

May Sunday Cinema Series

SPECIAL SCREENING IN MAY AND JUNE OF SELECTIONS
FROM THE NEW JERSEY INDEPENDENT SOUTH ASIAN CINEFEST 2007

New Jersey Independent South Asian Cinefest at the South Brunswick Public Library Film Screening Schedule

Sunday, May 18 at 2 PM

Cosmopolitan

Narrative Feature / USA / 53 min / English

Director : Nisha Ganatra

Indian-born Gopal is shocked when his wife and daughter desert him in the American suburb he has called home for twenty years. Alone for the first time in his life, Gopal turns to women's magazines and the Bollywood films of his youth for advice on navigating a romance with his next door neighbor, Mrs. Shaw.

Starring : Roshan Seth, Madhur Jaffrey, Kal Penn

Whose Children Are These

Documentary Feature / USA / 27 min / English

Director : Theresa Thanjan

The award-winning film provides a glimpse into the post 9/11 world of three youngsters impacted by the federal policy of Special Registration and prejudice in the USA.

Toba Tek Singh

Narrative Short / USA, India / 18 min / English, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi

Director : Afia NathAniel

It is 1947. The newly created governments of India and Pakistan wish to exchange lunatics. Bishan Singh, a Sikh lunatic in Pakistan, wants to know whether his hometown, Toba Tek Singh, has gone to India or Pakistan. No one seems to know. A search for an identity in a world gone suddenly mad.

Pria

Narrative Short / Canada / 12 min / English, Hindi

Director : Theodore Bezaire

In hope of impressing the object of her affection, 15-year-old Pria tries to lose her heavy South Asian accent by imitating lines from her favorite movies.

Sunday, May 25 at 2 PM

Little Terrorist

Narrative Short / India / 15 min / Hindi

Director : Ashvin Kumar

Nominated for Oscar at the 2005 Academy Award and winner of many prestigious international awards, this short film tells the story of a 10 year old Pakistani boy who crosses the border with no way of getting back.

Gandhi At the Bat

Narrative Short / Canada / 11 min / English

Directors : Stephanie Argy, Alec Boehm

Based on a short story by Chet Williamson that originally appeared in New Yorker in 1983, the film is a faithful recreation of a 1930s-style newsreel. This movie includes over 75 shots which transform the actual shooting location into a faithful recreation of Yankee stadium as it was over seventy years ago.

Naming Ceremony

Narrative Short / India / 15 min / Bengali

Director : Konkona Sen Sharma

A family of pickpockets in Kolkata, India, and a naming ceremony full of novelty.

Viva Liberty

Narrative Short / UK / 20 min / English

Director : Dishad Husain

This award-winning short film is a dark comedy about a British Muslim whose holiday in America takes a detour to a detention facility called Camp Liberty.

Dancing Kathmandu

Documentary Feature / Czech Republic, Nepal / 41 min / English, Czech, Nepali

Director : Sangita Shresthova

Sangita, a dancer of Czech-Nepali origin, journeys to Kathmandu to explore how practitioners in the Himalayan kingdom negotiate Nepal's dance traditions in a period of rapid cultural change. In her attempts to map the current situation of dance in Kathmandu valley, she encounters her own teachers as well as younger dancers currently finding their way. Dancing Kathmandu tells stories of nostalgia, passion and survival through dance and dancers in the age of globalization.

Sunday, June 1 at 2 PM

1001 Auditions

Narrative Short / USA / 26 min / English

Director : Arun Singh

After years of ups and downs, countless auditions and struggling to make it happen in New York, Meera realizes her true karma.

The Goodbye Man

Narrative Short / Pakistan / 14 min / English, Urdu

Director : Mridu Chandra

Imran Butt is a young Pakistani office worker caught in a soul-crushing, dead-end job at an international service center in Lahore. Having reached the end of his rope, Imran makes the drastic but seemingly logical decision to take control of his life once and for all - by ending it.

Waiting

Documentary Short / India / 39 min / English, Hindi, Kashmiri

Director(s) : Atul Gupta, Shabnam Ara

Rampant insurgency and international conflict in the beautiful Kashmir valley have led to heavy military presence in the region. National security takes precedence over all other issues. While the Indian army is stationed for the protection of the valley's denizens, the flip side is seldom talked about. Women, young and old, whose husbands and sons have disappeared upon being picked up by the Indian army for interrogation, await their return — some for as long as two years. A hostile environment further threatened by the country's security forces is leading many people to question their allegiance to a country they have long called their own.

One Long Night

Narrative Short / India / 17 min / Hindi

Director : Sanjeev Tiwari

"One Long Night" is a story about the desperation to see a dawn that will signal the end of a darkness representative of scarcity, helplessness, and a losing battle for identity. This desperate bid is a metaphor for the eternal struggle between hope and despair. This is one long night indeed.

Red Roses

Documentary Short / USA / 17 min / English, Bengali, Hindi

Directors : Madhuri Mohindar and Vaishali Sinha

Set in a South Asian beauty parlor in the Queens borough of New York City, 'Red Roses' is a sociological portrait of women negotiating between the cross currents of two cultures. This gender oriented film is an exploration of how most South Asian women who come to the United States via marriage and family obligations seek to assert their individuality and freedom within their new cultural environment.

