



**For Immediate Release**

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**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago South Asian Film Festival presented by Zee Cinema Announces Artists Attending: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Rajat Kapoor, Imaaduddin Shah, Sendhil Ramamurthy**

*The Festival launches the South Asian Films in America (SAFA) Awards in Chicago, will honor Nawazuddin Siddiqui*

Chicago, IL – September 12, 2014 – The 2014 [Chicago South Asian Film Festival presented by Zee Cinema](http://www.csaff.org) promises to deliver on excitement and enlightenment in the heart of the Midwest during its 4-day event from September 18th - 21st, 2014. Several notable filmmakers and artists are expected to be in attendance to support the best of multicultural cinema at the Showplace ICON Theater in South Loop.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual event will also be the first to present the South Asian Films in America award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement during its Opening night, September 18th. This year's recipient will be special guest, Nawazuddin Siddiqui. An Indian film actor, Siddiqui's list of credits include *New York* (2009), *Peepli Live* (2010), *Kahani* (2012), *Talaash* (2012), *Gangs of Wasseypur* (2012), *The Lunchbox* (2013), *Bombay Talkies* (2013) and his latest, *Kick* (2014). His work has earned him a Screen Award, Zee Cine Award, and Stardust Award among others. For this honor, Nawazuddin Siddiqui said, "I am being honored for Outstanding Achievement at the (Chicago) South Asian Film Festival. That's something I am quite kicked about. Awards and recognition still mean a lot to me."

Also expected to be in attendance is director Rajat Kapoor who will be supporting his film, *Ankhon Dekhi*. Kapoor is also known for his acting roles in *Dil Chahta Hai* (2001), *Monsoon Wedding* (2001), *Bheja Fry* (2007), and *Midnight's Children* (2012). Joining him on the festival red carpet will be actors Imaaduddin Shah and Sendhil Ramamurthy supporting their films *M Cream* and *Brahmin Bulls* respectively. Imaaduddin is best known for his roles in *Dil Dosti Etc* (2007), *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2012) and *Tasher Desh* (2012). Sendhil is immensely popular in roles in *Heros*, *Covert Affairs* and *Beauty and the Beast*, all primetime television shows in the United States.

Amit Rana, Festival Director, is looking forward to introducing the selection of independent films to audiences this month. "Our fifth year is posed to be our best yet with an outstanding selection of films that will move, touch, and inspire audiences of all ages."

Zee Cinema, the presenting sponsor of CSAFF, will also be airing a 90-minute TV special after the festival. The special will cover Red Carpet interviews with filmmakers and actors, spotlight the 25 films in the Festival's selection, the behind-the-scenes process of organizing the festival every year and the



crucial film selection process. The special aims to bring the art of independent filmmaking to a wider audience while showcasing the beautiful and vibrant home to the Festival, Chicago.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel also expressed his support for CSAFF and its significance in building a platform for independent filmmakers from around the world. “The Festival creates an innovative cultural and cinematic experience for Chicagoans and visitors alike. Through the gift of film, the Chicago South Asian Film Festival invites all to share and enjoy the magic of cinema and true cultural exchange. The City is proud to host this extraordinary partnership between the South Asian community and the arts and entertainment industry.”

For additional information on CSAFF 2014, including screening times, locations, featured guests and ticketing details, please visit [www.csaff.org](http://www.csaff.org)

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### **About CSAFF**

[Chicago South Asian Film Festival, presented by Zee Cinema](http://www.csaff.org), 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/>.