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**ENZIAN AND THE ASIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION PRESENT
THE 23rd ANNUAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

Orlando, FL – (September 27, 2017) – Beyond Bollywood: The 23rd Annual South Asian Film Festival, taking place October 7th – 9th, showcases diverse images of the Indian subcontinent, its culture, and heritage through acclaimed independent films from across the globe. This program is part of Enzian Theater's cultural festival circuit and is co-presented with the Asian Cultural Association and sponsored by Orlando Weekly.

Matthew Curtis, Enzian Programming Director, and Jasbir Mehta, Executive Director of the Asian Cultural Association, said, "We are thrilled with this year's lineup for the 23rd South Asian Film Festival. With four features and six shorts, including a nail-biting thriller and a grand, historical romantic epic, there is truly something for everyone who wants to experience the best of independent South Asian Cinema."

"At Enzian Theater and Eden Bar, our mission is to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect the community through film. I feel lucky that we have the opportunity to explore other cultures not only in our programming, but also with our dining experiences. As a chef, I love being able to collaborate with the Asian Cultural Association to ensure that we are providing the most authentic dishes to pair with the South Asian Film Festival and make it a culturally interactive experience," said Enzian Chef and Kitchen Manager, Marcus Mahone.

Individual tickets are available for each film or you can purchase a [Series Pass](#) for discounted admission to all films, plus priority seating.

A South Asian-inspired menu will be offered throughout the festival that includes special food and drinks.

WHAT: [HOTEL SALVATION](#)
Saturday, October 7th at 11AM
Southeast Premiere!

After a prophetic dream, 77-year old Daya announces to his family his time has come and he wishes to travel to the holy city of Varanasi on the Ganges to die there. The task to accompany his father falls to his dutiful and stressed accountant son Rajiv. Once they have checked into the Hotel Salvation though, where guests wait for the end of their

lives, Daya seems to be reinvigorated, and lifelong conflicts and feelings between father and son reemerge in this wry and heartfelt comedy-drama shot through with eccentric humor. Winner of the Unesco Award for peace and human rights at the Venice Film Festival where it world premiered, HOTEL SALVATION (MUKTI BHAWAN) is a thoughtful comedy about mortality, freedom, tradition, and family ties that is full of warmth and tenderness.

India, 2016, 99 min, Directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani, Not Rated, In Hindi with English subtitles

CHHOTA CINEMA: NEW INDIAN SHORTS 2017

Saturday, October 7th at 1:45PM

Always striving to showcase the best in cutting-edge new Indian cinema, the South Asian Film Festival is proud to present 6 incredible films from across the globe. The program includes the award-winning short DISCO OBU, COWBOY AND INDIAN, MUMBAI MORNINGS, DUTEE, FOREN, and MILES OF SAND, starring the incomparable Tannishtha Chatterjee. Audience members can vote for their favorite to receive our Audience Award.

MUMBAI MORNINGS

USA, 2015, 7 MIN

DIRECTED BY VEEMA RAO, NOT RATED, IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Southeast Premiere!

At 5am every day, Abbas Sheikh, a top ultramarathon runner, gets up to run along Mumbai's picturesque Marine Drive. By 9am, he is at work in a hot, cramped factory where he polishes jewelry for 12 hours a day.

MILES OF SAND

INDIA/SWEDEN, 2017, 12 MIN

DIRECTED BY Sonejuhi Sinha, NOT RATED, IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Working as a mourner for hire at village funerals to supplement her meager income, a single mother in Rajasthan faces an impossible dilemma when the village elders demand repayment of their loan.

DISCO OBU

INDIA, 2017, 20 MIN

DIRECTED BY Anand Kishore, NOT RATED, IN HINDI, ENGLISH AND KANNADA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Southeast Premiere!

A clumsy TV crew documents a day in the life of Obu, a rickshaw driver who years ago used to be a Bollywood sensation as the star of the film *Disco Das*.

FOREN

USA/INDIA, 2017 MIN, 10 MIN

DIRECTED BY Sushma Parmar, NOT RATED, IN GUJARATI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

East Coast Premiere!

On a summer afternoon, in a small town, Tanu and her grandma inquire of a world outside the bounds of their home.

COWBOY AND INDIAN

USA, 2017, 8 MIN

DIRECTED BY SUJATA DAY, NOT RATED, IN ENGLISH

Southeast Premiere!

When a young Bengali bride collapses in the desert, a cowboy appears out of the sunset and rescues her.

DUTEE

INDIA/USA, 2016, 24 MIN

DIRECTED BY VANESSA HUDSON, NOT RATED, IN ENGLISH, HINDI AND TAMIL WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In 2014, elite Indian track and field athlete, Dutee Chand, was told she was banned from competing in sports due to naturally high levels of testosterone in her body. The shocking results forced her to fight for her dream to return to the track and compete in the Olympics.

Total Running Time: 81 minutes

A SUITABLE GIRL

Sunday, October 8th at 11AM

Southeast Premiere!

Winner of the Documentary New Director Award at the Tribeca Film Festival, A SUITABLE GIRL follows three young women in India struggling to maintain their identities and follow their dreams amid intense pressure to get married. Ritu, Dipti and Amrita represent the new India. Educated, financially stable and raised with a mix of traditional and contemporary values in urban cities, they have access to the world in ways their mothers did not. Yet their lives take a dramatic turn when the pressure to settle down and get married hits, and career aspirations become secondary to the pursuit of a husband. Intimately documenting the matchmaking process over four years, the film examines the women's complex relationship with arranged marriage, family, and society.

India/USA, 2017, 90 min, Directed by Sarita Khurana and Smriti Mundhra, Not Rated, In English and Hindi with English subtitles

KHOJ (THE LOST)

Sunday, October 8th at 2PM

Florida Premiere!

In this award-winning crime thriller, a police inspector searches for the missing wife of a local doctor. After neighbors complain of hearing screams, the officer goes to investigate, but the doctor claims his wife is under medical care and cannot come to the door. The next day however, the doctor is in the police station filing a missing person report. Mistrustful of a man who can only produce one small photo of his spouse, the officer returns to the doctor's house and concludes that no woman has been living there at all. What follows is an intricately plotted tale of infidelity, revenge, and blackmail, that will keep you guessing to the very end, and the quaint little misty hill town of Rimitik will be shaken to its core as the inspector digs deep into the doctor's unusual life.

India, 2017, 116 min, Directed by Arka Ganguly, Not Rated, In Bengali, Hindi and Nepali with English subtitles

[VICEROY'S HOUSE](#)

Monday, October 9th at 6:30PM

New nations are rarely born in peace...In this lavish, sweeping historical epic, Hugh Bonneville (*Downton Abbey*) stars as Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India. Arriving at Delhi's palatial Viceroy's House in 1947 to oversee the transition of handing the country back from Britain to its own people, he and his wife, Edwina (Gillian Anderson, *The X-Files*), discover that ending centuries of rule in a country divided by deep religious and cultural differences is no easy undertaking. Conflict erupts as negotiations with Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim leaders set off a seismic struggle that threatens to tear India apart. With sumptuous period detail, director Gurinder Chadha (*Bend It Like Beckham*) brings to life a pivotal historical moment that re-shaped the world.

UK/India/Sweden, 2017, 107 min, Directed by Gurinder Chadha, Not Rated, In English

TICKETS: Series Pass – [\\$50](#) or Individual Tickets – \$11
Discounts, passes, and table reservations cannot be used for this event.

WHERE: **Enzian Theater**, 1300 South Orlando Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751

INFO: Enzian is Central Florida's only full-time, not-for-profit cinema for first-run independent and international film, classic revivals, documentary features, and select family entertainment. Enzian, a member-supported organization serving the community for more than 32 years, is home to the Florida Film Festival and Eden Bar. For additional information, visit Enzian.org or call general information at (407) 629-1088.

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