NEW YORK: Capping off five days of Indian cinematic excellence, the 11th Annual New York Indian Film Festival came to a close in grand fashion on May 8 with the spectacular Closing Night red carpet premiere of Rituparno Ghosh's powerful film 'Noukadubi'.

Among the many celebs in attendance were actors Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh Kapoor, writer Salman Rushdie, filmmakers Mira Nair and Aparna Sen, Madhur Jaffrey and Consul General Prabhu Dayal.

Following the premiere at Asia Society in Manhattan was the festival's annual awards ceremony. Of the winners, Sthaniya Sambaad (Spring in the Colony), directed by Arjun Gourisaria & Moinak Biswas won the Best Feature Film award;

The Film Festival kicked off in spectacular fashion on the night of May 4, with the Opening Night celebration which featured the US Premiere of the Delhi-set comedy Do Dooni Chaar, Disney's first live-action Hindi film

Aparna Sen won Best Director for Iti Mrinalini; Rishi Kapoor won Best Actor for Do Dooni Chaar; Konkona Sen Sharma won Best Actress for Iti Mrinalini; Mohan Raghavan and T.D. Dasan won Best Screenplay; Bhopali by Max Carlson won Best Documentary; and Just That Sort of A Day by Abhay Kumar won the Best Short Film award.

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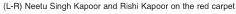
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Rishi is best actor

NY Indian Film Festival ends on a spectacular note







(L-R): Rishi Kapoor, Neetu Singh Kapoor, director Habib Faisal, and NYIFF director Aseem Chhabra at the post-screening Q&A



Rishi is best actor

The star-studded red carpet premiere, held at Manhattan's prestigious Paris Theater, was attended by special guests Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh Kapoor along with writer/director Habib Faisal. Also attending the premiere were Aparna Sen, Madhur Jaffrey, Aditya Bhattacharya, Ajay Naidu, Samrat Chakrabarti, Meetu Chilana, Rehana Mirza, Pulitzer Prize winner Siddhartha Mukherjee, Sarita Choudhury, Ami Sheth, Poorna Jagannathan, and many other actors and filmmakers whose films were screened through the four-day festival.



(Standing L-R): IAAC Executive Director Aroon Shivdasani and NYIFF director Aseem Chhabra. (seated L-R) Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh Kapoor at the gala dinner



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