

3rd i's 24th ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

October 9-11, Roxie Theater in San Francisco

Come celebrate 3rd i's twenty-fourth anniversary! The annual SF International South Asian Film Festival — Beyond Bollywood will present award-winning films from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, France, South Africa, the UK, and the USA. From dark comedy to riveting drama, and from heartwarming social satire to documenting unique perspectives on the human condition, 3rd i offers groundbreaking cinema from South Asia and its Diaspora, with festival guests! www.thirdi.org

FILM SCHEDULE

Friday
October 9
7:30pm

A Celebration of
the Extraordinary
Work of Avie
Luthra
Avie Luthra



(UK, SOUTH
AFRICA, various years, 80 mins, French and Tamil with English
subtitles)

Q&A with director Avie Luthra, moderated by *Delhi Crime*
Producer, Pooja Kohli!!

For Opening Night, 3rd i Festival is thrilled to honor the creative genius of award-winning British-Indian director and screenwriter Avie Luthra with a showcase of his comedic, nuanced, complex, and socially insightful short films. Join us for an inspiring retrospective of his brilliant narratives that lift up stories of immigration, relationships, identity, gender, sexuality, and social justice.

Saturday,
October 10
1:00pm

Sand City
Mahde Hasan

(BANGLADESH,
2025, 99 mins,
Bengali with
English subtitles)



In this arthouse experimental film, director Mahde Hasan explores Dhaka, Bangladesh, where the landscape and its inhabitants share a profound connection: sand. Cinematographer Mathieu Giombini paints a moody, gritty, and beautiful picture—not just of a place, but of a living, breathing entity. Emma and Hasan have parallel

lives that intersect through their relationship with sand, solitude, urban alienation, dysfunction, and the strange things they need to survive in this metropolitan wilderness.

Saturday,
October 10
3:00pm

TECHNOCATS
Gautam Sonti

(INDIA, 2026, 86
mins, Hindi and
Telugu with English
subtitles)



At India's elite Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), a "Cat" is someone who aces everything. These engineering schools have produced the CEOs of Google, Microsoft, IBM, and other tech giants. In the documentary **TECHNOCATS**, director Gautam Sonti, an IIT alumnus himself, explores the cost and meaning of excellence, the reality behind the rankings, and the quiet resilience of young minds navigating one of India's most intense institutions.

Saturday,
October 10
5:15pm

**THE GREAT
SHAMSUDDIN
FAMILY**
Anusha Rizvi

(INDIA, 2025, 97
mins, Hindi with
English subtitles)



A witty, razor-sharp, heartwarming social satire, acclaimed filmmaker Anusha Rizvi directs her latest tour de force (her first film, PEEPLI LIVE, was India's offering to the Academy Awards and the first Indian film to screen at Sundance). Set within a Delhi apartment and unfolding during one day, the comedy cleverly turns domestic chaos into a microcosm of modern India.

Saturday,
October 10
7:45pm

Lali

Sarmad Sultan
Khoosat

(PAKISTAN,
2026,116 mins,
Punjabi with
English subtitles)



Darkly comic and colorful, Sarmad Khoosat (producer, JOYLAND) directs a layered thriller in which ghosts walk among the living and prophecies weigh heavily on a young Punjabi couple and their families. Zeba—whose three previous fiancés died mysteriously—marries Sajawal in a wedding full of quirky family drama and humor. Beginning as an exuberant social satire, the tone moves into a darker exploration of gender roles, jealousy, and the supernatural.

Sunday,
October 11
12:15pm

ETERNAL
TREES,
ETERNAL
MOUNTAINS

Harsha S. Reddy,
Chris Chekuri



(USA, INDIA,
2026, 55 mins, Telugu with English subtitles)

Q&A with directors Harsha Reddy and Chris Chekuri!

In 1998, American student Harsha ventures into the forests of South India to study tigers. Over the next two decades, he returns with his historian friend Chris to the villages of the Chenchu people, a tribal community whose roots run as deep as the ancient forests they call home. In this documentary shot across breathtaking forest landscapes, a portrait of a complex and resilient community emerges.

Sunday,
October 11
2:00pm

Ghost School

Seemab Gul

(PAKISTAN,
GERMANY,
SAUDI ARABIA,
2025, 88 mins,
Urdu with English
subtitles)



A magical, sweet, and visually evocative narrative, British-Pakistani director Seemab Gul captures a child's pursuit of answers in a community weighed down by fear of ghosts and misinformation. Journeying through an expansive, sun-drenched landscape, ten-year-old Rabia encounters people from all classes and backgrounds in her quest to uncover the reasons for the ghostly tales and why the only school in her village is closed.

Sunday,
October 11
4:00pm

THE LOYAL MAN
Lawrence Valin

(FRANCE, 2020,
52 mins, French
and Tamil with
English subtitles)



Specially recorded Q&A with Lawrence Valin!

Audience favorite, French-Sri Lankan Lawrence Valin (LITTLE JAFFNA) directs this riveting and romantic gangster thriller set in the gritty underworld of Paris, France. The character Aathi must confront his allegiance to his mob boss when he falls in love with a trafficked woman, Minale, who is under the mob's control.

Preceded by the short film HOMEBODY, directed by Shruti Parekh.