

Opening Night Gala

DOBAARAA

World Premiere

Dir: Anurag Kashyap

With: Taapsee Pannu, Saswata Chatterjee, Rahul Bhatt

120 mins | 2022 | India

Hindi with English subtitles

India's internationally best known director, *Anurag Kashyap*, returns to the festival with this surreal *Sliding Doors* style story, telling of a young nurse (*Taapsee Pannu*), who moves in with her husband and daughter, next to a derelict house. Searching through the new place they come across an old camcorder. Playing it during an electric storm the nurse, freakishly connects live to a little boy who lived in the house decades before, but died. In an attempt to stop the boy's death she begs him not to go next door to the deserted house. He delays and this not only disrupts time, but her own life story with terrible consequences.

LONDON:

Thursday 23 June, 18:00, BFI Southbank

Q&A with Anurag Kashyap and special guests

BIRMINGHAM:

Friday 24 June, 19:00, MAC THEATRE

Q&A with Anurag Kashyap

Closing Night Gala

SUPERFAN: THE NAV BHATIA STORY

Dir: Amar Wala

50 mins | 2021 | Canada

English with English subtitles

A unique and uplifting documentary focusing on the life of the Toronto Raptors biggest fan, *Nav Bhatia* and the massive impact he has had on the city's basketball community. The film charts his journey to Canada as a low income immigrant worker from India and how his relentless passion for life not only built his career, but as he came into contact with basketball for the first time, quickly expanded into supporting a struggling team. Bhatia not only inspired the players, but inspired generations to get into the sport and has brought together the city's black and South Asian communities. This is a film that is bound to leave everyone who sees it with a smile on their face and in their hearts.

LONDON:

Sunday 3 July, 15:00, BFI NFT1

Sunday 3 July, 16:00, Picturehouse Central

Q&A with Nav Bhatia and Producer Rinku Ghei

BIRMINGHAM:

Tuesday 5th July, 20:00, MAC THEATRE

Q&A with Nav Bhatia and Producer Rinku Ghei

MANCHESTER:

Wednesday 6 July, 18:00, EVERYMAN
Q&A with Nav Bhatia and Producer Rinku Ghei

Great British Asians Gala

LITTLE ENGLISH

Great British Asians Gala / UK Premiere

Dir: Pravesh Kumar

With: Rameet Rauli, Viraj Juneja, Seema Bowri, Goldy Notay, Ameet Chana, Nikki Patel, Simon Rivers, Shereener Browne and Madhav Sharma

98 mins | 2022 | UK

English with English subtitles

Pravesh Kumar's debut feature is a laugh-out-loud story of a dysfunctional Punjabi family in the pressure cooker life of a terraced suburban home in West London. Newly arrived from India, naive Simmy has come to marry the family's eldest son Raj, who shockingly does a runner, leaving Simmy locked in the house by her domineering mother-in-law. However, Simmy is smarter than she appears, and soon enlists the support of the family's disgruntled in-laws, including a sugar crazed, diabetic grandpa and dangerous, but hot, brother in law, fresh out of jail. Together they plan Simmy's big escape.

LONDON:

Friday 24 June, 20:30, BFI NFT1

Thursday 30 June, 18:30, Picturehouse Central

Q&A with Pravesh Kumar, cast and crew

MANCHESTER:

Sunday 26 June, 15:30, HOME

Q&A with Pravesh Kumar, cast and crew

BIRMINGHAM:

Wednesday 29 June, 18:00, MAC

Q&A with Pravesh Kumar, cast and crew

BSL screening

In Conversations

Aparna Sen / In Conversation + The Rapist

Dir: Aparna Sen

With: Konkona Sen Sharma, Arjun Rampal, Tanmay Dhania

132 mins | 2021 | India

Join us for a rare talk by India's greatest and longest standing woman writer director, known for her frank and honest views on women's experience, filmmaking in Bengal and other matters. Aparna who first came to international attention as a child actor in the legendary director Satyajit Ray's classic *Teen Kanya* (Three Girls) (1961), soon established herself as an established filmmaker in Bengal and

then internationally with the acclaimed feature 36 Chowringhee Lane (1981), a slew of acclaimed hits followed, making her one of the most famous names in Bengali cinema.

Aparna Sen's Busan premiered drama tells of a survivor of rape of and the struggles she goes through to reconcile her life and future. Aparna Sen's powerful drama world premiered at Busan. Naina (Konkona Sen Sharma), a professor in criminal psychology, is married to academic Aftab (Arjun Rampal). Their lives change one night when Naina is raped and her friend killed. She testifies and the rapist is sentenced. Naina deals with her trauma when she finds she is pregnant. Director Aparna Sen examines the psychology of violence and raises disturbing questions about gender, class and legal rights.

LONDON:

Saturday 2 July, 17:00, BFI NFT1

In Conversation With Konkona Sen Sharma

Friday 1 July, 18:00, CINÉ LUMIÈRE

One of Bengal's favourite and multi-award winning actors Konkona made her debut acting role as a child artist in Indira (1983). She won a National Award for Best Actress for her role in Aparna Sen's critically successful Mr & Mrs Iyer in 2002. Her role in the nationally acclaimed Page 3 took her to wider audiences, with an award winning role in the hit Shakespearean adaptation by Vishal Bhardwaj; Omkara to follow. Her next films won numerous Filmfare and national awards. Konkona's directorial debut Death In The Gunj (2016), a 1970s period drama was screened at festivals globally and utilised Konkona's strength of telling ensemble character driven stories. Konkona is an eloquent speaker on mental health and wellbeing and gender politics, based on her own lived experiences.

Taapsee Pannu In Conversation

Saturday 25 June, 20:30, CINÉ LUMIÈRE

Born in Delhi, of Punjabi origin, Taapsee had a brief modelling career before making her acting debut in the Telugu film Jhummandi Naadam and went on to act in the 2011 Tamil film Aadukalam. She made her Hindi film debut with David Dhawan's comedy Chashme Baddoor (2013). Taapsee was then lauded for her roles in the Hindi secret agent film Baby (2015) and legal drama Pink (2016), both of which were critical and commercial successes. She gained prominence in Hindi movies with films such as The Ghazi Attack (2017), Mulk (2018), and the romantic drama Manmarziyaan (2018). As a talented, versatile actor with broad linguistic abilities she is able to command work in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam language films and won the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actress for playing a homely woman struggling through a divorce in Anubhav Sinha's drama Thappad in 2020.

In Conversation With Nandita Das

Thursday 30 June, 18:00, CINÉ LUMIÈRE

Nandita is one of those actors who seems to be loved everywhere she goes, none less than her roles at Cannes, where she has served twice as a jury member. Highly intelligent, an effortlessly elegant character actor with an ability to speak numerous Indian languages, Nandita has played in over 40 feature films so far directed by some of India's top indie directors. Her memorable debut being the pioneering love story Fire, directed by Deepa Mehta, which was distributed globally. Nandita was able to utilise her literary background in her two features so far as a director, the subtly political drama Firaaq (2008) and Manto (2018) which premiered at Cannes Un Certain Regard. In 2011, she was made Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government, for her work in Indo-French co-operation in cinema, and was the first Indian to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame International Women's Forum in Washington. Nandita is a tireless champion of cinema, human rights and health.

Aparna Sen & Konkona Sen Sharma / In Conversation

Monday 4 July, 18:00, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Part of Birmingham City University

Join us for a rare talk by India's greatest and longest standing woman writer director, known for her frank and honest views on women's experience, filmmaking in Bengal and other matters. Aparna who first came to international attention as a child actor in the legendary director Satyajit Ray's classic *Teen Kanya* (Three Girls) (1961), soon established herself as an established filmmaker in Bengal and then internationally with the acclaimed feature *36 Chowringhee Lane* (1981), a slew of acclaimed hits followed, making her one of the most famous names in Bengali cinema.

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THE RAPIST – Birmingham Screening

UK Premiere

Dir: Aparna Sen

With: Konkona Sen Sharma, Arjun Rampal, Tanmay Dhania

132 mins | 2021 | India

Aparna Sen's Busan premiered drama tells of a survivor of rape of and the struggles she goes through to reconcile her life and future. Aparna Sen's powerful drama world premiered at Busan. Naina (Konkona Sen Sharma), a professor in criminal psychology, is married to academic Aftab (Arjun Rampal). Their lives change one night when Naina is raped and her friend killed. She testifies and the rapist is sentenced. Naina deals with her trauma when she finds she is pregnant. Director Aparna Sen examines the psychology of violence and raises disturbing questions about gender, class and legal rights.

Thursday, 30 June, 19:00, MAC

GANDHI 40

Dir: Richard Attenborough

With: Ben Kingsley, John Gielgud, Rohini Hattangadi

191 mins | 1982 | UK, USA, India, South Africa

English, Hindi with English subtitles

On the epic film's 40th anniversary, LIFF presents and re-examines the movie that brought the Gujarati independence leader *Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi* back to world attention in the 1980s, with screenings of the film even allegedly helping to spark the non-violent Czech Velvet Revolution, much as the real Gandhi's Ahimsa campaigns had inspired earlier revolutionary movements around the world. Winning 8 Oscars with an all-star Indian and UK cast, this is a rare chance to see the full visual spectacle and unforgettable soundscape of Gandhi on the big screen at BFI's NFT1.

Saturday 25 June, 18:45, BFI NFT1

Young Rebels

Young people often challenge and change the world with fresh ideas and open hearts. We present a clutch of new films that depict young South Asians, some are joyous while others present youth facing and overcoming real-life challenges in South Asia today.

AMERICANISH

European Premiere

Dir: Iman Zawahry

With: Aizzah Fatima, Shenaz Treasury, Lillete Dubey

91 mins | 2021 | USA

English

Set in Jackson Heights NY, a heartwarming comedy about a first generation immigrant Pakistani mom (*Lillete Dubey*), is still recovering from her husband dumping her and the girls years ago. She is now conflicted by the tradition of getting her grown daughters, Maryam and Sam, hitched to suitable Pakistani boys. None too impressed by the young men who come to dinner at mom's, they decide to take matters into their own hands.

LONDON:

Sunday 26 June, 15:00, Picturehouse Central

Wednesday 29 June, 18:15 Ciné Lumière

Q&A with Iman Zawahry and guests

BIRMINGHAM:

Tuesday 28 June, 20:00, MAC

Q&A with Iman Zawahry and guests

MANCHESTER:

Friday 1 July, 19:00, Ducie Street Warehouse

Q&A with Iman Zawahry and guests

EMUTHI PUTHI (THE VERY FISHY TRIP)

European Premiere

Dir: Kulanandani Mahanta

With: Pratibha Choudhury, Neetali Das, Srishti Sharma

103 mins | 2021 | India

Assamese with English subtitles

Head strong teen Ritika hates her life under the strict control of her mother Indira, who also happens to be a senior cop. Ritika wants to escape. Ritika's aged but free spirited grandmother has long dreamed of eating her favourite rural fish curry and then disappearing from the world. The pair come to a pact of convenience to help each other out and one night run away from home. What ensues is a frantic road adventure that takes this unlikely duo to unexpected places, coming across all manner of madcap characters, while Ritika's police woman mum is hot on their trail.

LONDON :
Tuesday 28 June, 20:15, Ciné Lumière
Wednesday 29 June, 18:00, Rich Mix

BIRMINGHAM:
Sunday 26 June, 12:00, MAC

GHARE PHERAR GAAN (HOMECOMING SONG)

International Premiere

Dir: Aritra Sen

With: Isha Saha, Parambrata Chattopadhyay, Gourab Chatterjee, Reshmi Sen

140 mins | 2022 | India

Bengali, English

This uplifting musical follows the journey of Tora (Isha Saha), a girl from the suburbs of Kolkata, to her marital home in London. Tora is in dissonance with the high-flying lives of her NRI doctor husband Ribhu and her council-woman mother-in-law Shanta, and thus starts searching for solace outside the bounds of her home. This is when Imran (Parambrata Chattopadhyay), a consummate musician from India, enters her life, making the caged bird inside her sing again and embrace life on her own terms. The film closely portrays the lives of Bengalis in London and the alienation that is felt by a new immigrant from abroad. Yet the city of London, somehow, subsumes one with time and becomes home to the lost souls.

Saturday 2 July, 20:45, Picturehouse Central
Q&A with talent expected

GIRLS FOR FUTURE

Dir: Irja Von Bernstoff

88 mins | 2021 | Australia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Senegal

English, Hindi, Indonesian with English subtitles,

Girls For Future is an inspiring doc about four young front line activists, aged between 11 and 14 years old from Indonesia, Senegal, India and Australia. They represent the voice of a new generation directly affected by the climate crisis and environmental degradation at their doorstep. These four young women show tremendous endeavour, courage and power as they take on the government officials and established norms and try to bring about real world solutions to restore and protect their family and homelands, and our global climate.

Sunday 26 June – Monday 27 June, available for 48 hours at loveliffathome.com

Extra-Ordinary Lives

LIFF showcases independent films, which celebrate depictions of ordinary lives through fiction and documentaries. This year we screen a selection of films that show glimpses of real life in the sub-continent and Asian diaspora, which are sometimes challenging, sometimes feelgood, even comic, but always compelling.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN CALCUTTA

UK PREMIERE

Dir: Aditya Vikram Sengupta

With: Sreelekha Mitra, Shayak Roy, Bratya Basu

131 mins | 2021 | India, France, Norway

Bengali with English subtitles

World premiered at Venice Film Festival, Sengupta's gorgeously shot film follows the story of Ela, a failed actress; she has recently lost her daughter – who was the only reason for Ela to stay with her husband. Ela faces various setbacks in her personal, professional and love life, but she doesn't lose hope and sets out to find a new identity, love and independence in the booming streets of Calcutta. Helmed by beautifully nuanced performance from *Sreelekha Mitra*, the film captures the hustle and bustle of a city constantly in a state of flux.

LONDON:

Thursday 30 June, 18:00, BFI NFT2

Friday 1 July, 20:00, Ciné Lumière

BIRMINGHAM:

Saturday 2 July, 17:30, The Electric

DUG DUG

European Premiere

Dir: Ritwik Pareekh

With: Altaf Khan, Gaurav Soni, Yogendra Sing

107 mins | 2021 | India

Hindi with English Subtitles

Ritwik Pareekh's striking and infectiously funny satire explores the roots of faith and the commercialisation of religion. After a freak accident kills an alcoholic middle aged man named Thakur, the Dug-Dug brand motorcycle he is riding is taken away from the scene and locked up at a nearby police station. The following morning, the bike mysteriously appears back at the site of the crash. It is once again taken away by baffled police but once again the next day returns to the scene of the accident. Word of this strange occurrence spreads through the village leading the locals to believe they are witnessing divinity and the work of a higher power at play.

Tuesday 28 June, 17:50, Barbican

Q&A with Ritwik Pareekh

CHHELLO SHOW (LAST FILM SHOW)

UK Premiere

Dir: Pan Nalin

With: Bhavin Rabari, Bhavesh Shrimali, Richa Meena

100 mins | 2021 | India, France

Gujarati with English subtitles

Samay, a mischievous nine-year-old boy living in a remote village in Gujarat discovers film for the first time and is spellbound. Against his fathers he regularly visits the local cinema and forms a bond with the projectionsist who, in exchange for his lunch box, lets him watch movies for free. As their friendship grows, Samay learns more about the endless possibilities cinema brings and sets off in pursuit of his 35mm dreams, unaware of the adventures that lie in wait. Pan Nalin's latest is not only a homage to the cinema of the past, but a joyous reminder of the awe and wonder of a child's imagination. This feel-good film was an audience favourite at Tribeca Film Festival.

LONDON

Sunday 26 June, 15:00, BFI NFT1

Tuesday 28 June, 18:00, Ciné Lumière

Q&A with Pan Nalin

BIRMINGHAM

Saturday 25 June, 19:30, MAC

Q&A with Pan Nalin

NO LAND'S MAN

Dir: Mostofa Sawar Farooki

With: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Eisha Chopra, Megan Mitchell

101 mins | 2021 | USA, India, Bangladesh, Australia

English, Hindi, Urdu, French, Bengali with English subtitles

In 2019, a man named Naveen (*Nawazuddin Siddiqui*) disappears from a memorial park in Sydney while travelling with his girlfriend Cathy. Flashback to New York two years earlier, Naveen finds a job at a restaurant where he meets Cathy, but he is never able to truly be himself, struggling to forge an identity as a migrant in the city. As their relationship deepens, Naveen's lies begin to catch up with him and unable to tell the truth about anything including his name and nationality, his relationship with Cathy is put to the test and his own existence questioned. One of leading figures of new Bangladeshi cinema, Farooki's latest is a stirring tale of a man desperately seeking to manufacture an identity in a new place that will allow him to just exist.

LONDON:

Friday 24 June, 18:00, Ciné Lumière

Saturday 25 June, 20:45, Picturehouse Central

Q&A with Mostofa Sawar Farooki

MANCHESTER:

Monday, 4 July, 18:15, HOME

URF (A.K.A)

UK Premiere

Dir: Geetika Narang Abbasi

94 mins | 2022 | India

Hindi with English subtitles

To look like a film star is one thing, to be a lookalike of one is quite another. The latter comes with a stamp of 'urf' or 'also known as' for life. Lookalikes are as much a part of Indian popular cinema as the mega stars that front the industry, their popularity reaching such heights that they even have their own films, which are often satirical revisions of beloved classics. Focusing on lives of *Kishore Bhanushali*, *Firoz Khan* and *Prashant Walde*, lookalikes of superstars *Dev Anand*, *Amitabh Bachchan* and *Shah Rukh Khan*, *Urf* unravels a unique world where one's own identity is consumed by fame, while also bringing a fascinating perspective on stardom and cinema.

Saturday 25 June, 20:30, Rich Mix

Sunday 26 June, 18:00, Picturehouse Stratford

Q&A with Geetika Narang Abbasi

PAKA: THE RIVER OF BLOOD

UK Premiere

Dir: Nithin Lukose

With: Basil Paulose, Vinitha Koshy

101 mins | 2021 | India

Malayalam with English subtitles

With echoes of Romeo and Juliet, a tale of violent inter-family vengeance, set aside a river that runs through a village in North Kerala. *Nithin Lukose's* character focused film follows Johnny and Anna, two lovers from opposing sides of the conflict who plan to unite the two families. However the arrival of Johnny's uncle from gaol reignites the flames of the simmering conflict and throws Johnny and Annas plans into disarray.

LONDON:

Thursday 30 June, 18:00, Rich Mix

BIRMINGHAM:

Monday 27 June, 20:00, The Electric

TAANGH

European Premiere

Dir: Bani Sing

89 mins | 2022 | India

English

Bani Singh's phenomenal in-depth look into her father's past as a gold medalist hockey player starts off as a lovely look down memory lane that soon develops into an investigative documentary into the lost friendships and fallout of the Partition of India. As well as a sense of pride as the new India takes on their former British rulers to win at the 1948 London Olympics. A beautiful and touching story that marks the importance of collecting the oldest generations' stories that will soon be gone.

LONDON:

Thursday 30 June, 18:20, Bertha Dochouse

Saturday 2 July – Sunday 3 July, available for 48 hours at loveliffathome.com

Q&A with Bani Singh

BIRMINGHAM:

Sunday 3 July, 19:30, The Electric

Q&A with Bani Singh

APARAJITO (THE UNDEFEATED)

International Premiere

Dir: Anik Dutta

With: Jeetu Kamal, Saayoni Ghosh, Jeetu Kamal, Debasish Roy

138 mins | 2022 | India

Bengali with English subtitles

A must see for all fans of the legendary filmmaker *Satyajit Ray*. This drama lovingly portrays the early years of Ray's film career which were to have such an impact on Bengali and then world cinema. Working in a British advertising company in Calcutta the young Ray gets an opportunity for training in London. Here he is exposed for the first time to the widest range of world cinema. Returning home, he

and cineaste friends set up Calcutta's first film society, from which the plan to shoot the wondrous Pather Panchali is hatched.

LONDON :
Friday 24 June, 20:30, Ciné Lumière

BIRMINGHAM:
Sunday 26 June, 13 :30, The Electric

NO GROUND BENEATH THE FEET

European Premiere

Dir: Mohammad Rabby Mridha

With: Priyam Archi, Rocky Chowdury, Deepanwita Martin

91 mins | 2021 | Bangladesh

Bengali with English subtitles

This must-see film opens with a mafia don shaving a terrified Saiful in a barber shop chair, with a cut throat razor, reminding him to pay up. This high style film continues in a similar fast based vien, as impoverished Dhaka based ambulance driver Saif is faced to deal with the relentless struggle for survival. Living two lives, his town wife demands duty, while he hears from his real wife and children by the coast, that a flood is coming. Hoping to rescue his family, Saif tries ever riskier jobs, conflicting his morality in order to save the day.

LONDON:
Saturday 25 June, 18:00, Ciné Lumière
Sunday 26 June, 18:00, Rich Mix
Q&A with Mohammad Rabby Mridha

BIRMINGHAM
Monday 27 June, 19:00, MAC
Q&A with Mohammad Rabby Mridha

Great British Asians

In this time of changin images of 'Britishness', it's important and indeed vital to consider the South Asian contribution to modern Britain. This is clearly seen in films and arts of the last 4 decades. LIFF here presents a showcase of some iconic films and musicians, capturing our unique journey, as well as celebrating bright new emerging talent. Catch talks in cinemas and online with some of our greatest talents.

MIRROR MIRROR: THE EARLY FILMS OF YUGESH WALIA

Dir: Yugesh Walia

Mirror Mirror: 25 mins | 1980 | UK

English

Sweet Chariot: 23 mins | 1981 | UK

English

African Oasis: 35 mins | 1982 | UK

English

A trilogy of early short films by the pioneering Midlands based filmmaker, Yugesh Walia, exploring themes of culture and identity in 1980s Britain, which present a unique cultural record and perspectives of those turbulent times for Asian and Black immigrant communities in the UK.
Q&A with Yugesh Walia

LONDON:

Wednesday 29 June, 18:00, Barbican

MANCHESTER:

Saturday 25 June, 14:00, MAC

ASIAN VIBES LONDON & ASIAN VIBES BOMBAY

Dir: Ashim Ahluwalia

Asian Vibes London:

An essential guide to the paradigm-shifting British Asian electronic music scene. From the rubble of race and class conflict in the 1980s emerges a new breed of British Asian artist - politically sensitive, culturally complex and musically radical. The film documents a whole range of personalities, ranging from Bhangra pioneer *Kuljit Bhamra*, *TJ Rehmi*, *Cornershop*, *Asian Dub Foundation*, *FunDaMental* and *Apache Indian*, to another generation of artists such as *Shiva Sound System* and *Swami*.

Asian Vibes Bombay:

In Mumbai what was old is made new again as an emerging DJ culture rewires Bollywood film music. This electrifying documentary explores new forms of sound emerging from the frenetic metropolis. From rickshaw drivers flexing their bass speakers to dissident hip-hop DJs merging turntables with tablas, *ASIAN VIBES - BOMBAY* is a pop riot. Combining underground video aesthetics, archival Bollywood clips and an exploratory documentary approach. It celebrates the chaotic energy of contemporary India while reaching back to discover how it all began. Featuring *Bappi Lahiri*, *Kersi Lord* and others.

104 mins | 2002, 2004 | India, France

English

LONDON:

Friday 24 June, 18:00, Rich Mix

BIRMINGHAM:

Sunday 26 June, 18:00, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Panel Discussion

THE STORY OF BRITISH BHANGRA

Based on last year's big interest in British Asian music videos, we have this year been working with some great musicians to present a special live performance charting the growth of British Bhangra in the 1980s and 90s, created by young artists mixing traditional and modern music forms in Birmingham and London. This new Bhangra sound went on to influence the UK, India and the world. Acclaimed music producer and composer Kuljit Bhamra will present a legendary line up of great British acts at Rich Mix. Followed by DJs. Don't miss the unique one-off event!

Updated information on this event and performers line up available at www.londonindianfilmfestival.co.uk

Friday 24 June, 20:00, Rich Mix

FOUR LIONS

Dir: Christopher Morris

With: Riz Ahmed, Adeel Akhtar, Kayvan Novak, Nigel Lindsay

97 mins | 2010 | UK

English

From the minds behind Brass Eye and Peep show comes this rip-roaring comedy about four British Muslims who set out to commit an act of terror. What follows is a hilarious, sharply written satire looking into the ideology of idiots. Covering a difficult topic with extremely sharp writing, it's a film that manages to avoid being insensitive and even becomes emotional.

Friday 1 July, 21:00, Roof East

Save The Planet

It's never been a more important time to get in touch with the natural world and ancient Indian principles of harmony with nature. LIFF showcases here dramas and documentaries that reflect pressing ecological concerns as a main theme, or as a dramatic background to our protagonist's stories.

HATI BONDHU: FRIENDS OF ELEPHANTS

Dir: Kripal Kalita

51 mins | 2020 | India

Assamese with English subtitles

With destruction of Elephant's forests in Assam and the expansion of the human population, human-elephant conflict has increased massively resulting in mortalities on both sides. This inspiring and informative documentary showcases the efforts of the non-profit organisation 'Hati Bondhu' to save the lives of these majestic, intelligent animals, and help the farmers' rice harvest prosper, stopping the conflict between the two.

Tuesday 28 June, 20:30, Rich Mix

THE ROAD TO KUTHRIYAR

Dir: Bharat Mirle

115 mins | 2021 | India

English, Tamil with English subtitles

Seamlessly blending a dreamily scripted adventure story and documentary style together, Bharat Mirle's debut feature follows Dhruv, a young wildlife surveyor from the city who is conducting a mammal survey of the Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. With support from the seemingly

shifty tribesman guide Dorai, the unlikely pair form a strong bond of trust and friendship and Dhruv begins to see the world and the forest in a whole new light.

Monday 27 June, 18:10, Barbican

MOVING UPSTREAM: GANGA

Dir: Shridhar Sudhir

105 mins | 2021 | India

Bengali, Hindi, English with English subtitles

Filmed over six months on a 2,500km walk along the River Ganges, this stunning documentary explores the idea of walking in this fast paced modern world and man's evolving relationship with the natural world and bringing a much needed spotlight on the voices and concerns of the communities that depend on India's greatest watercourse.

Thursday 30 June – Friday 1 July, available for 48 hours at loveliffathome.com

CHASING SUSTAINABILITY: TALES FROM SOUTH ASIA

Dir: Sidra Altaf, Omkar Khandagale & Aditya Thakkar and Joel Elias

76 mins | 2021 | UK, India, Pakistan

Bengali, Hindi, English with English subtitles

A collection of short films curated by Dr. Anjali Jayakumar looking at the effect climate change has on the people and ecosystem of South Asia, from the mangroves and sea life of Karachi, the droughts of Maharashtra that have affected the livelihoods of sugar plantation workers to the farms of Kerala and the impact environmental regulations have had on their lives.

Tuesday 28 June – Wednesday 29 June, available for 48 hours at loveliffathome.com

Women Make Movies

One area that the festival prides itself on is platforming a wide range of women filmmakers. These directors' works often challenge the status quo, offering fresh stories and many also contribute to a diversity of authentic portrayals of women's experience on cinema screens.

MISSISSIPPI MASALA

30th Anniversary Restoration

Dir: Mira Nair

With: Denzel Washington, Sarita Choudhary, Roshan Seth

118 mins | 1991 | USA, UK

English

Recognising the 50th anniversary of Asian expulsions from East Africa LIFF presents this glorious restoration of a much loved film. After Mina's (*Sarita Choudhury*) Indian family is forced out of Uganda, they relocate to rural Mississippi to start a new life. Mina's traditional family wants her to marry an Indian, but she falls for Demetrius (*Denzel Washington*), a handsome young carpet cleaner.

However their budding relationship struggles to get off the ground as tensions rise and Mina is forced to choose between her love and her family. Mira Nair's dazzling and heartfelt romance explores issues of race, class and privilege which are still pertinent today.

LONDON:

Thursday 30 June, 19:00, Picturehouse Stratford

Saturday 2 July, 20:30, Ciné Lumière

BIRMINGHAM:

Tuesday 28 June, 14:00, MAC

MANCHESTER:

Thursday 30 June, 12.30, Ducie Street Warehouse

Q&A with Mira Nair on www.LoveLIFFatHome.com

LADIES ONLY

Dir: Rehana Liz John

79 mins | 2021 | Germany, India

Hindi with English subtitles

'What makes you angry?' a filmmaker asks a woman traveller in the 'Ladies Only' compartments of Mumbai local trains running in and out of the main stations. The answers to this and many other questions are both insightful and surprising, highlighting the issues, hopes and struggles of womanhood in India today, in the face of the frenetic non-stop Mumbai lifestyle. The changing light, faces and languages creates a poetic rhythm flowing through this engrossing and must-see documentary.

LONDON:

Wednesday 29 June, 20:20, Bertha Dochouse

Thursday 30 June, 20:15, Ciné Lumière

Q&A with Rehana Liz John TBC

BIRMINGHAM:

Friday 1 July, 19:30, The Electric

Q&A with Rehana Liz John TBC

MANCHESTER:

Tuesday 28 June, 12.30, HOME (Women only screening)

Tuesday 28 June, 18.15, HOME

ANITA & ME

Dir: Methin Huseyin

With: Chandeev Uppal, Anna Brewster, Sanjeev Bhaskar

92 mins | 2002 | UK

English

We celebrate the 20th anniversary of the movie adaptation of Meera Syal's seminal semi-autobiographical book. Meena Kumar lives in a small, predominantly white village in the Midlands, where she finds conflict between her heritage as Punjabi and the culture she was brought up in as British. Dealing with issues of race and identity with tact and understanding, this coming of age film is an important landmark in British Asian cinema.

Friday 1 July, 20:45, Picturehouse Central

Followed by a Q&A with the iconic writer and actor Meera Syal (TBC)

WE MAKE FILM

Dir: Shweta Ghosh

80 mins | 2021 | UK, India

English, Hindi, Bengali with English subtitles

We celebrate the 20th anniversary of the movie adaptation of Meera Syal's seminal semi-autobiographical book. Meena Kumar lives in a small, predominantly white village in the Midlands, where she finds conflict between her heritage as Punjabi and the culture she was brought up in as British. Dealing with issues of race and identity with tact and understanding, this coming of age film is an important landmark in British Asian cinema.

Thursday 23 June – Saturday 25 June, available for 48 hours at loveliffathome.com

Followed by an online conversation with Dr. Shweta Gosh and more

Brit-Asian Shorts

Support your local filmmaker! A chance to see the work of exciting and diverse emerging filmmakers from across the UK. From award-winning dramas to insightful docs, we see a rarely presented slice of life of Asian Britain today. Expect a discussion with young filmmakers on stage.

Part 1: Saturday 25 June, 18:15, Rich Mix

LOVE DEATH AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

Dir: Soham Kundu

29 mins | UK

English

Experiencing their son's life after his unnatural death while navigating their failing marriage; mourning parents Mira and Pradeep cannot overcome their grief but start to build their lives around it.

YAHA WAHA

Dir: Sarah Li

31 mins | UK

Hindi with English subtitles

This documentary follows two LGBTQ+ South Asians living in London and making a living in the arts and music scene.

Part 2:

Sunday 26 June, 15:00, Barbican

Sunday 3rd July, 6.00pm, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

51 STATES

Dir: Cass Virdee

15 mins

In an all too possible future, a Sikh wife and mother risks execution in the fight to be reunited with her family.

PRESS KEY 5

Dir: Lipa Hussain

10 mins

When lockdown restrictions leave Ayesha unable to interpret in person, she must deliver life changing news over the phone everyday.

CATCH A BUTCHER

Dir: Cassiah Joski-Jethi

13 mins

In a 19th Century Indian maternity ward, a nurse's first night on the job descends into terror when Anglo-Indian babies go missing.

TASBEEH

Dir: Iqbal Mohammed

12 mins

Two young British Pakistani men reunite in their deprived Northern town only to realise they now live very different lives.

BOOTS ON GROUND

Dir: Kiran Kaur Brar

9 mins

An autobiographical account of a second generation British South Asian women's experiences with the police, racism and violence in London.

KITCHEN TALES

Dir: Jane Moriarty

23 mins

Newly Indian immigrants to the UK navigate 40 years of marriage through the food they make and the meals they share as their family grows and their love struggles to survive.

Satyajit Ray Short Film Competition

The festival's annual Satyajit Ray Short Film Competition is a rare chance to see the works of talented and emerging filmmakers who are exploring themes of South Asian experience, that also in different ways reflect the humanist ideals of the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray. The winner will be announced on 3rd July.

Satyajit Ray Short Film Competition Part 1

Sunday 26 June, 16:00, Rich Mix

Thu 23 June - Sun 3rd July at www.loveliffathome.com

7 STAR DINOSAUR ENTERTAINMENT

Dir: Vaishali Naik

20 mins | India | Hindi with English subtitles

Few years back, two brothers set up a Business together, '7 Star Dinosaur Entertainment'. Dressed as giant dinosaurs they would dance to Bollywood songs at weddings and parties. Life was good until the Covid pandemic struck.

KAKATHURUTH

Dir: Mohammed Ali Faisal

24 mins | India | Malayalam with English subtitles

Set on a remote island in Kerala, Kakathuruth tells the tale of Jose, a newcomer to the island, who befriends a local fish farmer. As their close friendship develops it becomes clear that Jose may have an ulterior motive.

DESTINATION PARADISE

Dir: Eshaan Yogesh Rajadhyaksha

20 mins | Czech Republic | Czech, Hindi, Ukrainian with English subtitles

An illegal Indian Immigrant, en route to, what he hopes is a better life in London, finds himself stuck on a farm in the Czech countryside.

BHAI (BROTHERS)

Dir: Mohammed Ali Faisal

24 mins | India | Urdu with English subtitles

On Pakistan's independence day, two teenage boys go out to celebrate at a fast food restaurant - when a dancing monkey interrupts.

MASTERJI

Dir: Sameer Sharma

9 mins | India | Hindi with English subtitles

A biology teacher on the verge of retirement has to learn a new style of teaching as India enters lockdown. Will he be able to adapt and continue inspiring his students.

Satyajit Ray Short Film Competition Part 2

Wednesday 29 June, 20:30, Rich Mix

JAAGRAN

Dir: Hardik Sadhwani, Ritviq Joshi

19 mins | India | Hindi with English subtitles

Desperate and frustrated by the stale monotony of his life, a naive auto rickshaw driver decides to trade his peaceful existence for a chance to earn a quick buck.

TIGRESS

Dir: Maya Bastian

13 mins | Canada | English, Tamil with English subtitles

Follows the fast paced and drug fuelled existence of a young Tamil-Canadian woman who encounters another version of herself as a paramilitary fighter for the Tamil Tigers

HIDE N SEEK

Dir: Anuke Sethi

10 mins | USA | English

A poetic exploration of a girl's struggle to navigate the in between spaces of her multicultural identity.

ASTRONAUT AND HIS PARROT

Dir: Arati Kadav

15 mins | India | Hindi with English subtitles

An accident causes a spaceship to explode and an astronaut tumbles out of it. He starts floating and falling in space and frantically tries to connect to someone but all he gets is a parrot.

CHEEPATAKADUMPA

Dir: Devashish Makhija

24 mins | India | Hindi with English subtitles

Three small town friends, their reunion, a gorilla, a bull, the full moon, the kundalini, a tomato, a patriarchy-smashing mischief!

BOMgAY – THE PIONERING SHORTS OF RIYAD VINCI WADIA

Dir: Riyad Wadia

64 mins | 2022 | India

Hindi with English subtitles

Born into the pioneering Bollywood Wadia Movietone family in Mumbai meant that Riyad's early life was anything but usual. He grew up to be a fearless and spirited individual and an out gay young man in the early 1990s when such identity politics were illegal in India. We screen two of his pioneering short films BOMgAY a searingly explicit insight into Mumbai's secret gay world, shown at festivals around the world, and *A Mermaid Called Aida* (1996), an early film on Transsexual experience in India, that although dated presents a unique record. Riyad passed away in 2003, but his influence on the Indian LGBTQIA+ movements lives on.

Saturday 25 June, 18:00, Barbican

Too Desi Too Queer 1

Alongside city-wide Pride celebrations in London we are delighted to present our super-hit 'Too Desi Too Queer' shorts programme, exploring images of the lives, experiences and well being of South Asian LGBTQIA+ communities in the Subcontinent and diaspora, through a dynamic and thought-provoking selection of recent LGBTQIA+ short films.

LONDON:

Friday 1 July, 18:00, BFI NFT1

BEGUM PARVATHI

Dir: Radhika Prasadha

8 mins | Malayalam

MUHAFIZ (THE PROTECTOR)

Dir: Pradipta Ray

20 mins | Hindi

QUEER PARIVAAR

Dir: Shiva Raichandani

25 mins | English, Gujarati

MY MOTHERS GIRLFRIEND

Dir: Arun Fulara

15 mins | Marathi/Hindi

TRINITY

Dir: Hetain Patel

23 mins | English, Gujarati

MANCHESTER:

Thursday 30 June, 17:45pm, HOME

BIRMINGHAM

Friday 1 July, 18:30, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Too Desi Too Queer 2

Funded by the Arts Council England we present a live performance by dancer and storyteller Ash Mukherjee, exploring his youthful inspirations and Queerness, from Bollywood classics to a rich diversity of other inspirations. Accompanied by a pinch of LGBTQIA+ short films (full programme to be confirmed).

Wednesday 29 June, 20:30, Ciné Lumière

COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE

Dir: Naman Gupta

With: Karan Soni, Sangeeta Agrawal, Raghuram Shetty

20 mins | USA | 2021

English

MADHU

Dir: Tanmay Chowdhary, Tanvi Chowdhary

With:

13 mins | India | 2022

Marathi with English Subtitles

VISHNU'S GOT MY BACK

Originally commissioned by SHOUT Festival in partnership with Sampad South Asian Arts & Heritage