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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ENZIAN AND THE ASIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION PRESENT  
THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

**Orlando, FL** – (September 17, 2019) – Beyond Bollywood: The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual South Asian Film Festival, taking place October 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Matthew Curtis, Enzian Programming Director, and Jasbir Mehta, Executive Director of the Asian Cultural Association, said, "We are extremely proud to be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important event on the Central Florida cultural calendar. All nine films in this year's lineup bring something different and special to the program, which includes one U.S. Premiere, one Southeast Premiere, and three Florida Premieres. It's also looking like we will have more filmmakers and talent in attendance than ever before, which is exciting for our audience."

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.

**WHAT: [THE LAST COLOR](#)  
Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 11AM**

*Florida Premiere!*

Fearless nine-year-old orphan, Chhoti, dreams of saving Rs. 300 (\$4) so she can attend school. Together with her best friend Chintu, this timely drama traces their daily struggles for survival on the streets of the ancient city of Banaras, India. Chhoti befriends Noor, a white-clad widow who suffers a life of total abstinence and is disallowed from taking part in any festivities, especially Holi, the Indian festival of colors. Over time, their friendship and spiritual bond breaks through the barriers of the caste system, and Noor encourages the brave little girl to face life with courage, education, and dignity, while sharing her fondest, but closely kept childhood memories of playing with colors. THE LAST COLOR is a story of promises kept and promises broken, a friendship that knows no bounds, and the freedom and victory of the human spirit.

India, 2019, 90 min, Directed by Vikas Khanna, Not Rated, In Hindi with English subtitles

### **AMERICAN HASI**

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:45PM**

*Florida Premiere!*

*\*Talent in attendance*

After losing his day job, Indian-American comedian Tushar Singh decides to pursue stand-up comedy full-time. With his mom in tow, he maps out a five-week tour of India, taking part in the country's flourishing stand-up scene and drawing on his unique perspective as the son of conservative Hindu parents in Huntsville, Alabama. Interacting with foreign audiences for the very first time, Singh also gets life-changing advice from established pros like Russell Peters and Bill Burr. Balancing humor with the struggle for success and self-discovery, AMERICAN HASI, winner of the Calcutta International Cult Film Festival Award of Excellence, is a funny yet emotional portrait of a comedian at the (often awkward) crossroads of his life and career.

India/USA, 2019, 75 min, Directed by Laura Asherman, Not Rated, In English and Hindi with English subtitles

### **CHHOTA CINEMA: NEW INDIAN SHORTS 2019**

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 11AM**

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 A SARI FOR PALLAVI, the U.S. Premiere of ROOTHING FOR ROONA\*, DIFFICULT PEOPLE, THE FIELD, and LADY BIKERS OF KOLKATA\*. Audience members can vote for their favorite to receive our Audience Award.

*\*Talent in attendance*

#### **LADY BIKERS OF KOLKATA\***

USA/INDIA, 2018, 13 MIN

DIRECTED BY SARAH HOLLAND & RAMSEY KHAWAJA, NOT RATED, IN BENGALI, HINDI, AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A group of female motorcyclists in Kolkata, India share their experiences at the forefront of a biking movement that challenges gender roles in a changing society.

#### **DIFFICULT PEOPLE**

USA/INDIA, 2018, 20 MIN

DIRECTED BY Sohil Vaidya, NOT RATED, IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Akash, an aspiring graffiti artist lives with his father, Sudhakar. While rebelling against his father's conventional approach to life, Akash struggles to find his creative expression in the vast liberating spaces of Mumbai.

#### **A SARI FOR PALLAVI**

USA, 2019, 10 MIN

DIRECTED BY KATE CHAMURIS, NOT RATED, IN ENGLISH

With her cousin's wedding starting in one hour, Pallavi has to decide between

honoring the Indian traditions of her family or staying true to her modern American identity.

### **THE FIELD**

FRANCE/INDIA, 2018, 19 MIN

DIRECTED BY SANDHYA SURI, NOT RATED, IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
*Southeast Premiere!*

A poor agricultural laborer leads a double life in the village's last remaining cornfield. But the harvest is approaching. Winner of the Short Cuts Award for Best International Short Film at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Grand Jury Award for Best Short at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles.

### **ROOTING FOR ROONA\***

INDIA, 2018, 40 MIN

DIRECTED BY PAVITRA CHALAM & AKSHAY SHANKAR, NOT RATED, IN BENGALI AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
*U.S. Premiere!*

A little girl named Roona Begum is born in the North East of India with an unprecedented head size caused by a birth defect. This is the story of one family and how they raise a child against insurmountable odds.

Total Running Time: 102 minutes

### **THE SWEET REQUIEM**

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:15PM**

*Florida Premiere!*

*\*Talent in attendance*

This bold new work from directors Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam (*Dreaming Lhasa*) is a tale of tragedy, retribution, and courage. Shifting between a present-day struggle to overcome trauma and flashbacks to a harrowing trek through the Himalayas, *THE SWEET REQUIEM* offers an unforgettable reflection on the refugee crisis in a part of the world too rarely reported on.

Dolkar is a 26-year-old living in exile in Delhi. An unexpected encounter with a figure from her past sets off a flurry of memories she had long repressed regarding the journey that brought her here. Dolkar was only eight when she and her father left their Tibetan home in a desperate attempt to start anew in a safer land. As memories of what became a disastrous expedition take shape, Dolkar resolves to confront the man she believes responsible. Authentically capturing the life-and-death stakes of the real-life escape across the border on which it was based, this powerful and compassionate drama grapples with sinister shadows of the past while envisioning a better future.

India/USA, 2018, 92 min, Directed by Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam, In Tibetan with English subtitles

### **THE WEDDING GUEST**

**Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**

This propulsive, globetrotting thriller from acclaimed director Michael Winterbottom (*The Trip* trilogy, *Welcome to Sarajevo*) is a breathless tour through the shadowy underworlds and hidden realms of Pakistan and India. Jay (*Slumdog Millionaire's* Dev

Patel) is a man with a secret who travels from Britain to Pakistan to attend a wedding—armed with duct tape, a shotgun, and a plan to kidnap the bride-to-be (Radhika Apte). Despite his cool efficiency, the plot quickly spirals out of control, sending Jay and his hostage on the run across the border and through the railway stations, back alleys, and black markets of New Delhi—as all the while attractions simmer, loyalties shift, and explosive secrets are revealed. Pulsating with the sights and sounds of the Indian subcontinent, THE WEDDING GUEST conjures a colorful world where danger lurks at every turn and nothing is as it seems.

UK, 2018, 94 min, Directed by Michael Winterbottom, Rated R, In English

**TICKETS:** Series Pass – [\\$55](#) or Individual Tickets – \$12  
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 34 years, is home to the Florida Film Festival and Eden Bar. For additional information, visit [Enzian.org](http://Enzian.org) or call general information at (407) 629-1088.

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