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**ENZIAN AND THE ASIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION PRESENT
THE 24th ANNUAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

Orlando, FL – (September 5, 2018) – Beyond Bollywood: The 24th Annual South Asian Film Festival, taking place September 29th – October 1st, 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 so excited about the program we've been able to put together for this year's 24th annual South Asian Film Festival. All nine films in our lineup are premieres of some kind, including one World Premiere and five Southeast Premieres, and this year we're proud to feature two exceptional (and brand new!) documentary features that will be of special interest to the LGBTQ community (LOVESICK) and contemporary music fans (MATANGI / MAYA / M.I.A.)."

"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, such as vegetable samosas, chicken tikka, mango lassi, and Singha beer.

WHAT:

[DARK WIND](#)

Saturday, September 29th at 11AM

Southeast Premiere!

Sanjay Mishra gives one of his career-best performances in this sensitive yet pointed dramatization of climate change's effects on a diverse cross-section of Indian society. In the Mahua region of Rajasthan, once known for flourishing farmlands, the ever-

decreasing rainfall has left farmers without a crop to sell, and therefore with no money to repay their hefty bank loans. Hedu (Mishra), the father of one such farmer, fears his son's misfortune will lead him to drastic action. He pays a visit to a notorious debt collection officer, known as the "god of death" for his vicious tactics, looking to strike a bargain. But the agreement they reach might offer solutions for some, and total ruin for others.

Director Nila Madhab Panda masterfully constructs a thrilling, sometimes humorous story that enlightens even as it plays more like great drama. Through the engaging performances of his skilled cast, he makes tangible the desperation caused by an ever more unpredictable environment, and pays close attention to the deception and betrayal some must resort to in order to survive in such a harsh climate.

India, 2017, 99 min, Directed by Nila Madhab Panda, Not Rated, In Hindi with English subtitles

CHHOTA CINEMA: NEW INDIAN SHORTS 2018

Saturday, September 29th at 1:45PM

Always striving to showcase the best in cutting-edge new Indian cinema, the South Asian Film Festival is proud to present 5 outstanding films from across the globe. The program includes THE NEVER-ENDING MARATHON OF MR. DHARAM SINGH, TARA VERSUS, the World Premiere of KAASHI, MOONGFALI WALA (THE PEANUT SELLER), and SHIVANI. Audience members can vote for their favorite to receive our Audience Award.

THE NEVER-ENDING MARATHON OF MR. DHARAM SINGH

USA/INDIA/NEPAL, 2017, 22 MIN

DIRECTED BY DAVID FRIED, NOT RATED, IN ENGLISH

East Coast Premiere!

This is the story of Dharampal Singh who, according to himself and four hastily arranged forms of ID, is 119 years old. Mr. Dharam Singh likes to run. A lot.

TARA VERSUS

INDIA, 2017, 21 MIN

DIRECTED BY AYESHA ANNA NINAN, NOT RATED, IN ENGLISH

Florida Premiere!

A struggling comedian has a hard time seeing the funny side of life when her career stagnates while her best friend gets a promotion.

KAASHI

INDIA, 2017, 12 MIN

DIRECTED BY TUSHAR TYAGI, NOT RATED, IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

World Premiere!

The powerful story of a teenage girl, living in poverty in an Indian village, who is adamant about getting basic necessities of life (including a toilet) in her home.

MOONGFALI WALA (THE PEANUT SELLER)

GERMANY/INDIA, 2018, 19 MIN

DIRECTED BY ETIENNE SIEVERS, NOT RATED, IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Southeast Premiere!

An orphaned young ragpicker battling isolation and poverty in the streets of New Delhi tries to locate the one man capable of helping him find his mother.

SHIVANI

INDIA, 2017, 21 MIN

DIRECTED BY JAMIE DOBIE, NOT RATED, IN TELUGU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
Southeast Premiere!

Filmmaker in Attendance!

The parents of a three-year-old girl in India believe her to be the reincarnation of their son, and train her to become an Olympic archery champion.

Total Running Time: 95 minutes

LOVESICK

Sunday, September 30th at 11AM

Southeast Premiere!

After discovering the first cases of HIV in India in 1986, Dr. Suniti Solomon left a prestigious academic job to build her own clinic focusing on treating HIV/AIDS patients. Several decades and breakthroughs in treatment later, her clinic is one of the highest regarded in the country and her patients are living longer lives. While surviving, some of her patients are not thriving. Being Indian, they feel immense societal and personal pressure to marry, but simultaneously face a stigma of being HIV-positive. Now in the twilight of her impressive career, Dr. Solomon takes the next step in her treatment by creating a matchmaking service for those seeking marriage. Through the service we meet Manu and Karthik, two of her patients who want to share their lives with someone but are fearful they never will. Shot over eight years and told with compassion and care, filmmakers Ann S. Kim and Priya Giri Desai give us a surprising and hopeful story about the universal healing ability of companionship and love.

USA/India, 2018, 74 min, Directed by Ann. S. Kim and Priya Giri Desai, Not Rated, In English, Tamil and Hindi with English subtitles

WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY

Sunday, September 30th at 1:30PM

Florida Premiere!

Sixteen-year-old Nisha (Maria Mozhdah) lives a double life. When out with her friends, she's a regular Norwegian teenager. At home with her family, she is the perfect Pakistani daughter. But when her father (Adil Hussain) catches her alone with her boyfriend in her room, Nisha's two worlds brutally collide. To set an example and escape the judgment of their peers, Nisha's parents send her to live with extended family in a small town in Pakistan. There, in an unfamiliar country surrounded by people she barely knows, Nisha must adapt to a rigid culture that denies her the freedoms she once enjoyed. Winner of the Audience Award at AFI Fest, WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY is a tense and moving drama about women's rights, immigrant identity, and familial duties. Based on director Iram Haq's own experiences as a young Pakistani woman in Norway, it features an astounding debut by 18-year-old Mozhdah and a nuanced performance by veteran actor Hussain (*Life of Pi*).

Norway/Germany/Sweden, 2018, 106 min, Directed by Iram Haq, Not Rated, In Norwegian and Urdu with English subtitles

[MATANGI / MAYA / M.I.A.](#)

Monday, October 1st at 6:30PM

Southeast Premiere!

Drawn from a cache of personal video recordings from the past 22 years, the Sundance award winning MATANGI / MAYA / M.I.A. is a startlingly personal profile of the critically acclaimed artist, chronicling her remarkable journey from refugee immigrant to pop star. She began as Matangi. Daughter of the founder of Sri Lanka's armed Tamil resistance, she hid from the government in the face of a vicious and bloody civil war. When her family fled to the UK, she became Maya, a precocious and creative immigrant teenager in London. Finally, the world met her as M.I.A. when she emerged on the global stage, having created a mashup, cut-and-paste identity that pulled from every corner of her journey along the way; a sonic sketchbook that blended Tamil politics, art school punk, and hip-hop beats. Eye-opening and uncompromising, MATANGI / MAYA / M.I.A. provides unparalleled, intimate access to the artist in her battles with the music industry and mainstream media as her success and fame explode, becoming one of the most outspoken and provocative voices in music today.

USA/UK, 2018, 95 min, Directed by Stephen Lovridge, Not Rated, In English and Tamil with English subtitles

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 33 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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