



3rd i's 22nd ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL
October 18-20, Roxie Theater in San Francisco

3rd i's 22nd annual SF International South Asian Film Festival presents groundbreaking cinema from India, Pakistan, France, UK, Canada, and the USA. From witty comedies to nuanced dramas, from sci-fi to real life, 3rd i offers a celluloid celebration of inspiring stories from South Asia and its Diaspora.
www.thirdi.org

FILM SCHEDULE

Friday
October 18
7:15pm

The Queen of My Dreams
Fawzia Mirza

(Canada/
Pakistan,
2023, 96 mins,
English)



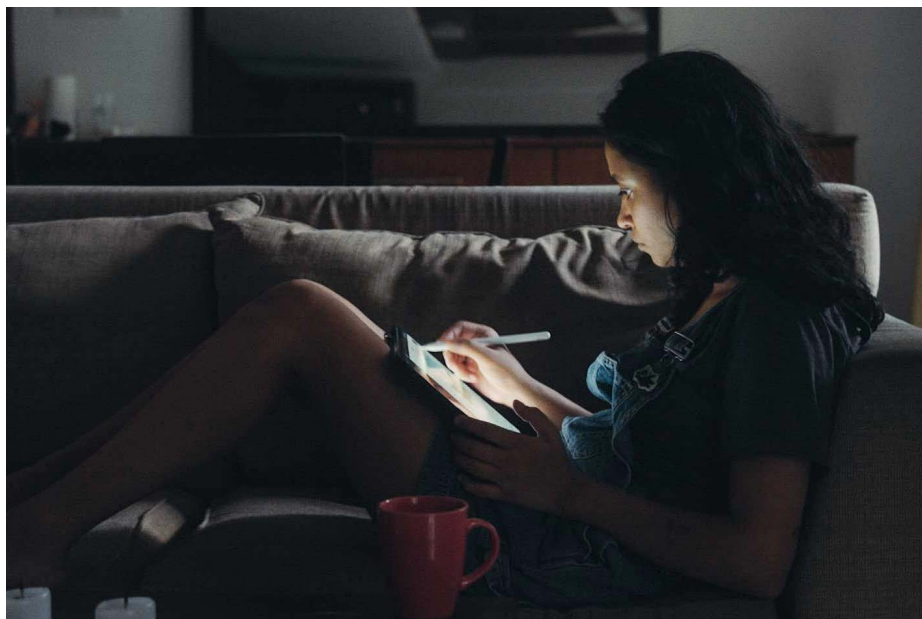
Filmmaker Fawzia Mirza in person!

Vibrant, fun, and romantic, Fawzia Mirza directs a film that evokes Bollywood musicals, while delving into the complicated bonds between mothers and daughters. Queer grad student Azra is worlds apart from her conservative Muslim mother. When her father suddenly dies, Azra finds herself on an inspired journey of discovery—from her mother's youth in Karachi, Pakistan, to her own coming-of-age in Canada.

Saturday,
October 19
1:15pm

Drawing A Line
Sama Pana

(Belgium/
Luxembourg,
2024, 73 mins,
English)



Sharp, satirical, and popular sociopolitical Indian cartoonist Rachita Taneja is the subject of Sama Pana's inspiring and thought-provoking documentary that explores how she faces censorship and criminal prosecution with humor and honesty. Creating witty cartoons that challenge India's deep-rooted myths and taboos surrounding topics such as mental health, freedom of speech, and LGBTQIA+ rights, Taneja defends and celebrates diverse communities in India.

Saturday,
October 19
3:00pm

**All We Imagine
As Light**
Payal Kapadia

(France/India,
2024, 118 mins,
Malayalam
and Hindi with
English subtitles)



Payal Kapadia's hypnotic and meditative masterpiece is not to be missed. This richly textured portrait of three women on their journey of self-discovery and friendship is subtly unconventional and even subversive in its approach to visual storytelling and ways of exploring gender, class and religion. Winner of the prestigious Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival 2024.

Saturday,
October 19
5:30pm

Now and
Forever
Shalini
Ushadevi

(India, 2023, 90
mins Malayalam
with English
subtitles)



Filmmaker Shalini Ushadevi in person!

Shalini Ushadevi's unique sci-fi feature from South India is nuanced and thought-provoking. In an alternate dystopian present, a married couple in the state of Kerala discusses whether or not to become immortal by taking a new high-cost implant. The couple decides to give immortality a three-day experimental trial period, but things don't turn out the way they expect.

Saturday,
October 19
8:00pm

Dear Jassi
Tarsem Singh

(India, 2023, 131
mins, Punjabi
with English
subtitles)



Pavia Sidhu in person!

Director Tarsem Singh, known for his visually stunning Hollywood films, returns to his home state of Punjab to tell the story of Jassi (Pavia Sidhu), a wealthy 19-year-old from Canada, who falls in love with a young man from the working class. Dhandwar weaves Punjabi Sufi folklore into the gripping tale, based on a true event, to create a striking Romeo-and-Juliet story with a haunting, chilling finale.

Sunday,
October 20
1:00pm

Two Paths,
One Nation:
Nationalism in
LAGAAN and
RRR

Robin Sukhadia

(USA, 2024, 75
mins)

FREE

Robin Sukhadia will present an engaging exploration of two landmark films: Lagaan and RRR. Set against the turbulent backdrop of colonial India, these Academy Award-nominated/winning films offer strikingly different takes on the fight for independence—one rooted in peaceful defiance, the other in fierce rebellion. Featuring video clips from key moments in both films, this discussion will leave you with fresh perspectives on two of Indian cinema's most iconic works.



Sunday,
October 20
2:30pm

Land of Dreams

Ambarien
Alqadar

(USA, 2024,
75 mins, Hindi
and Punjabi
with English
subtitles)



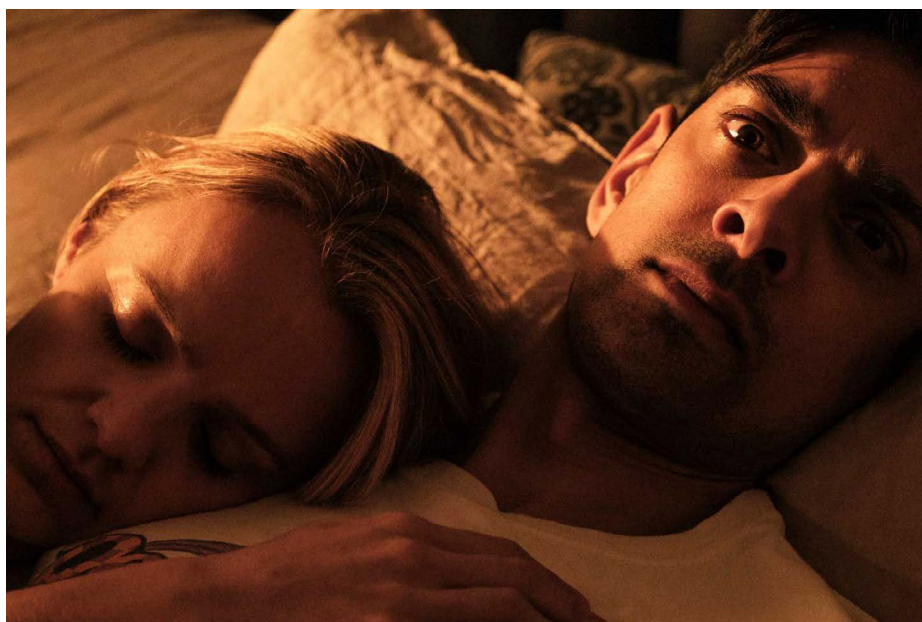
Filmmakers Ambarien Alqadar and Shankey Srinivasan in person!

Filmed over nearly a decade, Ambarien Alqadar's documentary is an intimate portrait of Virender Rana, a Sikh taxi driver from India. Chasing his dreams in America, he faces the challenges of being an immigrant. Preceded by Shankey Srinivasan's short film *Dos Mujeres*, which examines the US immigration system through the eyes of an Indian woman and a Mexican woman.

Sunday,
October 20
4:15pm

3rd i Shorts:
From Mumbai to
the Mission

(Various
Directors and
Countries,
2022–2024, 70
mins)



Musician/Composer Robin Sukhadia in person!

From light comedy to dark wit, this year's kaleidoscope of cinematic offerings brings filmmakers into conversation together from South Asia to California and throughout the Diaspora. With genres that range from music videos to documentaries and from comedy to dramatic narratives, this year's edition tackles stories of immigration, relationships, identity, and social justice.

Sunday,
October 20
6:00pm

**Girls Will Be
Girls**
Shuchi Talati

(India/ France/
Usa/Norway,
2024, 118 mins,
Hindi with
English subtitles)



Director Shuchi Talati's brilliant, richly layered romantic film masterfully explores the subtle complexities of a 16-year-old girl's coming-of-age desires and sexual awakening. Set in the 1990s at a strict boarding school atop a Himalayan mountainscape in India, straitlaced Mira must navigate getting good grades, a budding romance with a handsome 17-year-old boy, and an unwelcome emotional love triangle involving her mother.