

8th Annual Chicago South Asian Film Festival Brings Together the Best of Independent Films, Talent and, Filmgoers to Chicago

Three-Day Festival of Dynamic Film Selections and Filmmakers from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal Brings Art, Culture, and Entertainment to Chicago and Oakbrook. Feature films include *Newton*, *Machines* and *Sonata* and renowned actors Shabana Azmi, Rajkummar Rao, Shahana Goswami and Akshay Oberoi will be on hand at intimate Q&A sessions.

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The Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) reveals the film and talent lineup for this year's event, to be held between September 29th and October 1st, 2017. The festival, the largest of its kind in the Midwest, will present over 25 films in downtown Chicago, at the Showplace ICON Theater in the South Loop, at DePaul University's School of Cinematic Arts in the loop, and in Oakbrook, at the Oakbrook AMC Theater.

A carefully curated collection of independent films, shorts, documentaries, events and discussions will create the three day Festival experience. The Festival will open at the Oakbrook AMC Theater, with Red Carpet performances by local dance companies on the central festival theme of "Women in Cinema". Renowned actors Shabana Azmi and Rajkummar Rao will walk the Red Carpet and Ms. Azmi will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Opening Night will close with the Chicago premiere of *Newton* by director Amit Masurkar and includes dynamic performances by Rajkummar Rao. *Newton* premiered at the Berlin Film Festival to rave reviews earlier this year. There will be a Q&A session with Mr. Rao after the film.

On September 30th and October 1st, festival activities will be primarily centered in the city of Chicago, where we will have the Chicago premiere of such films as *Sonata*, *Trapped* and *Gurgaon*. Filmmakers and talent from each film will be available for post-screening moderated Q&A sessions. CSAFF will close on Sunday, October 1st with an awards ceremony, presenting awards for best feature and short films, as chosen by our jury and audience. CSAFF also includes a lineup of additional South Asian film talent such as Akshay Oberoi, Fawzia Mirza, Shahana Goswami, Barun Sobti, Adeel Hussain and Mehreen Jabbar and Aparna Sen. These luminaries will be present throughout the festival at our Q&A sessions and other ceremonies.

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

Our arts-conscious sponsors include DePaul University, Counsel General of India Chicago, Bank of America, BRaja, and Air India.

For additional information on CSAFF 2017, including screening times, locations, featured guests and ticketing details, please visit <http://www.csaff.org> or contact press@csaff.org.

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/>.