

# BIRMINGHAM INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL

17 JUNE - 4 JULY





CARY RAJINDER SAWHNEY

Welcome back to the festival, which this year has evolved into a hybrid festival. You can watch it in cinemas in London, Birmingham, and Manchester, or on your own sofa at home, via our digital site [www.LoveLIFFatHome.com](http://www.LoveLIFFatHome.com), that is accessible anywhere in the United Kingdom. Our talks and certain events are also accessible worldwide.

A big personal thanks to all our audiences who stayed with the festival last year and helped make it one of the few success stories in the film industry. This year's festival is dedicated to you with love.

Highlights of this year's festival include our inspiring Opening Night Gala WOMB about one woman gender activist who incredibly walks the entire length of India to explore the experiences of other women in its billion plus population. See it at **MAC Birmingham**. We close the festival with a special screening of the rarely seen British Asian all-star film *Flight* - expect special guests for that one!

Our themed strands in this brochure cover online and cinema-based movie premieres and events. They start with our Young Rebel strand (which literally challenges all the stereotypes!) with UK premieres of a host of talented emerging filmmakers, showing young people's real-life challenges and experiences.

Dive deep into our Extra-Ordinary Lives strand with amazing dramas and documentaries from across South Asia. Films include *Abhijaan*, an inspiring biopic exploring the life of the late and great Bengali actor **Soumitra Chatterjee**; Black comedy *Ashes On a Road Trip*; and *Aise Hee* - an intimate portrait of the outdated obligations in a patriarchal society. Look out for selected online premieres too.

We also introduce a new strand dedicated to ecology-related films, called Save The Planet, with some stirring features about lives affected by deforestation and rising sea levels, and how people are meeting the challenge.

We are expecting a host of special guests as usual and do check out our brilliant online In Conversations with Indian talent in June - where we will be joined by Bollywood Director **Karan Johar**, and rapidly rising talented actors **Shruti Haasan** and **Janhvi Kapoor**, as well as featuring some very informative online Q&As on all our films.

We are delighted to welcome back our many regular funders and partners; thanks to BFI Audience Fund and Birmingham City University, and to our many friends and supporters including Sampad - South Asian Arts & Heritage, Asian Business Chamber of Commerce, Consulate General of India in Birmingham, Film Hub Midlands and Film Birmingham. We're pleased to be working with new cinemas; Everyman Mailbox and Millennium Point. To support the ongoing Covid pandemic in India and other South Asian countries, we are asking our audiences to visit our donations page at [LoveLIFFatHome.com](http://LoveLIFFatHome.com) and kindly help out if you can.

For cinemas, you can buy tickets via booking links on our website, or directly at partner cinemas. For online viewings, please follow the booking guidance on [www.LoveLIFFatHome.com](http://www.LoveLIFFatHome.com)

Please remember that Covid safety regulations are strictly administered by all of our venue partners and you may be required to wear a mask throughout all cinema screenings. We look forward to seeing you in cinemas and online!

Warm regards,

Cary Rajinder Sawhney  
Executive & Programming Director



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Patrons: Shehkar Kapur, Tony Matharu, Lord David Puttnam, Adoor Gopalakrishnan. Festival Brand Ambassadors: Antonio Aakeel, Sunny & Shay Grewal, Feryna Wazheir. Thank you to all our valuable friends, supporters and volunteers.



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## OPENING NIGHT

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UK Premiere

### **WOMB** (WOMEN OF MY BILLION)

English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu  
with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 102 Mins

*Dir: Ajitesh Sharma*

A young woman, Srishti Bakshi embarks on a monumental journey, walking almost 4000km over 240 days, from Kanyakumari in the south, to Kashmir, in the North, along the way meeting and learning first hand about the experiences of many women from all corners of India. WOMB is a poignant and heart warming documentary exploring the social and political issues faced by women of today's India. It is a unique testament to seemingly insurmountable challenges in these unprecedented times and the everyday heroes who are battling to overcome.

IN CINEMA Q&A WITH SRISHTI BAKSHI

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25 June | 19:00 | MAC

## CLOSING NIGHT

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### **FLIGHT**

English  
UK 1997 | 75 Mins

*Dir: Alex Pillai*  
*With: Mina Anwar, Kulvinder Ghir,*  
*Roshan Seth, Meera Syal*

A talented British Asian star cast comes together in this Northern family drama, sensitively written by Tanika Gupta and directed by Alex Pillai. Shikha (Mina Anwar), a young Hindu school girl from Lancashire town Accrington, secretly falls in love with a Muslim boy. As word gets out about their tryst, she is threatened and is forced to flee to London to escape the wrath of her patriarch father (Roshan Seth). In the big city she finds refuge in a secret women's shelter, where she discovers a new found sense of freedom, but her past soon catches up with her.

IN CINEMA Q&A WITH ALEX PILLAI + CAST AND CREW EXPECTED

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4 July | 15:00 | MAC



### IN CONVERSATION WITH **KARAN JOHAR**

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The son of Bollywood producer **Yash Johar** of Dharma Productions, **Karan Johar** followed in his father's illustrious footsteps without missing a beat, ably aided by his mother, **Hiroo Johar**. Starting his career as an actor, he went on to create what is seen as the epitome of Bollywood cinema, working with lavish opulent sets, and working with the biggest names in the business. His foray into cinema came via his role as an assistant director on cousin **Aditya Chopra's** super hit film *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, where he formed his close working relationship with **Shah Rukh Khan** and **Kajol**, creating his directorial debut, the multiple award winning *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. His work with *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...* starring **Amitabh Bachchan** and **Jaya Bachchan** followed to great success. His unique talent has resulted in his career expanding in cinema and also a large audience following in television. He speaks to Girls On Film and BBC's **Anna Smith** about his incredible career.

[ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](http://www.loveliffathome.com)



### IN CONVERSATION WITH **SHRUTI HAASAN**

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Pan Indian actress and musician **Shruti Haasan**, was born to actors **Kamal Haasan** and **Sarika Thakur**, living her life around set visits, cameos, and ultimately a career in cinema. From acting in the acclaimed film exploring Gandhian principles, *Hey Ram*, as a child, to composing the score for *Unnaipol Oruvan* (Tamil remake of the Hindi film *A Wednesday*) to making her mark in films like *3* and *D-Day*, she has won Filmfare, IIFA and SIIMA awards for her silver screen appearances. Her foray into Hollywood came by way of the series of the action drama series *Treadstone*. Her work as a playback singer in Indian cinema began with her first song aged six in *Thevar Magan* alongside thespian **Sivaji Ganesan**, by the legend **Ilaiyaraaja**. She discusses her career trajectory with BBC broadcaster and film critic **Ashanti Omkar**, in a candid In Conversation event on [www.loveliffathome.com](http://www.loveliffathome.com)

[ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](http://www.loveliffathome.com)





IMAGE CREDIT: HOUSE OF PIXELS

### IN CONVERSATION WITH JANHVI KAPOOR

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Born to the late legendary pan Indian actress **Sridevi** and Bollywood producer **Boney Kapoor**, **Janhvi Kapoor** has made her mark on Hindi cinema since her first foray onto the cinematic screen in 2018 with *Dhadak*. She took her early training at the popular Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in California. She went on to win accolades for her role in the Zoya Akhtar directed *Story 1* segment as part of the Netflix anthology, *Ghost Stories*. Her titular role in *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl* went on to win plaudits for her understated performance and physical transformation, playing one of India's first female air force officers. An actress for the modern age, with many films in the streaming sphere, Kapoor discusses her short but steady journey in cinema, with film critic **Mike McCahill** of The Guardian and The Telegraph on [www.loveliffathome.com](http://www.loveliffathome.com)

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[ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](http://www.loveliffathome.com)



### IN CONVERSATION WITH AVTAR PANESAR

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Behind the surface glamour of the film industry are the key industry professionals who dynamically make it all happen. We are delighted to celebrate and talk to one such British hero **Avtar Panesar**, who over the last thirty years has been a pioneer of the UK Asian Bollywood film & music scene and has gone on to be a leading light in one of India's biggest hit movie studios – Yash Raj Films.

Avtar talks about his childhood, arrival from Punjab to London's Southall in the 1970s and how his father's strong immigrant work ethic inspired him. Starting as a stockroom assistant with EMI India he climbed to management within the company promoting Indian music. This soon took him into Hindi commercial cinema, where as a young man, his hard work and diligence caught the attention of movie moguls **Yash** and **Aditya Chopra**, who handpicked him to execute their vision to set up the company's international operations.

As success followed, Avtar then ascended to greater heights moving back to India at Yash Raj Studios, Mumbai to be dynamically involved with this legendary company's global expansion which now celebrates 50 years of movie-making.

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[ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](http://www.loveliffathome.com)

## SPECIAL GUESTS IN CONVERSATIONS

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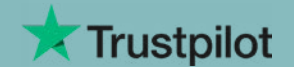
### IN CONVERSATION WITH PAM CULLEN

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**Pam Cullen** at 97 years young, is a true legend, with an incredible career spanning over fifty years in the Indian film industry. In this very rare, frank and at times witty Interview Pam talks to author and producer **Nasreen Munnì Kabir** about her unique life and work. It starts in the 1940s, rebelling against her conservative English parents to join the 'Free India' movement and becoming involved with the nascent Indian High Commission and then the early National Film Development Corporation of India. Pam recounts her career experiences with the Indian independence leader **V.K.Krishna Menon**, setting up the UK's first Indian film screening after WW2. She later worked with Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi** and befriended the shy young **Satyajit Ray** on his early visits to London, rubbing shoulders with such luminaries as **Charlie Chaplin** and managing **Raj Kapoor's** press schedule in the golden age of cinema.

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Younger people often challenge and change the world with fresh ideas and open hearts. We present a clutch of new films that depict young South Asians, some are joyous, while others present youth facing real-life challenges in South Asia today.



UK Premiere

## SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS...

★ CHILD FRIENDLY

Bengali with English subtitles  
India 2021 | 63 Mins

Dir: Suman Ghosh  
With: Sudiptaa Chakraborty,  
Shahida Neera

A beautiful and tender tale about the many journeys people take in the quest for joy in a complex world. Four year old Shahida paints a smile on a red balloon and calls it "Happiness". Together with her mother she floats it away, hoping to spread happiness across the world. Shahida soon realises she misses her "happiness" and runs away from home in search of it. As she roams the hazardous streets of Kolkata, she comes across different characters, all who in some way are searching for their own forms of happiness.

ONLINE Q&A WITH SUMAN GHOSH

27 June | 12:00 | MAC





UK Premiere

### POP CITY

Hindi with English subtitles  
India 2019 | 80 Mins

Dir: Rohit Mittal  
With: Arjun Radhakrishnan, Naina Sareen, Preeti Sharma

A young and ruthless gun for hire Gulshan, lives a lonely life in Mumbai, dreaming of becoming the number one hitman in the city. He is presented with the opportunity to achieve his goals after being approached by a mysterious organisation to kill a journalist. As Gulshan stalks his prey, learning his every move and planning when to make the hit, Gulshan's everyday life begins to get mixed in with his professional life and the best laid plans quickly vortex out of control

ONLINE Q&A WITH ROHIT MITTAL

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18 June | 18:00 | ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



UK Premiere

### I'LL MEET YOU THERE

English, Urdu with English subtitles  
USA 2020 | 90 Mins

Dir: Iram Parveen Bilal  
With: Faran Tahir, Nikita Tewani, Sheetal Sheth

An insightful and moving portrait of three generations of a Muslim-American family, *I'll Meet You There* follows Majid, a Chicago policeman, and his teenage daughter Dua, a gifted ballet dancer. Their blissful life begins to take a turn after an unexpected visit from Baba, Majeed's long-estranged, religious father from Pakistan, which coincides with Majeed's new undercover assignment with the FBI. As Baba and Dua's relationship begins to blossom she is soon forced to pirouette between her passion for dance and her roots.

ONLINE Q&A WITH IRAM PARVEEN BILAL AND CAST  
AND BBC'S HAROON RASHID

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30 June | 14:00 | MAC  
2 July | 18:00 | ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



UK Premiere

## KAYATTAM (A'HR)

Malayalam with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 105 Mins

Dir: Sanal Kumar Sasidharan  
With: Manju Warriar, Gaurav  
Ravindran, Bhupendra Khurana

Kerala's enfant terrible director Sanal Kumar Sasidharan (*Sexy Durga*), returns to the festival with this new twisted Himalayan tale. Maya from Kerala connects with younger Akash on social media and they meet in person on a mountain trek. Their chemistry is instant and romance blossoms, however this budding union attracts the unwanted attention of several older male fellow travellers and threatens to derail their relationship.

ONLINE Q&A WITH SANAL KUMAR SASIDHARAN, MANJU  
WARRIAR AND BBC'S ASHANTI OMKAR

29 June | 18:30 | EVERYMAN

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European Premiere

### **MARA PAPPA SUPERHERO**

Gujarati with English subtitles  
India 2021 | 120 Mins

*Dir: Dr. Darshan Ashwin Trivedi  
With: Bhavya Sirohi, Abhinay  
Banker, Shraddha Dangar*

This sweet and charming family film tells the story of a little Gujarati girl's quest to prove her street vendor father is secretly a superhero. Kanku is a happy-go-lucky kid who is able to find joy and happiness with the small things in life. One day while playing with her rich friend Kiara, she hears Kiara refer to her father as her superhero. Eager to understand, Kanku asks Kiara questions, the answers which lead her to believe her street vendor dad is also a superhero. She sets out at any cost to convince everyone of this fact.

**26 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)  
**28 June | 19:00** | MAC



UK Premiere

### **BITTERSWEET**

Marathi with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 101 Mins

*Dir: Ananth Narayan Mahadevan  
With: Akshaya Gaurav, Suresh  
Vishwakamra, Anil Nagarkar*

World premiered at Busan International Film Festival, Ananth Mahadevan's story is based on true life Indian crop workers struggles. In need of money, young Sugana quits college to work in the sugarcane fields with her family. Workers arrive by the truckload to work in this cash rich industry, but nothing is how it seems. Sugana discovers a harsh truth. She is absent for three days to accommodate her menstrual cycle and upon her return learns that she will have to pay a fine for the missed days. Hard up for money and with the system rigged against her, Sugana faces a harrowing choice that will affect the rest of her life.

ONLINE Q&A WITH ANANTH NARAYAN MAHADEVAN

**20 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



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**STHALPURAN**  
(CHRONICLE OF SPACE)

Marathi with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 86 Mins

Dir: Akshay Indikar  
With: Neel Deshmukh,  
Anushree Wani, Sonia Mahale

Eight year old Dighu has recently moved with his mother and older sister from the city to his grandparents coastal village of Konkan and is finding it hard to adjust to his new life without his father who has disappeared seemingly without a trace. As Dighu struggles to find answers from the grown ups around him, he finds solace from his grief through his diary and imagination. Akshay Indikar's latest film is a gentle portrait of innocence and how children comprehend change and loss.

23 June | 18:00 | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



European Premiere

**WINGMAN**  
(THE UNIVERSAL IRONY  
OF LOVE)



Hindi with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 85 Mins

Dir: Anuj Gulati  
With: Shashank Arora,  
Trimala Adhikari, Nakul Bhalla

Omi works as a call centre agent at a corporate dating service, where he is tasked with being a matchmaker for his urban callers. His personal life, however, is a shambles as his childhood sweetheart has decided to call it quits and his matchmaking skills seem to work for everyone but himself. As Omi's life continues to spin out of control and his pursuit of a married waitress hits the buffers he becomes unable to control his emotions leading to night of crazy events that could change his life forever.

24 June | 18:00 | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



European Premiere  
**KASTOORI**  
(THE MUSK)

Hindi, Marathi with English subtitles  
India 2019 | 101 Mins

*Dir: Vinod Kamble*  
*With: Samarth Sonawane,*  
*Shravan Upalakar, Vaishali Kendale*

Vinod Kamble's movie tells of Gopi, an intelligent Dalit teenager, who has no choice but to engage in manual scavenging in order to pay for his education. He is teased at school for the smell of his body and clothes, with his classmates covering their noses when he walks past, never shy of reminding him that he "smells like a gutter". Gopi comes across the scent of a perfume called kastoori (the musk), and sees this as the way to get rid of his smell. Together with his friend Adim, they set off on a mission to get their hands on the precious scent.

[ONLINE Q&A WITH VINOD KAMBLE](#)

**28 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](http://LOVELIFFATHOME.COM) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



UK Premiere  
**TRIJYA - RADIUS**

Marathi with English subtitles  
India 2019 | 91 Mins

*Dir: Akshay Indikar*  
*With: Abhay Mahajan, Girish*  
*Kulkarni, Anjali Jogalekar*

World Premiered at Shanghai Film Festival, Trijya tells of a young poet's journey of self-discovery. Avdhut, a migrant to the city of Pune, works part-time as a journalist writing the astrology column for a local newspaper. Even though he doesn't have a steady job he is under pressure from his family to get married and settle down but all Avdhut wants is to return to the simple life of his village and pursue his passion of poetry. Unable to deal with the mundanity of his life he decides to throw in his job and go on a journey to find himself.

[ONLINE Q&A WITH AKSHAY INDIKAR](#)

**29 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](http://LOVELIFFATHOME.COM) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)





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## MUGHAL-E-AZAM

Urdu with English subtitles  
India 1960 | 197 Mins

Dir: K Asif  
With: Prithviraj Kapoor,  
Madhubala, Dilip Kumar

Think mirrored palaces, sumptuous technicolor and unforgettable songs. Mughal-E-Azam has it all! K Asif's spectacular epic historical drama tells the tale of a timeless love affair. Heir to the throne, Prince Salim (Dilip Kumar), has matured from a self-indulgent only child into a victorious and distinguished warrior. When he returns to the Mughal court he soon falls for the gorgeous, if lowly born, court dancer Anarkali (Madhubala), it provokes the ire of his father, Mughal emperor Akbar (Prithviraj Kapoor), who forbids them from getting married. As Anarkali takes a stand for her man, risking execution, father-son conflict explodes into a full blown battle.

3 July | 14:00 | MILLENNIUM POINT

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## EXTRA-ORDINARY LIVES

LIFF showcases independent films, which celebrate depictions of ordinary lives through fiction and documentaries. This year we screen a selection of films that show glimpses of real life in the sub-continent and Asian diaspora, which are sometimes challenging, sometimes feel good, even comic, but always compelling.

## EXTRA-ORDINARY LIVES



UK Premiere

### **KARKHANISANCHI WAARI** (ASHES ON A ROAD TRIP)



Marathi with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 108 Mins

Dir: Mangesh Joshi  
With: Amey Wagh, Mohan Agashe,  
Geetanjali Kulkarni

This black comedy road-movie starts as the dominant patriarch of the Karkhanis family passes away. His dysfunctional, aging siblings and his son cram into a Maruti van, leaving the city and heading to their distant homeland village, to scatter his ashes as per his final wish. The trip becomes unexpectedly adventurous as on the way scandalous secrets are revealed, forcing them all to face smoldering interpersonal conflicts that hilariously threaten to throw the journey off course.

ONLINE Q&A WITH CAST AND CREW

3 July | 19:00 | MAC





European Premiere  
**ABHIJAAN**

Bengali with English subtitles  
India 2021 | 160 Mins

*Dir: Parambrata Chattopadhyay*  
*With: Soumitra Chatterjee, Jisshu Sengupta, Quashi Mukherjee*

A beautiful and tender biopic paying tribute to a legend of Indian cinema, Abhijaan explores the incredible life and work of Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee, from his first foray into film acting as the lead character Apu in Satyajit Ray's *Apur Sansar*, to countless other classic roles he has portrayed across his long distinguished career. Soumitra Chatterjee tells his own story while accompanied by a magnificent who's who of Bengali cinema. Don't miss it!

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ONLINE Q&A WITH PARAMBRATA CHATTOPADHYAY AND GUESTS

26 June | 15:00 | MAC



UK Premiere  
**AISE HEE**  
(JUST LIKE THAT)

Hindi with English subtitles  
India 2019 | 113 Mins

*Dir: Kislay*  
*With: Mohini Sharma, Harish Khanna, Sadhna Singh*

A joyous and inspiring tale of an older woman challenging society's narrow expectations of her. Mrs Sharma is the quiet 'ideal' wife of a government official living in a modest two story house in the small town of Allahabad. When her husband suddenly dies, she is expected to follow Indian custom and move in with her son and grandchildren, but she has other plans. Mrs Sharma wants, at long last, to explore her life and try new experiences, but this soon starts the neighbours gossiping, resulting in family tensions that soon threaten to curtail her new found freedoms.

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ONLINE Q&A WITH KISLAY

26 June | 12:00 | MAC



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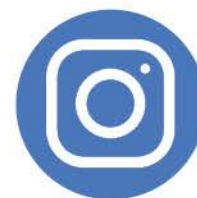
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UK Premiere

### **GHAR KA PATA** (HOME ADDRESS)

Hindi, Kashmiri, English  
with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 67 Mins

*Dir: Madhulika Jalali*

A heartfelt documentary following director Madhulika Jalali as she searches for her identity as a Kashmiri Pandit woman. In the early 90s, six-year-old Madhulika and her family fled Rainawari - a quaint suburb of Srinagar - in response to Kashmir's separatist insurgency. Twenty four years later with no memory of her birthplace, she returns to visit her lost home with her family. Weaving together impromptu conversations, family anecdotes and stunning footage from the streets of Rainawari where she is welcomed back by her childhood neighbours, Ghar Ka Pata reveals deep and personal connections that go beyond religion and politics.

[ONLINE Q&A WITH MADHULIKA JALALI](#)

**30 June | 18:00** | [ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](#) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



European Premiere

### **BREAD & BELONGING**

Konkani, English, Kannada  
with English subtitles  
India 2020 | 51 Mins

*Dir: Sonia Filinto*

Set in the small but vibrant Indian state of Goa, Sonia Filinto's documentary tells a heart-warming story of food and cultural migration through the lens of Goa's most famous bread, pão. The film follows Alzira and her family who have been quietly following their love for baking for generations, but are nowadays struggling to keep their business alive in a changing world. Not far away, Kiran and his co-workers run a bakery with the tenacity of migrants, adapting to a new trade, new language and even new food. Meanwhile, Marius, a returning migrant with family roots in Goa, is on a mission to bring pão back to its former glory.

[ONLINE Q&A WITH SONIA FILINTO](#)

**1 July | 18:00** | [ONLINE AT LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](#) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



UK Premiere

### **GAMAK GHAR** (THE VILLAGE HOUSE)

Maithili with English subtitles  
India 2019 | 91 Mins

Dir: Achal Mishra  
With: Abhinav Jha, Mira Jha,  
Satyam Jha

In a north Indian village, a large extended family reunites at their ancestral home to celebrate a new birth in the family. It's a joyous and carefree occasion. Over the next two decades, through festivals and feasts, births and deaths and with children moving away to the city, the film observes the house age and fall into neglect with the passing of time. Achal Mishra's astonishing debut feature film is the most intimate of epics, beautifully exploring the ebb and flow of family life in an ever changing world.

THANKS TO DEAF CROCODILE FILMS / GRATITUDE FILMS

[ONLINE Q&A WITH ACHAL MISHRA](#)

**21 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



### **BAGANIYA** (GARDEN OF MEMORIES)



Bhojpuri, Bengali with English subtitles  
Bangladesh 2018 | 56 Mins

Dir: Humaira Bilkis

Filmed over the course of several months in Bangladesh's remote tea fields, Baganiya follows the incredible lives of three labourers. Padmoluv Bunarjee, in the last stages of his life, still remains nostalgic of his British Colonial masters. Young Chieftan Sojoy Yadav feels trapped by history, but continues his work in the tea fields and school drop out Chandan wants to elude this work and exploitation altogether. Through the lives of these three individuals from different generations, Humaira Bilkis weaves an elegant tale of labourers, whose lives are still impacted by the framework of colonial rules that still govern the tea industry.

ONLINE SCREENING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BERTHA DOCHOUSE

[ONLINE Q&A WITH HUMAIRA BILKIS](#)

**22 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)







UK Premiere

### **LORNI - THE FLANEUR**

**Khasi, English, Hindi  
with English subtitles  
Singapore, India 2019 | 106 Mins**

*Dir: Wanphrang K Diengdoh  
With: Adil Hussain, Elizer Bareh,  
Dawait Syiem*

Acclaimed actor Adil Hussain (*Life of Pi*, *Star Trek*), plays Shem, an out of work, self-styled detective with a sharp sense of the streets. Shem is offered an escape from his humdrum investigation work when he is suddenly asked to investigate the disappearance of an object of great cultural value. Navigating the narrow streets and dark alleys, Shem's journey takes him into the heart and soul of Shillong, where the city's unique political, racial and cultural identity soon complicate his investigation and even threaten his life.

[ONLINE Q&A WITH WANPHRANG K DIENGDOH + SPECIAL GUESTS](#)

**25 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)



UK Premiere

### **SWIMMING THROUGH THE DARKNESS**

**Bengali with English subtitles  
India 2018 | 76 Mins**

*Dir: Supriyo Sen*

This inspirational documentary follows the eventful and at times chaotic life of blind swimmer Kanai Chakraborty. Despite being blind and the reservations of his family, Kanai decides to participate in the world's longest swimming competition in the Ganges River to demonstrate the power of disabled people by challenging sports. *Swimming Through The Darkness* chronicles the roller-coaster journey of a gritty man determined not to let his blindness define him and to chase his own dream.

[ONLINE Q&A WITH SUPRIYO SEN](#)

**26 June | 18:00** | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)

## EXTRA-ORDINARY LIVES



### European Premiere **WHO IS BAUL**

Bengali, English with English subtitles  
India 2021 | 54 Mins

Dir: Sairam Sagiraju

Filmmaker Sairam Sagiraju, together with Grammy award winning composer Ricky Kej and historian Vikram Sampath set out on a monumental journey to document the philosophies and musical lineage of the Bauls of Bengal. For centuries Bauls have passed on their traditions of inner knowledge and spirituality through song and music. Declared as an Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, The Bauls of Bengal have kept their philosophies alive for over a 1000 years, but modern demands threaten their simple, enlightened lifestyles.

### ONLINE Q&A WITH SAIRAM SAGIRAJU

27 June | 18:00 | ONLINE AT [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://loveliffathome.com) (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)

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## SAVE THE PLANET

A powerful, thought-provoking new strand of dramas and docs, that in different ways, reference rapid ecological change and Mother Nature as their backdrop - climate change and rising sea levels are two key factors impacting South Asia right now.

## SAVE THE PLANET

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### **NONAJOLER KABBO** (THE SALT IN OUR WATERS)



**Bangla with English subtitles**  
**Bangladesh, France 2020 | 106 Mins**

*Dir: Rezwan Shahriar Sumit*  
*With: Fazlur Rahman Babu,*  
*Shatabdi Wadud, Titas Zia*

Co-produced by Spike Lee's company, this lavishly photographed film was born to be seen on the big screen! Set in the stunning, unlimited vistas of coastal Bangladesh we meet Rudro, a young artist, who after the death of his father, relocates to a remote beach village to find closure and practice his craftsmanship. At first he is welcomed by the traditional locals, but when the fish shoals they rely on suddenly disappear, Rudro's modern ideas are blamed. As a cyclone approaches, social and physical storms threaten Rudro's way of life.

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ONLINE Q&A WITH REZWAN SHAHRIAR SUMIT AND CREW

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**1 July | 19:00 | MAC**



**The Asian Business Chamber of Commerce is the Chamber that aims to represent the Asian business community across Greater Birmingham.**

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## SAVE THE PLANET



### SISTERS OF THE TREES

**Hindi, Marwari with English subtitles**  
**India, Argentina 2018 | 86 Mins**

*Dir: Camila Menéndez, Lucas Peñafort*

Among the arid lands of Rajasthan, surrounded by marble mines lies the oasis-like village of Piplantri, where women are no longer worried about giving birth to a girl, who historically would have been seen as a burden. Since 2005, a small group of activists have changed society and now every time a girl is born in the village, the residents celebrate the occasion by planting 111 trees in her name. Sisters of the Trees is the intimate story of these brave women and the positive changes and challenges they face trying to raise their daughters for a better future, deeply connected to environmental conservation.

**19 June | 18:00 | ONLINE ON LOVELIFFATHOME.COM (AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS)**





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## SATYAJIT RAY SHORT FILM COMPETITION

The festival's annual Satyajit Ray Short Film Competition is a rare chance to see the works of talented and emerging filmmakers who are exploring themes of South Asian experience, that also reflect the humanist ideals of the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray. The winner will be announced on 2nd July.

Available online during the festival and in cinemas.

## SHORT FILM COMPETITION

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### SATYAJIT RAY SHORT FILM COMPETITION 1

Programme duration: 89 mins

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#### LATA

**Hindi, Marathi | 21 Mins**  
*Dir: Alisha Tejpal*

Honing a quiet strength, Lata, a domestic worker, navigates her way through an upper class home in South Mumbai. Doors consistently open and close, giving Lata selective access to the various realities that occupy this space.

#### BLACK GOAT

**Nepali, English | 12 Mins**  
*Dir: Tang Yi*

A new girl at a nunnery has her first period after hearing a late-night ghost story. She believes that she has been cursed and needs to sacrifice a black goat to avoid further misfortune.

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17 June | 18:00 | ONLINE ON [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](https://www.loveliffathome.com)



## SHORT FILM COMPETITION



### DHULO (THE SCAPEGOAT)

**Bengali | 25 Mins**  
*Dir: Tathagata Ghosh*

A young firebrand woman decides to stand up against the patriarchy and hate politics that has begun to infiltrate her rural Bengali village and threatens to destroy her way of life.

### ANITA

**Gujarati | 18 Mins**  
*Dir: Sushma Khadepaun*

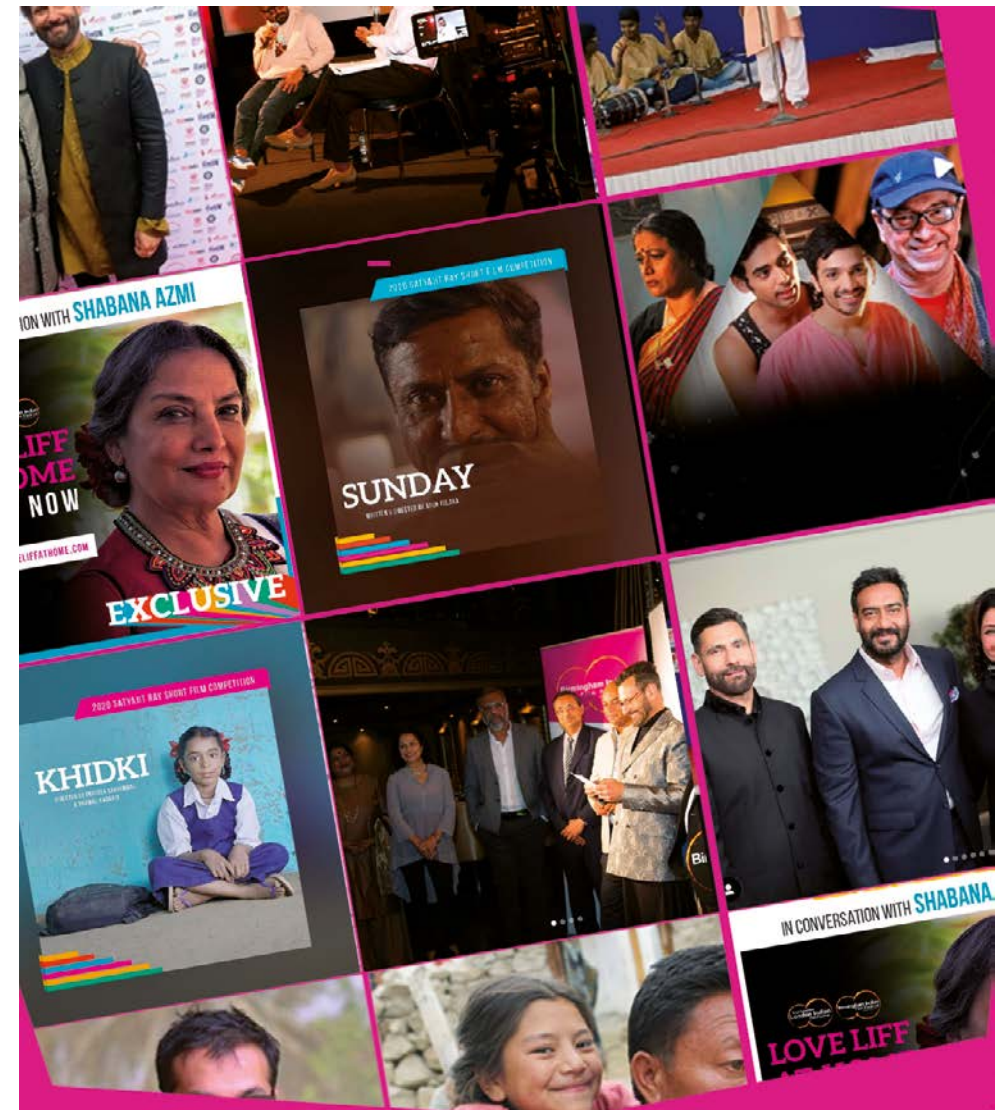
While attending her sister's wedding in India, Anita tells her family of some big news and is pushed to question whether her life in America is any better than those in her hometown.

### 1978

**Urdu | 17 Mins**  
*Dir: Hamza Bangash*

Pakistan, 1978. Lenny, a rockstar from the Goan-Christian community, is offered the chance to reinvent himself as a state sanctioned singer. With Islamic fervor gripping the nation, he must decide if he can change with the times.

17 June | 18:00 | ONLINE ON [LOVELIFFATHOME.COM](http://LOVELIFFATHOME.COM)



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## SHORT FILM COMPETITION

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### SATYAJIT RAY SHORT FILM COMPETITION 2

Programme duration: 106 mins

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#### BITTU

**Hindi, English with English subtitles | 21 Mins**  
*Dir: Karishma Dev Dube*

Set in a small Himalayan village, Bittu tells the story of a fiercely independent and foul mouthed little girl whose life is turned upside down after a careless act results in tragedy.

#### FRAYED LINES

**Kodava, Assamese with English subtitles | 20 Mins**  
*Dir: Priya Belliappa*

In the midst of coffee plantations in a remote corner of India, two individuals who don't speak a common language, connect and take a step away from a life they have known.

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17 June | 18:00 | ONLINE ON LOVELIFFATHOME.COM

#### SUMAMIME (WADE)

**Bengali with English subtitles**  
**10 Mins**  
*Dir: Upamanyu Bhattacharyya, Kalp Sanghvi*

In the future, the city of Kolkata is wrecked by climate change. Things take an even darker turn for one refugee family when they are ambushed by a tiger on the flooded streets.

#### KANYA

**Tamil with English subtitles**  
**16 Mins**  
*Dir: Apoorva Satish*

An adolescent girl's aspirations of becoming a competitive swimmer take an unexpected turn when she gets her first period.

#### TRANSIT

**Bangla with English subtitles**  
**19 Mins**  
*Dir: Ariq Anam Khan*

A man on the verge of poverty waits for a migrant visa to Italy in the hope it will change his and his families fortunes.

#### B. SELVI & DAUGHTERS

**Tamil with English subtitles**  
**24 Mins**  
*Dir: Drishya*

A woman in her 50s tries to deal with her fears and trepidation as she looks to break out of her cocooned life and start a business.

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## TOO DESI TOO QUEER



Punjabi, Hindi, English, Marathi with English subtitles  
India, USA, Pakistan, Canada | 65 Mins

Dir: Various

The festival is proud to bring back its super-hit 'Too Desi Too Queer' short film programme, exploring the lives, experiences and well being of South Asian LGBTQIA+ communities in the Subcontinent and diaspora, through a dynamic and thought-provoking selection of recent LGBTQIA+ short films. There's a super-glam white marble staircase leading up to the cinema, so make sure you dress to impress and know how to walk it!

IN CINEMA Q&A WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

2 July | 19:30 | MAC

## BSL SPECIAL DOUBLE BILL



### UK Premiere FOR EACH OTHER

Assamese with English subtitles  
India 2019 | 22 Mins |

Dir: Rima Das

Malti is an earnest shop owner and Ramen a flamboyant rickshaw driver. Together they pave the way to connect their quaint neighbourhood in Assam to the outside world, but when testing times befall their town will they be able to stand up for each other?



### DOUBLE DISCRIMINATION

Silent with English subtitles  
UK 2015 | 28 Mins |

Dir: Rinkoo Bargapa

Double Discrimination is a personal yet hard hitting documentary by Rinkoo Bargapa, exploring peoples experiences of racism within the Deaf community.

IN CINEMA BSL SIGNED Q&A WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

27 June | 14:00 | MAC





## YEAR ROUND PROGRAMME

Ever evolving into new territories, the festival this year is proud to deliver its first year round programme of high quality great films on [www.LoveLIFFatHome.com](http://www.LoveLIFFatHome.com). These films are available anywhere in the UK at any time. Check out these fierce and inspiring indie titles!



### **THANI THATUWEN PIYABANNA** (FLYING WITH ONE WING)

Sinhala with English subtitles  
Sri Lanka 2003 | 81 Mins

*Dir: Asoka Handagama*  
*With: Anoma Janadari, Gayani Gisanthika, Mahendra Perera*

A married man works as a mechanic in a small Sri Lankan town. His secret known to none but his wife, is that he is actually a woman. One day an accident causes his real gender to be discovered, setting off a chain of events that will change their lives forever. Asoka Handagama's subversive film, originally banned domestically satirises homophobia and sexual bigotry while serving as a brutal indictment of the sexual harassment experienced by working women in Sri Lanka.

ONLINE Q&A WITH ASOKA HANDAGAMA



### MONSOON

English, Malayalam, Assamese,  
Marathi, Hindi with English subtitles  
Canada 2015 | 108 Mins

*Dir: Sturla Gunnarsson  
With: Moushumi Chatterjee,  
the Prasad family*

This documentary feature, shot in stunning 4K, is filmed across the subcontinent, charting the giant rain system's path as it surges toward and gradually engulfs every region of India. It is a breathtaking cinematic journey into a terrain where nature, science, belief and wonder converge. It introduces us to a remarkable array of individuals whose lives are in different ways entwined with the phenomenon. For some, the great rains will be a time of bountiful sustenance, for others it will be a time of great hardship. All are caught in this timeless human drama. The outstanding score, composed by London's own Andrew T. MacKay, is based on the Malhar ragas and perfectly complements the multiple-award winning director's epic vision.

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ONLINE Q&A WITH STURLA GUNNARSSON



### HANK AND ASHA

English  
USA 2013 | 73 Mins

*Dir: James E. Duff  
With: Andrew Pastides,  
Mahira Kakkar*

Winner of the Slamdance Audience Award, this tender delight of a movie tells of the courtship of two loveable young strangers searching for connection in an online world. Adorable Indian, Asha, is studying in Prague, where she watches a film by an American, called Hank, which she adores, but misses him at the post screening Q&A, so she takes a risk and sends him a video blog. To her surprise handsome Hank responds with a video blog from his home in New York. Very quickly the two bond and are soon communicating regularly and before they know it, they plan their first actual date in Paris, but one of them has held back a secret.

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ONLINE Q&A WITH DIRECTOR JAMES E. DUFF AND PRODUCER  
JULIA MORRISON





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### RUNWAY

**Bangla with English subtitles**  
Bangladesh 2010 | 90 Mins

*Dir: Tareque Masud*  
*With: Fall Haque, Rabeya Akter Moni,*  
*Ali Ahsan*

Winner of a Cannes prize for his triumph *The Clay Bird*, this is the last offering from Tareque Masud who tragically died in an accident in 2011. Teenage Ruhul lives with his family in a small hut next to the runway of Dhaka international airport. His family struggle to make a living while he spends his days wandering under the shadow of the planes, aimless and frustrated in his futile efforts to find work. One day at a cyber-cafe he meets computer geek Arif (Ahsan) who introduces him to a group of other young men and what seems an inspiring new religious sect, but all is not what it seems and he quickly gets pulled into a world of violent revolutionary politics.



### ONE CRAZY THING

**English**  
UK 2016 | 94 Mins

*Dir: Amit Gupta*  
*With: Ray Panthaki, Daisy Bevan,*  
*Dan Renton Skinner*

This delightful charmer follows Jay, a former daytime TV star who is haunted by the sex tape that destroyed his life and turned his unknown actress girlfriend into an A-list Hollywood celebrity. As he cowers in obscurity managing his family's Indian restaurant, he meets his dream girl Hannah, a beautiful American music student who hates modern life, and above all, dishonesty. Jay must now confront the errors of his past, rather than hiding from his future. Filled with warmth, music and delicious Indian food, the film is also a celebration of modern London in all her glory. It features a winning performance from BAFTA Breakthrough Brit Ray Panthaki and a star-making turn from Daisy Bevan, the latest entrant from the revered Redgrave acting dynasty.

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**ONLINE Q&A WITH DIRECTOR AMIT GUPTA**





### MY HOME INDIA

English, Polish with English subtitles  
India, Poland 2019 | 45 Mins

*Dir: Anjali Bhushan*  
*With: Kira Banasinska, Wanda Novicka-Kashikar, Wanda Kuras*

This inspirational tear-jerker documentary uncovers a little-known story of unimaginable humanity, generosity and kindness. Towards the end of WW2, the Polish ambassadorial team in Bombay, led by the determined heroine Kira Banasinska and supported by several Indian states, dispatched a convoy of food relief and other essentials, thousands of miles to help the Polish refugees in Soviet Siberian labour camps. The expedition however returned to India with 5,500 women and children in the supplies trucks. Thanks to Kira and the hospitality of Indians, the refugees were welcomed and given dedicated settlements in Maharashtra. Over 70 years later a number of now elderly Polish people return for the first time to India to see where they experienced the joys of childhood.

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ONLINE Q&A WITH ANJALI BHUSHAN



### COURT

Marathi with English subtitles  
India 2019 | 116 Mins

*Dir: Chaitanya Tamhane*  
*With: Vivek Gomber, Vira Sathidar, Geetanjali Kulkarni*

Chaitanya Tamhane's tightly scripted and confidently directed second feature is set around a single court case in a Maharashtrian town. Within this seemingly simple courtroom drama, a subtle and fascinating exploration of the state of the nation India, westernised versus revisionist traditionalist values is uncovered. The outcome is increasingly unsettling, even dangerous, as the seeming stability and order of the British Raj based court system, is pitted against a changing India. An ageing, activist, folk singer is charged with inciting a sewerage worker to commit suicide by one of his 'inflammatory' songs. His defence lawyer, a westernised man defends the rights of the artist, while the female prosecutor states the singer, as the police have described him, is a threat to national security.

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ONLINE Q&A WITH CHAITANYA TAMHANE

## VENUES & WEBSITE

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# CALENDAR

**THU 17 JUNE**

**SATYAJIT RAY SHORT  
FILM COMPETITION**  
ONLINE UNTIL 4 JULY

**FRI 18 JUNE**

**POP CITY**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**SAT 19 JUNE**

**SISTERS OF THE TREES**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**MON 21 JUNE**

**GAMAK GHAR**  
18:15 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**TUE 22 JUNE**

**GARDEN OF MEMORIES**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**WED 23 JUNE**

**STHALPURAN**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**THU 24 JUNE**

**WINGMAN**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**FRI 25 JUNE**

**LORNI - THE FLANEUR**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

OPENING NIGHT  
**WOMB**  
19:00 | MAC

**SAT 26 JUNE**

**AISE HEE**  
12:00 | MAC

**ABHIJAAN**  
14:00 | MAC

**MARA PAPA SUPERHERO**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**SUN 27 JUNE**

**SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS**  
12:00 | MAC

**BSL SPECIAL DOUBLE BILL**  
14:00 | MAC

**WHO IS BAUL**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**MON 28 JUNE**

**KASTOORI: THE MUSK**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**MARA PAAPA SUPERHERO**  
19:00 | MAC

**TUE 29 JUNE**

**TRIJYA - RADIUS**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**A'HR**  
18.30 | EVERYMAN

**WED 30 JUNE**

**I'LL MEET YOU THERE**  
14:00 | MAC

**GHAR KA PATA**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**THU 1 JULY**

**BREAD & BELONGING**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**THE SALT IN OUR WATERS**  
19:00 | MAC

**FRI 2 JULY**

**I'LL MEET YOU THERE**  
18:00 | ONLINE FOR 24 HRS

**TOO DESI TOO QUEER**  
19:30 | MAC

**SAT 3 JULY**

**MUGHAL-E-AZAM**  
14:00 | MILLENNIUM POINT

**ASHES ON A ROAD TRIP**  
19:00 | MAC

**SUN 4 JULY**

OPENING NIGHT  
**FLIGHT**  
15:00 | MAC

LAST CHANCE TO WATCH  
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FILM COMPETITION**  
ONLINE

**YEAR ROUND**

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**ONE CRAZY THING**

**HANK AND ASHA**

**FLYING WITH ONE WING**

**RUNWAY**

**MONSOON**

**COURT**

**MY HOME INDIA**