



## **Chicago South Asian Film Festival's Opening night to be a Star Studded Soiree**

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CHICAGO, IL – September 07, 2010 - The Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) announces their opening night program, which is to be held October 1st 2010 at the magnificent Chicago Cultural Center. The evening promises to be a night to remember, where glamour and elegance will meet art and culture. Star-gazers will be in for a treat as several celebrated filmmakers and actors will attend the red carpet ceremony starting at 5:30pm.

Acclaimed art-house actor-turned-director Deepti Naval will walk the carpet for the Chicago Premiere of her 'Two Paise for Sunshine Four Aanas for Rain'. The film, about a struggling gay lyricist, an ageing prostitute and her physically challenged 12-year-old son, opens the festival at 7pm at the Claudia Cassidy Theater. Celebrated Bollywood actress Manisha Koirala and award winning actor Rajit Kapur, who star in the film, are attending and will join Deepti for Q&A after the screening.

Another legend to grace the evening will be Aparna Sen, the director of the Japanese Wife. "(I'm) Excited, honored, privileged!" says Aparna about attending the inaugural festival.

Among others expected to show up are actor Ajay Naidu in his directorial debut of Ashes, award winning actress of Sardari Begum- Rajeshwari Sachdev, Raspberry Magic actors Ravi Kapoor & Keya Shah, and many more.

"Chicago doesn't have many red carpet affairs like this and to be able to host such prominent filmmakers and artists from the South Asian film world is truly an honor. Opening night will celebrate the diaspora's richness in the form of film, food and folk." says Festival Director Amit Rana.

The evening's festivities will conclude with an exclusive gala at the lavish Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall in the north wing of the Cultural Center where distinguished guests from across industries will toast to the richness of South Asian Cinema. Tantalizing hors d-oeuvres along with other refreshments will be served by Entertaining Company.

Tickets for the event are available at [www.csaff.org/ticket\\_passes.html](http://www.csaff.org/ticket_passes.html)

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### **About CSAFF**

The first Chicago South Asian Film Festival, presented by NetIP Chicago and Vachikam Inc., hosted by Columbia College Chicago and supported by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, will be held from October 1st through October 3rd, 2010. The festival was developed to promote South Asian culture throughout the Chicago area and Midwest by showcasing films by South Asians as well as films that represent the perspectives of the Diaspora. For more information on the Chicago South Asian Film Festival, please visit [www.csaff.org](http://www.csaff.org).

### **About Network of Indian Professionals - Chicago**

The Network of Indian Professionals Chicago (NetIP-Chicago) is a, non-profit, 501(c)(3) professional organization dedicated to the overall achievement and advancement of South Asian professionals. For more information, please visit [www.netipchicago.org](http://www.netipchicago.org).



#### **About Vachikam**

Vachikam is committed to bringing greater awareness and appreciation of the Indian performing arts and culture to audiences in the United States and Canada. As a national and local promoter, Vachikam showcases the rich and diverse mosaic of Indian theatre by promoting accomplished artists in high-caliber drama, dance, and musical performances. Vachikam also draws upon its extensive network of artists to orchestrate special social occasions and benefits for the Indian-American community. For more information, visit [www.vachikam.org](http://www.vachikam.org).

#### **About Columbia College Chicago**

With more than 120 academic programs and nearly 12,500 students, Columbia College Chicago is the largest and most diverse private arts and media college in the nation. For more information, please visit [www.colum.edu](http://www.colum.edu).

#### **About Chicago Cultural Center**

The Chicago Cultural Center is one of the city's most visited attractions and is home to many of its great public events which include free music, dance, and theater events, as well as films, lectures, art exhibitions and family events. For more information, please visit [www.chicagoculturalcenter.org](http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org).

#### **Major Sponsors**

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