



Media Contact:

Valerie Cisneros

marketing@enzian.org

407-629-1088 x302

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ENZIAN AND THE ASIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION PRESENT
THE 27th ANNUAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

Orlando, FL – (September 16, 2021) – Beyond Bollywood: The 27th Annual South Asian Film Festival, taking place October 2nd – 4th, 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.

This year's festival offers four features and seven shorts, and includes 10 premieres. Matthew Curtis, Enzian Programming Director, and Jasbir Mehta, Executive Director of the Asian Cultural Association, said, "It's extremely exciting to bring the South Asian Film Festival back in the theater with a full program that's as diverse, thought-provoking and entertaining as ever. The theatrical experience with our audience was missed greatly, and we're looking forward to a special 27th celebration of glorious South Asian cinema."

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 BENGALI](#)

Saturday, October 2nd at 11AM

Southeast Premiere!

There will be a post-film Zoom Q&A with the director!

A multi-racial writer from Louisiana, where her family has lived for four generations, Fatima Shaik embarks upon an unlikely quest when she travels from New Orleans to a part of India where no American has ever gone. Accompanied by Kolkata-born filmmaker Kavery Kaul, her search for the past is fraught with uncertainty as she looks for her grandfather's descendants, the land he claimed to own, and the truth behind the stories she grew up with. Winner of the Flickers International Humanitarian Award at the Rhode Island Int'l Film Festival.

preceded by SON OF A SWEEPER

Director will be in attendance!

Vimal Kumar is the son of a sweeper, or "untouchable" in India's cruel caste system. This enlightening doc short profiles his efforts to provide options and hope for other children of sweepers through education and his "Movement for Scavenger Community" centers.

The Bengali: USA, 2020, 71 Min, Directed by Kavery Kaul, In English & Bengali with English subtitles

Son of a Sweeper: USA, 2020, 28 Min, Directed by Lisa Mills, In English & Hindi with English subtitles

PEBBLES

Saturday, October 2nd at 2PM

Florida Premiere!

An irascible drunkard drags his reticent boy to a distant village to get his estranged wife to return, but when the encounter turns ugly, the journey home through unforgiving Tamil Nadu barrens transforms the father and son's parched relationship. What proceeds is a sublime stretch of pure cinema, as the story, buoyed by the randomness of metaphysical encounter, enters the realm of fable, mirage, even prayer, in a land undergoing steady desertification. Vinothraj crafts spare, intimate vignettes linked by rigorous tracking shots that set the expressive physicality of his actors against the grandeur of rock formations and lineages of scorched earth. Winner of the Tiger Award at the 2021 Rotterdam Int'l Film Festival.

preceded by PILIBHIT

Florida Premiere!

Mounting livelihood pressures and tragedies corner an impoverished flute maker to take a drastic measure that threatens to tear down his values and a loved one. Inspired by true stories of Pilibhit, North India, where man eating tigers thrive.

Pebbles: India, 2021, 74 Min, Directed by P.S. Vinothraj, In Tamil with English subtitles

Pilibhit: India, 2020, 23 Min, Directed by Ashutosh Chaturvedi and Pankaj Mavchi, In Hindi with English subtitles

CHHOTA CINEMA: NEW INDIAN SHORTS 2021

Sunday, October 3rd at 11AM

LAST NIGHT IN VEGAS

USA, 2020, 8 MIN

Directed by J. Nicholas Meese

Southeast Premiere!

On the morning of her arranged marriage, a perfect Bengali-American daughter sings about the not-so-perfect choices she made the night before at her Vegas bachelorette party.

DAMMY

India, 2020, 28 MIN

Directed by Rukshana Tabassum

In Hindi with English Subtitles

U.S. Premiere!

A young widower and father living in rural Madhya Pradesh is left to care for his baby, trying his best to fill the mom's absence. But his love for his lost wife and living child forces him into trying some bizarre solutions to the baby's problems, and one very extreme request.

STRONG SON

Canada, 2020, 3 MIN

Directed by Ian Bawa

Southeast Premiere!

An endearing portrait of a South Asian father as he attempts to give life and marital advice to his bodybuilding and image-obsessed son. This touching, comedic, and autobiographical short film stars the director's own father, Jagdeep Singh Bawa.

RUNS, IN THE FAMILY

USA, 2020, 10 MIN

Directed by Paras H. Chaudhari

Florida Premiere!

When the eldest son comes home to celebrate his birthday, he finds that a heated argument has caused everyone in the family to retreat to their own spaces. As he visits each room and finds them dealing with their anger in their own way, he must find a way to process his own.

NOTHING BUT A HUMAN

India, 2020, 45 MIN

Directed by Swati Jaiswal

In English and Hindi with English Subtitles

North American Premiere!

This visually striking and timely documentary focuses on Hiten Noonwal, a young gender-fluid artist seeking love and acceptance who also happens to belong to the LGBTQ community as well. From designing dressing for Local Ramleela Cosplay of his village to reaching NID Ahmedabad as an Apparel Design student, he has found a way to use his artistic talent to not only express himself through his art, but to also use it as a weapon to fight his social battles and bring awareness.

Total Running Time: 94 minutes

7 DAYS

Sunday, October 3rd at 2PM

Southeast Premiere!

There will be a post-film Zoom Q&A with the director!

Set up on a pre-arranged date by their old-fashioned Indian parents, Ravi and Rita seemingly have nothing in common, making for an afternoon that, while pleasant enough, couldn't be any more awkward. He's conservative and clearly nervous, while she's doing her best to politely keep on smiling. But then the unthinkable happens: As the COVID outbreak intensifies, the shelter-in-place mandate is issued, forcing Ravi to spend the night at Rita's place. Before long, he sees that she's not the traditional and straightlaced girl of his dreams she initially pretended to be. As their time stuck together stretches towards a full week, though, Ravi and Rita develop an unlikely bond in this surefire hit from this year's Tribeca Festival, an impressive directorial debut executive-produced by the Duplass Brothers that's sweet, quirky, heartfelt, and genuinely funny.

USA, 2021, 86 minutes, Directed by Roshan Sethi

LAST FILM SHOW

Monday, October 4th at 6:30PM

Southeast Premiere!

Samay, a mischievous nine-year-old boy living with his family in a remote village in India, discovers films for the first time and is absolutely mesmerized. Against his father's wishes, he returns by train to the rundown cinema day after day to watch more films, and even befriends the projectionist, who, in exchange for his lunch box, lets him watch movies for free. He quickly figures out that stories become light, light becomes films, and films become dreams. Samay and his wild gang of friends move heaven and earth to construct their own DIY projection apparatus and together, they find an innovative way to jubilantly succeed. But following your dreams often means leaving things behind, in this masterful homage to the universal magic of movies that transports us back to the awe and innocence of childhood.

India/France/USA, 2021, 110 minutes, Directed by Pan Nalin, In Gujarati with English subtitles

TICKETS: Series Pass – [\\$55](#)
Individual Tickets – \$12

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 36 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.

###