

NYIFF 2019 - Preview

by Mabel Pais

Special Spotlight on the New York premiere of Gurinder Chadha's "Blinded By The Light" Plus Focus on Bengali Cinema that includes Bengali Master Buddhadev Dasgupta's "Urojahaj" (The Flight)

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF), the longest running, most prestigious South Asian Film Festival in North America, recently announced its 19th edition that takes place May 7 - May 12.

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) full lineup celebrates Independent, art house, alternate, and diaspora films from the Indian subcontinent, May 7- May 12 at the Village East Cinemas in the Lower East Side of Manhattan (181-189 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10003).

Dedicated to bringing these films to a New York audience, the festival will feature 32 screenings (29 narrative, 3 documentary and 32 short films). NYIFF will be featuring 7 World Premieres along with an International Premiere and 5 US premieres and the rest of the films being NY premieres.

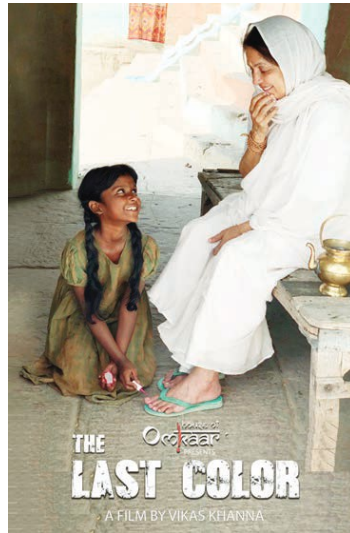
NYIFF has been the go-to festival to see South Asian diaspora films that have not been seen in New York City and is continuing with this mission for the nineteenth year.

This year NYIFF has the largest number of regional (non-Hindi) language films - 20 in total. The languages focused on are Assamese, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Kannada, Ladakhi, Punjabi, and Harayanavi and all the films will have English subtitles.

NYIFF Festival Director Aseem Chhabra said "We are thrilled to share our lineup for this year. The NYIFF programming team has spent a number of months watching, tracking films and we now present to the audience the best of Indian cinema."

Returning to NYIFF is award-winning filmmaker, Gurinder Chadha with her new film. The festival will be hosting a Special Spotlight of Chadha's "Blinded by the Light," which will be making its New York debut after its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival. The film is inspired by the true story of journalist Sarfraz Manzoor and his lifelong love of Bruce Springsteen.

Bengali Master Buddhadev Dasgupta's Urojahaj (The Flight) will be a part of the special focus on Bengali cinema that



"The Last Color" poster



"Sir" poster

NYIFF will be presenting this year.

Seven features will be a part of this presentation, many by first-time filmmakers, putting a spotlight on a resurgence of films from West Bengal.

Arijit Singh, a widely popular Bollywood singer will be highlighted at the festival with his second directorial venture "Sa" - a tribute to Satyajit Ray and Ravi Shankar. Anoushka Shankar plays sitar for the film.

The Opening Night film is "Sir" by Rohena Gera on May 7 following the Red Carpet and cocktail reception.

The Closing Night film of Vikas Khanna, "The Last Color" starring Neena Gupta will be honoring mothers around the world on Mother's Day. Celebrity Chef and filmmaker Vikas Khanna was named the Brand Ambassador of the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC). Khanna is a Michelin-star chef as well as a cookbook author, humanitarian, filmmaker and was once voted New York City's hottest chef.

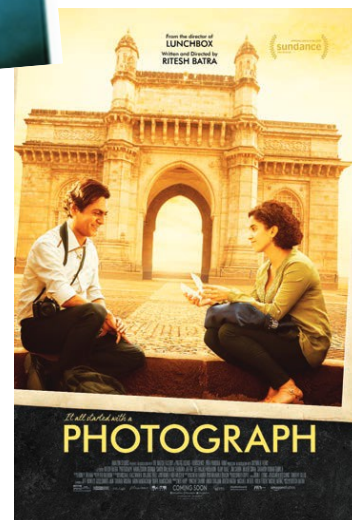
The Centerpiece film is "Photograph" by Ritesh Batra.

Other highlights of the festival include

Assamese filmmaker, Rima Das whose last film "Village Rockstars" was India's official entry for the 2019 Oscars. Rima's new film "Bulbul Can Sing" will have its NY premiere at NYIFF along with Assamese master and National Film Award Winner Jahnua Barua's World premiere of his new film "Bhoga Khirikee" (Broken Window).

Short Filmmakers Ashuman Sharma ("Jalebi") and Vick Krishna ("Mokshi") who were in attendance at the NYIFF Launch event on Thursday, April 18 at the Consulate General of India, New York are a part of NYIFF's four short programs that includes a total of 32 short films.

Sunil Hali, Executive Director and President, IAAC said, "We have received tremendous support from Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty and Consulate General India, New York. Corporate sponsors such as AIR INDIA, State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank amongst others have come forward with significant contributions. The PIERRE from Taj Group continues to expand the relationship with IAAC. Local regional and community associations such as Sadhu Vaswani Centers; continue to help in supporting our expanded mandate to promote regional films. Film schools have joined hands and now the leading broadcaster, IndiaCast with Viacom18 is our exclusive broadcast partner for NYIFF2019 in USA powered category. A special 30-minute curtain raiser and a 90-minute special on NYIFF2019 will be produced by IndiaCast and aired on Aapka Colors and Colors Rishtey;. We look forward to



"Photograph" poster
Photos / Courtesy NYIFF2019

building such relationship to make NYIFF2019 a great success."

For more information on IAAC, visit www.iaac.us.

For a full line-up of the Festival, visit <https://www.iaac.us/nyiff2019/schedule.htm>

“A special 30-minute curtain raiser and a 90-minute special on NYIFF2019 will be produced by IndiaCast and aired on Aapka Colors and Colors Rishtey;. We look forward to building such relationship to make NYIFF2019 a great success”

- Sunil Hali, Executive Director and President, IAAC

“We are thrilled to share our lineup for this year. The NYIFF programming team has spent a number of months watching, tracking films and we now present to the audience the best of Indian cinema”

- Aseem Chhabra, NYIFF Festival Director

Day Passes are available.

Students (w/ID) get discounted priced tickets

About NYIFF

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) is the oldest, most prestigious film festival screening premieres of feature, documentary and short films made from, of, and about the Indian subcontinent in the Independent, arthouse, alternate and diaspora genres. Seven days of screenings, post-screening discussions, industry panels, awards ceremony, special events, nightly networking parties, red carpet galas, media attention and packed audiences build an awareness of Indian cinema, entertain; educate North Americans about the real India, and add to the amazing cultural diversity of New York City.

About IAAC

The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. We work cooperatively with colleagues around the United States to broaden our collective audiences and to create a network for shared information, resources and funding. Our focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work here. The IAAC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

(Mabel Pais writes on the Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)