

The Longest-Running and Most Prestigious Indian Film Festival in the U.S.

Marks its 12th Year May 23 to 27, 2012

(New York, NY) Filmmakers and producers have until February 15, 2012, to submit shorts, documentaries, or feature films pertaining to the Indian subcontinent for the 12th Annual New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF), presented by the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC). Scheduled from May 23 to 27 at the eclectic Tribeca Cinemas in Lower Manhattan, NYIFF features more than 30 films over a span of five days and attracts some of the most high profile celebrities, media, and guests. The festival will commence with an opening night film screening on May 23 at the Paris Theater, followed by a VIP gala dinner at the Essex House Ballroom, attracting more than 500 of New York City's



crème de la crème cinephiles. In the past 11 years, NYIFF (formerly known as the IAAC and MIAAC Film Festivals) has premiered some of the most well-known South Asian and foreign films, including Slumdog Millionaire, Bride and Prejudice, Monsoon Wedding, The Namesake, and several others. "NYIFF is a once-a-year opportunity to experience the rich and diverse film cultures of the Indian subcontinent through a mix of film screenings, discussions, industry panels, nightly parties, an awards

ceremony, and gala red carpet events," says Aseem Chhabra, film journalist, board member of the South Asian Journalists Association, and Programming Director of NYIFF. "We encourage filmmakers to submit their movies to one of the few Indian film festivals in the country to attract such large mainstream and South Asian audiences." Along with a plethora of local, national, and international press, The Wall Street Journal has recognized NYIFF's efforts, saying that it "has grown into the area's most mainstream Indian film fes-

tival, offering features, documentaries, shorts and indies in numerous Indian languages and from various countries. The growth has led not only to a wider range of films, but to new partnerships and inroads to American audiences. *About the Indo-American Arts Council: The Indo-American Arts Council is a registered not-for-profit arts organization passionately dedicated to showcasing, building awareness, and celebrating artists of Indian origin in the performing, visual and literary arts. Annual festivals of art, dance, play writing and film are scheduled through the year, with several special events and book launches.*

NASA's Chandra finds milky way's Black Hole Grazing on Asteroids

WASHINGTON -- The giant black hole at the center of the Milky Way may be vaporizing and devouring asteroids, which could explain the frequent flares observed, according to astronomers using data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory. For several years Chandra has detected X-ray flares about once a day from the supermassive black hole known as Sagittarius A*, or "Sgr A*" for short. The flares last a few hours with brightness ranging from a few times to nearly one hundred times that of the black hole's regular output. The flares also have been seen in infrared data from ESO's Very Large Telescope in Chile.

"People have had doubts about whether asteroids could form at all in the harsh environment near a supermassive black hole," said Kastytis Zubovas of the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom, and lead author of the report appearing in the

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. "It's exciting because our study suggests that a huge number of them are needed to produce these flares." Zubovas and his colleagues suggest there is a cloud around Sgr A* containing trillions of asteroids and comets, stripped from their parent stars. Asteroids passing within about 100 million miles of the black hole, roughly the distance between the Earth and the sun, would be torn into pieces by the tidal forces from the black hole.

These fragments then would be vaporized by friction as they pass through the hot, thin gas flowing onto Sgr A*, similar to a meteor heating up and glowing as it falls through Earth's atmosphere. A flare is produced and the remains of the asteroid are swallowed eventually by the black hole.

"An asteroid's orbit can change if it ventures too close to a star or planet near Sgr A*," said co-author Sergei Nayakshin, also of



the University of Leicester. "If it's thrown toward the black hole, it's doomed."

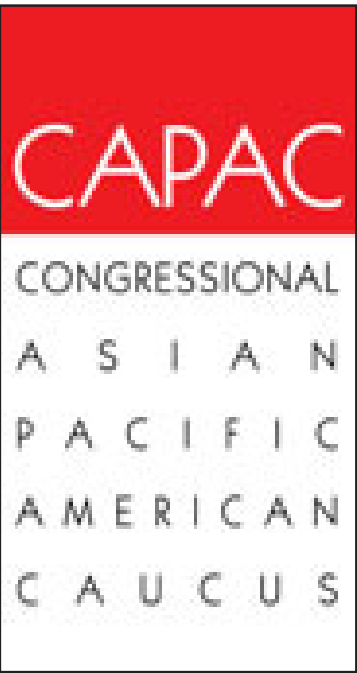
The authors estimate that it would take asteroids larger than about six miles in radius to generate the flares observed by Chandra. Meanwhile, Sgr A* also may be consuming smaller asteroids, but these would be difficult to spot because the flares they generate would be fainter. These results reasonably agree with models estimating of how many asteroids are likely to be in this region, assuming that the number around stars near Earth is similar to the number surrounding stars near the center of the Milky Way. "As a reality check, we worked out

that a few trillion asteroids should have been removed by the black hole over the 10-billion-year lifetime of the galaxy," said co-author Sera Markoff of the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. "Only a small fraction of the total would have been consumed, so the supply of asteroids would hardly be depleted." Planets thrown into orbits too close to Sgr A* also should be disrupted by tidal forces, although this would happen much less frequently than the disruption of asteroids, because planets are not as common. Such a scenario may have been responsible for a previous

CAPAC Chair Blasts Hoekstra Campaign for Racially Charged Super Bowl Ad

(Press Release) WASHINGTON, DC – Following the airing of former Congressman Pete Hoekstra's racially charged political ad during the Super Bowl last night, Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-32), Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), released the following statement: "Thirty years ago, a Chinese-American man named Vincent Chin was brutally murdered on the streets of Detroit by angry workers who blamed Japan for the plight of the U.S. auto industry," said Chu. "Three decades later, Pete Hoekstra is stoking the flames of these same anti-Asian sentiments as he runs for the U.S. Senate in the very same state. I am appalled at the Hoekstra campaign's offensive and insensitive Super Bowl ad that relies heavily on negative Asian stereotypes. Politics of fear and

division will never bring the American people together around the solutions they so desperately need, and I am calling on former Rep. Hoekstra to take down this atrocious ad and issue an apology immediately." Hoekstra's advertisement depicted an Asian woman speaking in broken English and a heavy accent to thank Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) for sending money and jobs overseas. The ad also directed viewers to a website that featured Chinese characters and imagery. The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is comprised of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Currently Chaired by Congresswoman Judy Chu, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life since it was founded in 1994.



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PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

DATE: February 28, 2012
TIME: 11.00AM To 4.00PM
BETHPAGE SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER
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TAX TIPS
Presented by
Kanwal Kapur, CPA
11.00-11.30 Meet and Greet
11.30-12.30 Talk and presentation
12.30 -1.15 Lunch
1.15 - 4.00 Carrom Board, Cards
Games, Dance Lessons, Garba, Bridge sessions,
Table Tennis, Pool etc.

On Behalf of the Board of Indian American Forum, we wish everyone Happy Valentine's Day

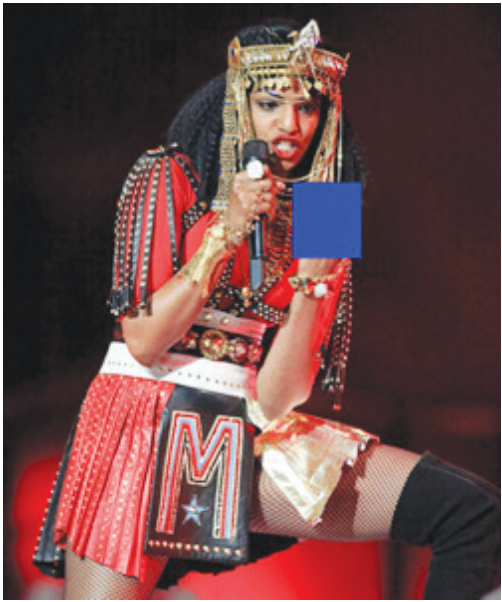
Please Contact **Nirmala Rametra 631 269 1144**
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Mark your calendar for upcoming dates for year 2012, every fourth Tuesday of the month
Details will follow
3/27, 4/24, 5/22, 6/26, 7/17, 7/24, 8/21, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/27

Hot Topic: Why M.I.A.'s Middle Finger Matters

Rutgers professor weighs in on how 'indecent' Super Bowl halftime antics influence our airwaves

(By Amber E. Hopkins-Jenkins) Hip-hop artist M.I.A. offers an obscene gesture



during the Super Bowl XLVI halftime show in Indianapolis on Sunday, February 5, 2012.

The Material Girl was upstaged by . . . a bird? Just before the eighth minute of Madonna's Super Bowl XLVI halftime performance Sunday night, the middle finger of rapper M.I.A. stole the show from the pop icon. M.I.A., a 37-year-old British hip-hop artist of Sri Lankan descent, flipped her left middle digit toward the camera for 110 million viewers' pleasure at the end of her verse on Madonna's new single,

"Give Me All Your Lovin'." The rapper's accompanying lyrics, "I don't give a [expletive]," were unclear to the audience. Eight years ago, during the Super Bowl XXXVIII halftime show featuring Janet Jackson, guest performer Justin Timberlake ripped off a portion of Jackson's costume, momentarily exposing her right breast, which was adorned with a nipple shield, on live television. His lyrics: "Bet I'll have you naked by the end of this song."

Ellen Goodman, a Rutgers-Camden law professor and communications law expert, sees similarities between M.I.A.'s finger in Super Bowl XLVI and Janet Jackson's, ahem, nipple from Super Bowl XXXVIII. "This is not different from the 'wardrobe malfunction,' except that it was intentional, which makes it easier to censure," says Goodman, referencing

the euphemism made infamous by Timberlake's publicist during "Nipplegate." A widespread indecency debate followed the 2004 incident, as did increased Federal Communications Commission (FCC) scrutiny, and a \$550,000 fine for CBS, which aired the sporting event. According to an apologetic statement released by NFL spokesperson Brian McCarthy, the league had no reason to believe M.I.A. would make such a gesture during Sunday night's show. Apparently, she had not done anything vaguely similar during rehearsal. "The obscene gesture in the performance was completely inappropriate, very disappointing and we apologize to our fans," said McCarthy. Now, other non-middle fingers are pointing. The NFL blames NBC for the delayed censor, NBC blames the NFL for the show's content, and the Parents Television Council, a conservative media watchdog group, blames both the NFL and NBC for booking and, thereby enabling, multiple performers with histories of shocking behavior, including Madonna's other guests CeeLo Green, Nicki Minaj, and party rockers LMFAO. Considering the plausible repercussions for M.I.A.'s

finger, Goodman, who has served as Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the FCC, says the agency has never, to her knowledge, decided whether "the bird" is indecent. "Broadcasters act as if it is and it probably does fall within the 'fleeting expletives' policy." This uptick in discussion of "fleeting indecency" in broadcasting is certainly timely. Just last month, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments about the FCC's role in policing the airwaves. The court is currently deliberating whether the FCC's indecency regulations violate the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech and the Fifth Amendment's guarantee of due process. Goodman doubts the FCC will levy any fines for Sunday night's middle finger until the Supreme Court delivers its ruling on the FCC's policies. "It will be very close – hard to predict which way the court will go," she says. How close? In a 5 to 4 ruling on the FCC's indecency policy in 2009, Justice Antonin Scalia stated that the government agency was well within its rights to protect the public against what he called "foul-mouthed glitteratae from Hollywood."

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