



September 20th – 23rd, 2018
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August 28th, 2018

9th Annual Chicago South Asian Film Festival Announces Film & Event Lineup – Festival Passes & Tickets on Sale Now!

Four-Day Festival of Dynamic Film Selections, Intimate Film Discussions and Events

Chicago, IL – August 28, 2017 – The Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) reveals the film lineup to be held between September 20th and 23rd, 2018. The festival, the largest of its kind in the Midwest, will present over 70 films in Downtown Chicago, at the Showplace ICON Theater and Columbia College, with opening night Red Carpet and films at the Oakbrook AMC. Films from across South Asia, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, showcasing a variety of regional languages, and the Global South Asian diaspora, will be featured.

“CSAFF has always been a front runner in showcasing South Asian talent and independent cinema but this year I’m excited to unveil ten world premieres, seven North American premieres, and eighteen films making their Chicago premiere”, says CSAFF Festival Manager, Jigar Shah. The film, *The Music Teacher*, which depicts the story of a musical talent gone awry, stars Divya Dutta and Manav Kaul will make its world premiere on CSAFF’s opening night with Director, Sarthak Dasgupta and actor, Amrita Bagchi in attendance. CSAFF will also feature films such as *Once Again*, starring Shefali Shah and Neeraj Kabi, *Doob*, starring Irrfan Khan, and *Bird of Dusk*, a docu-feature on the iconic Bengali writer-director Rituparno Ghosh.

The festival will begin with a spotlight on shorts like *Life of Big T*, featuring Aryan Vaid, *Brunch Wars* starring Ami Sheth from Dietland and Blue Bloods, *Pagg*, *Layover*, *Divorceish*, *Seven Rounds*, *Forever Whim*, starring Kanika Maheshwari, *Vande Matram* on September 20th at Columbia College. On September 21st, Opening Night, the press is invited to cover our exclusive Red Carpet where CSAFF will also honor and pay tribute to the late Indian superstar, Sridevi, through a dance performance, featuring some of her most iconic songs.

On September 22nd and 23rd, films will be screened at multiple screens at the Showplace Icon in Chicago’s South Loop. Notable films include: *Up, Down & Sideways*, a unique look at the musical practices within a Naga indigenous group, *The Golden Mountain*, starring the Bengali superstar, Parambrata Chattopadhyay who will be in attendance in Chicago, and *Noblemen*, a visually stunning film about the journey of an adolescent boy coming to terms with his sexuality. The festival ends on September 23rd with awards and closing night films. Local and national media is invited to attend a press conference on Saturday, the 21st, at 3pm in one of the theaters at the Icon (1011 S Delano Ct, Chicago, IL 60605). Over 100 artists will be present to answer press questions. An RSVP is required to attend this event so please contact press @csaff.org by September 15th to confirm your attendance.

Festival details and film roster provided below. View additional details and the full film schedule here: <http://www.csaff.org/film-guide/>

For additional information on CSAFF 2018, including screening times, locations, featured guests and ticketing details, please visit www.csaff.org or contact press@csaff.org.



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About CSAFF

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/>.

Festival Details:

Thursday, September 20th, 2018 – Sunday, September 23rd, 2018

Showplace ICON Theater: Roosevelt Collection 1011 South Delano Court, Downtown Chicago

Columbia College Theater: 1104 South Wabash (Film Row Cinema)

Oakbrook AMC Theater: 300 Oakbrook Center, Oakbrook, IL 60523

- Thursday, September 20th, 2018:
 - In-Competition Film Screenings of Shorts, Features and Documentaries at Columbia College Theater
 - Post screening Q&A's with film talent
- Friday, September 21st, 2018:
 - Official Red Carpet Opening Night at Oakbrook AMC Theater
 - Red Carpet
 - Tribute to late superstar Sridevi
 - Evening performances
 - In-Competition Film Screenings of Shorts and Feature *Music Teacher*
 - VIP Cocktail Reception to follow the film
 - Meet & Greet with the artists
- Saturday, September 22nd, 2018:
 - In-Competition Film Screenings of Shorts, Features and Documentaries at Showplace Icon Theater
 - Post screening Q&A's with film talent
 - Press Conference
 - CSAFF After-party
- Sunday, September 23rd, 2018:
 - In-Competition Film Screenings of Shorts, Features and Documentaries at Showplace Icon Theater
 - Post screening Q&A's
 - Closing night and award ceremony
 - Evening performances



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In-Competition Feature Film Details:

Movie	Venue	Director
5 Rupees	Showplace Icon	Piyush Chandrakant Panjuani
Evening Shadows	Columbia College	Sridhar Rangayan
Half Widow	Showplace Icon	Danish Renzu
Juze	Columbia College	Miransha Naik
Kathaa '72	Showplace Icon	Prabin Syangbo
Laka	Showplace Icon	Shakthi Shakthidharan
Music Teacher	Showplace Icon	Sarthak Dasgupta
Noblemen	Showplace Icon	Vandana Kataria
The Golden Mountain	Showplace Icon	Parambrata Chattopadhyay
The Lottery	Showplace Icon	Sandeep Modi
Turup (Checkmate)	Showplace Icon	Ektara Collective
Bird of Dusk	Showplace Icon	Sangeeta Datta
Breaking the Bee	Showplace Icon	Sam Rega
Drawn Together: Comics, Diversity, & Stereotypes	Showplace Icon	Harleen Singh
Lane 0	Columbia College	Manuel Tera
Purdah	Showplace Icon	Jeremy Guy
Up Down & Sideways	Showplace Icon	Anushka Meenakshi, Iswar Srikumar

In-Competition Short Film Details:

Movie	Venue	Director
Clash of Morality	Columbia College	Vinay Pujara
Divorce'ish	Columbia College	Tarun Verma
Diwa	Columbia College	Aina Dumlao, Bru Muller
Dreams	Columbia College	Athithya Kanagarajan
Ekaant	Columbia College	Sarthak Bhasin
Forbidden	Columbia College	Vibha Gulati
Forever Whim	Oakbrook AMC	Prince Dhiman
Grandpa and I	Columbia College	Ali Sohail Jaura
Habaneros	Columbia College	Sri Mirajkar
Hakla	Columbia College	Tania Romero
Hasim October	Columbia College	Swetha Regunathan
I'll Be Home for Christmas	Columbia College	Shubhankar Deshpande
If Only	Showplace Icon	Ravi Shankar Kaushik
Just a cup of tea	Showplace Icon	Muhammad Belaal Imran
Kachrachi	Columbia College	Ali Mehdi
Licorice	Columbia College	Gautam Chopra
Life After	Columbia College	Ria Tobaccowala
Life of Big T	Columbia College	Hemant Dinkar
Malai	Columbia College	Rajdeep Paul, Sarmistha Maiti
Marilyn Lights	Showplace Icon	Tanmay Singh
Maun (Silence)	Showplace Icon	Priyanka Singh
Mehndi	Columbia College	Sudeshna Sen
Monogamish	Columbia College	Nardeep Khurmi
Pagg	Columbia College	Nardeep Khurmi
Patiently Faithful	Columbia College	Vikas Patel
Raksha	Columbia College	Meredith Koch
Rammat - Gammat	Showplace Icon	Ajitpal Singh
Rani	Columbia College	Hammad Rizvi
Season'S Greetings	Columbia College	Manish Singh
Seven Rounds	Columbia College	George Savvidis
The (In)Dependent Spouse	Columbia College	Aashka Pandya
The Desire for Desires	Columbia College	Sidharth Mathawan
The Joyous Farmer	Showplace Icon	Hiran Balasuriya
The Layover	Columbia College	Mahesh Pailoor, Anu Pradhan
Children Playing God	Showplace Icon	Ashok Vish
Do We Belong?	Columbia College	Sofian Khan
Educate Our Daughters	Columbia College	Belmaya Nepali
Rubai	Showplace Icon	Fahd Shah
Salaam B'y	Columbia College	Amar Wala
Shiva	Columbia College	Radha Mehta
Vande Mātaram: A Dance Tribute	Oakbrook AMC	Swapna Maini