival** which returns in June with a line-up of films fresh from the international festival circuit, including the **UK premiere of Hotel Salvation**, showcasing the best of new Indian independent cinema plus talks by leading filmmakers and panel discussions, including an in conversation event with **Ashutosh Gowariker**, director of the multi award-winning *Lagaan: One Upon A Time in India* (2001). As part of the BFI Southbank **Women with a Movie Camera** strand there is also a discussion and screening of early works by filmmaker, artist and leading academic **Pratibha Parmar**, marking **30 years of Shakti**, one of the world's first South Asian LGBTQ+ activist groups.

The career of filmmaker and actor **Guru Dutt** is the subject of a short BFI Southbank focus in June. The greatest filmmaker from the golden age of classic Indian Cinema, the programme includes a recent **restoration** of Dutt's classic melodrama **Pyasa** (1957), about an unpublished young poet, played by Dutt, whose potential for success hangs on a twist of fate.

August

BFI Southbank explores the ways in which Indian cinema has dealt with the trauma of **Partition** and its legacy in the years that followed, with a programme of films marking the **70th anniversary** including **Ritwik Ghatak's** haunting **The Cloud-Capped Star** (1960), set in a post-Partition refugee camp in Bengal, and **Day Shall Dawn** (1959), **AJ Kardar's** extraordinary official collaboration between West Pakistan, East Pakistan and India. Pakistan's first official entry to the Oscars, the film shot by **Walter Lassally** was recently restored and screened at Cannes Classics last year.

September

From September onwards India on Film travels to India with curated programmes, including **Around India With A Movie Camera** touring festivals and venues across India.

Documentarian and activist **Sanjay Kak**, known for his evocative films that deal with issues such as environmental activism and resistance politics will present **This Land is Ours**, a special weekend of films emphasizing the importance of poetry in conveying messages in film.

October

Further to the BFI London Film Festival Archival Gala premiere of *Shiraz*, BFI Southbank hopes to screen **Franz Osten's complete Indian trilogy** alongside *Light of Asia* (1926) and *A Throw of Dice* (1929).

November

The **Indian thriller** genre will be included in the BFI Southbank film programme.

Further details of the India on Film programme will be released throughout the year.

For further information about BFI India on Film season, visit:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/india-on-film>

#IndiaonFilm

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About UK/India2017 Year of Culture

UK/India2017 is a year-long celebration of the long-standing relationship between India and the UK, which will see a vast programme of cultural exchange and activity take place in cities across both countries. Working with a huge number of partners and institutions, the British Council is developing a programme of cultural activity which will connect and inspire people in both countries; and strengthen and celebrate the UK and India's cultural ties. For more information on UK/India 2017 please visit www.britishcouncil.in

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

About the BFI National Archive

The BFI National Archive was founded in 1935 and has grown to become the one of the largest and most important collections of film and television in the world with over 180,000 films and 750,000 television programmes. For over 80 years the BFI has been an international leader in film preservation and guardian of Britain's unparalleled film and TV heritage. The BFI is an innovator in presenting films to audiences in new and dynamic ways, from cinemas to film festivals, outdoor events to online video-on-demand. At the heart of all its

activities is the BFI's central aim to ensure that everyone in the UK has access to the widest possible range of film and their own film heritage.

That heritage includes all time great British directors Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean and Powell and Pressburger; and the rich vein of documentary filmmaking, in which Britain led the world, including the lyrical work of Humphrey Jennings. The archive also boasts a significant collection of filmmakers' papers as well as extensive stills, posters and production and costume designs along with original scripts, press books and related ephemera.

Expert teams undertake the time-consuming and complex task of restoring films at the BFI John Paul Getty Jr Conservation Centre in Hertfordshire. The BFI's most precious film materials are kept in optimum conditions in the world-leading Master Film Store in Warwickshire.

About BFI Player

BFI Player is a ground-breaking video on demand service which offers a uniquely diverse range of films, from the latest releases to the rarest silent cinema classics, giving UK audiences a rich and rewarding digital film experience. The Britain on Film collections are accessible through the BFI Player. <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

About Britain on Film and Unlocking Film Heritage

Britain on Film is one of the largest and most complex archival projects ever undertaken and is part of the BFI's Unlocking Film Heritage programme (2013-17). Unlocking film heritage for everyone in the UK to enjoy is a key strategic priority for the BFI, and Britain on Film is the public launch of a vast programme of work, which has been ongoing for over three years. Bringing together a partnership with Regional and National Film Archives and rights holder collections across the UK, this work has included a sophisticated programme of data capture, cataloguing, copying to archival standards, meticulous preservation of original materials, thorough searching of archives across the country, new state-of-the-art equipment and digital storage facilities and the transfer of films to the BFI's online video platform, BFI Player.

Unlocking Film Heritage and Britain on Film are thanks to £15 million funding from the National Lottery and the additional support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Join the conversation at #britainonfilm

About BFI Southbank

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.10, concs £9.70 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.00 less on any ticket - www.bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI India on Film can be found at www.image.net