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That's a Wrap! 10th Annual Chicago South Asian Film Festival Announces Festival Award Winners
Bengali film, Nagarkirtan, and Rock Disco Tabla take home top prizes along with short-length films Bebaak and Addicted Innocence

CHICAGO - September 23, 2019 – The 10th anniversary of Chicago's longest-running, South Asian-centric film festival wrapped up in style last night with the announcement of this year's festival award winners. At the closing night ceremony, following Closing Night feature film, *Sir*, awards were announced in four categories: Feature-length Fiction, Feature-length Documentary, Short-length Fiction and Short-length Documentary. The winners in each category, respectively, are ***Nagarkirtan***, directed by Kaushik Ganguly, ***Rock Disco Tabla: The Karsh Kale Effect***, which made its world premiere at CSAFF, ***Dying Wind in Her Hair (Bebaak)*** by Shazia Iqbal, and ***Addicted Innocence*** by Sonali Devnani.

Not only do each of these films represent the gender equality featured in this year's festival, with almost an even split between male and female filmmakers, they also represent the diversity of perspectives within the broad South Asian diaspora; from a Bengali-language feature to a documentary about an English-born, American musician of Indian origin. Congratulations to all our winners, and to all the filmmakers who helped make this year's festival a resounding success!

CSAFF provides more detail about each of the winners in our four award categories below, as well as noting the runner-up films for each category:

- **Feature-length Fiction Film**

- Winner: *Nagarkirtan*, directed by Kaushik Ganguly, tells the story of Parimal, who was born as a boy in rural Bengal but realizes soon enough that he was born in the wrong body. This film depicts a journey of a person finding and accepting their internal truth.
- Runner-up: *The Last Color*, written and directed by Vikas Khanna. This is a story of promises kept and promises broken, a friendship that knows no bounds, and the freedom and victory of the human spirit.

- **Feature-length Documentary Film**

- Winner: *Rock Disco Tabla*, directed by Shakti Hasija. A film on the renowned musician, record producer, songwriter, film composer, and DJ, featuring concert and studio footage spanning over 25 years from around the world.
- Runner-up: *Kaifinama*, directed by Sumantra Ghosal. Kaifinama looks at the life and art of the Urdu Progressive poet Kaifi Azmi. Kaifi Azmi was both a poet for social change as well as one of the foremost lyricists in the Hindi film industry. He is also the father of noted actor, Shabana Azmi.

- **Short-length Fiction Film**

- Winner: *Dying Wind in Her Hair (Bebaak)*, written and directed by Shazia Iqbal. Unable to rely on her cash-strapped family to further her education, Fatin, an ambitious Architecture Student seeks out a scholarship from a conservative Muslim Trust. When she discovers that the money comes with strings attached, her liberal values will be put to the test.
- Runner-up: *Forbidden Tikka Masala*, by Indo-Canadian director, Rahul Chaturvedi. *Forbidden Tikka Masala* is a coming-of-old-age story that follows a devoutly religious vegetarian who finds a new lease on life after mistakenly eating chicken at her retirement party.

- **Short-length Documentary Film**

- Winner: *Addicted Innocence*, directed by Sonali Devnani. The film revolves around kids who are battling their addiction to drugs, and the difficulties involved.
- Runner-up: *Blood Buddhas*, directed by Nikhil Singh Rajputt. *Blood Buddhas* traces the secret labyrinth of the global heritage mafia, the indigenous communities whose "Gods" are stolen, and it's linkages to terror-funding in and around India.

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About CSAFF

The Chicago South Asian Film Festival is dedicated to fostering a diverse cinematic experience through South Asian films. The Festival was founded in 2010 and is organized by the Chicago South Asian Arts Council Inc. The Festival is held in late September and includes a stellar selection of films and guests, panel discussions, opportunities for filmmakers and film lovers to connect, musical performances, tributes to major artists and galas. In 2014, the Festival introduced the South Asian Films in America (SAFA) Awards, an Award honoring South Asian Films and Artists exclusively in Chicago. Our audience is the largest growing ethnic group in America, particularly Chicagoland, and the Festival is committed to providing a groundbreaking cinematic experience for filmmakers and moviegoers alike with the warmth and personal touch that is unique to Chicago. For more information, visit <http://www.csaff.org/>.