



**3rd i's TENTH ANNUAL SF
INTERNATIONAL SOUTH ASIAN
FILM FESTIVAL**

September 19-23, 2012 @ Roxie and
Castro Theaters, San Francisco;
September 30, 2012 @ Camera12,
San Jose

From art-house classics to documentary films, and innovative and experimental visions to next-level Bollywood: *3rd i Films* is committed to promoting diverse images of South Asians through independent film. This year's festival brings over 20 films from 9 different countries including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, The Maldives, Canada, South Africa, UK and USA.

Festival spotlights include emerging voices from **Bengali cinema** and the **Sikh community**. **Diasporic** voices offer **narrative features from Britain and docs from Canada and the US**. **Shorts** are aplenty this year, and **music** moves to the foreground in many films. **Women and California filmmakers** make a strong showing in the docs and shorts category, and **ecology** bookends the festival on opening and closing nights.

For more information on the films, and to purchase tickets, please visit our website at: <http://www.thirdi.org/festival>

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
@ Roxie Theater

7:15PM The Island President

Jon Shenk (USA/The Maldives, 2012, 101mins)
Jon Shenk in Person

An Inspiring, pictorially dazzling documentary from one of the Bay Area's most exciting filmmakers! As rising sea-levels threaten the existence of the Maldives, President Mohammed Nasheed fights for the survival of his country. **Winner, Cadillac People's Choice Doc Award, Toronto International Film Festival 2011.**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
@ Roxie Theater

7:15PM Coast to Coast: Home Grown Shorts

Various (USA/India, 2011/2012, 80mins)
Filmmakers in Person

3rd i's shorts program goes coast-to-coast this year, with a kaleidoscope of shorts from California and New York. The Bay Area represents with new music videos from local musicians and hip-hop artists, and other emerging voices. Come to **Dance, Desi, Dance: 3rd i's Birthday Bash** later in the evening (10pm, 780 Cafe, 780 Valencia) and catch them live!

9:30PM Sket

Nirpal Bhogal (UK, 2011, 93mins)

Set to a pounding soundtrack of hip-hop and electronica, this gritty thriller follows the members of a girl gang intent on exacting revenge on abusive men in their East London housing estate. Bhogal's inventive take on British genre cinema won him a place on the London Film Festival's Best Newcomer list.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
@ Roxie Theater

7:15PM Runaway (Udhao)

Amit Ashraf (Bangladesh, 2011, 96mins)

Amit Ashraf in Person

Amit Ashraf's dynamic script and creative visual vocabulary confirm that something is afoot in Bangladeshi cinema. The gritty, urban streets of Dhaka provide the backdrop for this noirish thriller about men who run away from family responsibility and a rickshawallah who is compelled to bring them to justice. **Winner, Audience Award, Goteburg International Film Festival 2012.**

9:40PM 3rd i International Shorts

Various (UK/Sri Lanka/India, 2012/2009, 90 mins)

Four startling shorts: a desperate daughter makes a deal with the devil in the chilling *Another Planet*; a nun and her daughter struggle to escape the memories of civil war in the unsettling *I Too Have A Name*; a young girl negotiates sisterhood and womanhood in the moving *Kaveri*; a young mother is forced to play soldier in the post-apocalyptic and parched *Boond (Drop)*.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
@ Castro Theatre

12NOON Alms for a Blind Horse (Anhey Ghodey Da Daan)

Gurvinder Singh (India, 2011, 113mins)

This striking film by first-time director Gurvinder Singh uses exquisite cinematography and an unusual cast of characters to portray a day in the life of a rural Punjabi family facing the demolition of their village. A worthy tribute to the legend of Indian cinema, the late Mani Kaul, who was executive producer on the film. **Winner, Best Director, National Award, India.**

2:30PM The World Before Her •Sneak Peek•

Nisha Pahuja (Canada, 2012, 91mins)

Pahuja goes behind-the-scenes at the Miss India Pageant and the Hindu fundamentalist movement to capture the tension between traditional and modern perspectives toward women in today's India. A timely expose on the fundamental contradictions of a country in transition.

Winner, World Documentary Competition, Tribeca Film Festival 2012.

4:30PM Lucky

Avie Luthra (South Africa, 2011, 100mins)

Delicately crafted, both in story and visual style, this beautiful, emotional tale explores the unusual alliance between an elderly Indian woman (with a irrational fear of Africans) and a South African orphan in post-Apartheid South Africa. Based on Luthra's earlier short, which won over 40 international awards including an Oscar nomination.

6:45PM Decoding Deepak

Gotham Chopra (USA, 2012, 74mins)

Gotham Chopra in Person

Spiritual icon, Deepak Chopra, is the focus of this doc, an audience favorite at the SXSW Film Festival. Made by Gotham Chopra, it separates the man from the myth with a raw honesty only a son can have. But what starts as decoding, quickly becomes an allegory of a world trying to make sense of itself.

8:00PM Reception at the Castro Mezzanine

More info is available at: www.thirdi.org/festival or find us on facebook at: www.facebook.com/3rdifilms

9:30PM **Cocktail**

(Homi Adjanina, India, 2012, 146mins)

Bollywood at the Castro A great cocktail needs the right mix - and this one only delivers but packs a punch, and a twist! Homi Adjanina takes the classic *masala* love triangle - complete with song and dance and high camp - and gives it a modern flavor in this recent blockbuster from Bollywood.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

@ Roxie Theater

12:00PM **Sikh I Am: Voices on Identity**

Various (USA, 2011/2012, 55mins)

Mandeep Sethi and Harjant Gill in Person

3 American-Sikhs assert and articulate their identity from a male perspective: Mandeep Sethi's *Sikligar* reveals the hidden story of Sikh weapon makers; Harjant Gill's *Roots of Love* examines the changing significance of the turban; and Christina Antonakos-Wallace's *Article of Faith* is the portrait of activist Sonny Singh who inspires young American-Sikhs to stand up for themselves.

1:45PM **Herman's House**

Angad Bhalla (Canada, 2012, 81mins)

Angad Bhalla in Person

Bhalla explores the injustice of solitary confinement and the transformative power of art in this must-see documentary that was an official selection of the Sundance Institute and the prestigious HotDocs festival. The film follows the unlikely friendship between a New York artist and one of America's most famous inmates as they collaborate on an acclaimed art project. **Panel discussion following screening.**

4:30PM **Okul Nodi (Endless River) + I am Micro**

Various (Bangladesh/India, 2012/2011, 66mins)

Tuni Chatterji in Person

Two docs that can only be described as visual poetry. A contemplative dialogue between music, landscape and the ephemeral quality of cinema, *Okul Nodi* (Tuni Chatterji) seeks the origins of *Bhatiyali*, the river music of Bangladesh. Shot on exquisite 35mm, *I am Micro* (Shumona Goel/Shai Heredia) invokes the memories of an experimental filmmaker to deliver an ode to independent cinema.

6:30PM **Valley of Saints**

Musa Syeed (USA/Kashmir, 2012, 82mins)

Lyrical romance and lush cinematography intermingle in this neorealist feature debut that was a major award winner at the Sundance Film Festival. Syeed intricately weaves together contemporary ecological issues with traditional culture, as an unlikely romance blossoms between a boatman and a scientist on the breathtaking Dal Lake in Kashmir.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

@ Little Roxie Theater

12:15PM **Jaagte Raho (Stay Awake) •Classic•**

Amit Maitra and Sombhu Mitra (India, 1956, 137mins)

Starring Bollywood-legend Raj Kapoor and co-directed by Bengali theatre legend Sombhu Mitra, this satire on the Indian middle class follows a poor migrant's search for a drink of water. The outstanding songs feature Salil Choudhary's score and Shailendra's poetry.

3:00PM **Family Album**

Nishtha Jain (India, 2011, 70mins)

In this doc, a companion piece to *City of Photos*, Jain interviews members from Calcutta's oldest families and captures the stories around their family albums. What emerges is a powerful meditation on the tangled relationship between memory, history, and the photograph.

4:45PM **Adda: Calcutta/Kolkata**

Surjo Deb and Ranjan Palit (India, 2011, 52mins)

Surjo Deb in Person

Part gossip, part intellectual debate, *adda* is the quintessential Bengali pastime. Following a number of ongoing addas at street corners, cafes, markets and living rooms, this documentary by Surjo Deb is a free-flowing, intimate portrait of a city and its people in a time of transition: as the Calcutta of old turns into the 21st century Kolkata.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

@ Camera12 (San Jose)

1:00PM **Azhagarswamy's Horse (Azhagarswamyin Kudhirai)**

Suseendiran (India, 2011, 122mins)

Distraught after the disappearance of ceremonial wooden horse, the villagers of Mallaypuram are convinced that the statue has come to life when a live horse suddenly shows up in town. Comic chaos ensues when the horse's owner comes searching for his possession in this family-friendly Tamil film. An audience favorite at the Toronto and Chicago film festivals.

3:30PM **Big in Bollywood**

Bill Bowles Kenny Meehan (USA, 2011, 70 mins)

Bill Bowles and Producer Tyler MacNiven in Person

Funny and irreverent, *Big in Bollywood* chronicles Omi Vaidya's ascendancy from an aspiring Indian-American actor in Hollywood to a megastar in faraway Bollywood (in the film *3 Idiots*). This eye-opening documentary reveals the fascinating world of Indian cinema, and the culture around it, in a way you've never seen before.

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