ENZIAN & THE ASIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION PRESENT

SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2015

OCT 3RD-5TH
Intimate and unsettling, AMONG THE BELIEVERS charts the personal crusade of firebrand Pakistani cleric Abdul Aziz Ghazi, an ISIS supporter and Taliban ally, and The Red Mosque organization, whose schools (madrassas) are training thousands of young children to take part in jihad (holy war). With unprecedented access, the filmmakers follow Aziz, his longtime opponent, education reformer Dr. Pervez Hoodbhoy, and school children Talha and Zarina—two teenagers on entirely different educational paths in the religious and secular systems. This eye-opening doc, by turns terrifying and heartbreaking, offers a rare insight into the ideological battle between moderate and fundamentalist forces that is shaping modern Pakistan and the Muslim world.

DANAK (RAINBOW)
EAST COAST PREMIERE!
INDIA, 2015, 103 MIN, DIRECTED BY NAGESH KUKUNOOR, NOT RATED (BUT COMPARABLE TO PG), IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT 11 AM
“Wonderfully uplifting... an incredibly moving and inspiring story.”
William Brownridge, TORONTO FILM SCENE

AMONG THE BELIEVERS
USA/PAKISTAN, 2015, 84 MIN, DIRECTED BY HEMAL TRIVEDI & MOHAMMED ALI NAQVI, NOT RATED (BUT COMPARABLE TO PG-13), IN ENGLISH AND URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT 1:45 PM
Filmmaker In Attendance!
Southeast Premiere!
“Riveting and beautifully balanced.”
Liz Whittemore, REEL NEWS DAILY

Winner of two awards at the 2015 Berlin Film Festival and fresh from its US Premiere as the Closing Night Gala of the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, Nagesh Kukunoor’s (HYDERABAD BLUES) enchanting fable is the stunning tale of orphaned siblings who embark on a journey across Rajasthan in an attempt to meet the great Shah Rukh Khan. 10-year-old Pari is the responsible older sister to Chotu, her high-spirited blind brother on the brink of his 9th birthday. When the two learn the actor is filming only a few hundred kilometers from their village, they sneak away from their aunt and uncle’s home and set out to meet the superstar. What follows is a colorful, touching, and humorous trek filled with magic and music that perfectly captures the innocence and adventure of childhood.
“When the goddess of wealth comes, she brings trouble with her, too.” And so it unfolds in Phulambri, a village in Maharashtra struggling to maintain its gentle rhythms and traditions in the face of endemic corruption. Lonely widow Budhi—distraught since her farmer son, drowning in debt, took his own life—has nonetheless found comfort and balance among her fellow villagers. Most of them are as poor as she is, but unfailingly generous with whatever they have, be it goat’s milk for tea or freshly baked bread. That delicate balance is upended the moment a politician shoves a few 1000-rupee notes into Budhi’s hands at a campaign rally, setting off a chain of events that will take her to the brink of despair and back again. This deeply humanistic morality tale won the Silver Peacock for Best Feature Film at the 2014 International Film Festival of India.

**1000 RUPEE NOTE (EK HAZARACHI NOTE)**

**INDIA, 2014, 89 MIN, DIRECTED BY SHRIHARI SATHE, NOT RATED (BUT COMPARABLE TO PG), IN MARATHI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 11 AM**

Filmmaker In Attendance! Southeast Premiere!

“A must watch for Usha Naik’s effortless acting and mind-blowing performance. Shrihari (Sathe) has struck gold with his first film.”

Mihir Bhanage, THE TIMES OF INDIA

Laila (the sensational Kalki Koechlin) is a young romantic, a secret rebel in a wheelchair. Undeterred by cerebral palsy, the University of Delhi college student embarks on a journey of sexual discovery and accepts a full scholarship to New York University. Her exhilarating adventures cause a rift within herself and with those she is closest to. Ultimately, it is in the intensity of these bonds that she finds the strength to truly be herself. Filmed with a light, elegant touch, Shonali Bose’s (AMU) second feature is an emotionally direct, accessible, and sweet study of disability and sexuality that has won numerous festival awards including the NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival.

**MARGARITA, WITH A STRAW**

**INDIA, 2014, 100 MIN, DIRECTED BY SHONALI BOSE, NOT RATED (BUT COMPARABLE TO R FOR MATURE CONTENT), IN ENGLISH AND HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 1:45 PM**

“An unexpected delight of charm and substance.”

Dennis Harvey, VARIETY
At the cusp of 30 and devastated by the breakup of a long-term relationship, Indian-American actor Ravi Patel has reached the breaking point with Western-style courtship. A despondent Ravi and his filmmaking sister Geeta fly to India to see their relatives, and Ravi notes how their parents, Champa and Vasant, who met via a traditional Indian arranged marriage, are still happy and together after 35 years. Eventually, Ravi decides to give his parents’ method a try and allow them to arrange the perfect mate for him—all while his sister films it. Anybody who’s ever dated or faced parental pressure to get hitched will relate to Ravi’s uproarious humiliations. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2014 Los Angeles Film Festival, MEET THE PATELS is an incredibly witty commentary on how ancient marriage rituals clash with modern attitudes of romance and self-determination.
The festival is produced by Enzian Theater as part of the Cultural Festival Circuit and is co-presented by Enzian and the Asian Cultural Association. This program is funded in part by local corporations and is supported by United Arts of Central Florida with funds from the United Arts Campaign and by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.