

2014 INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE

Thursday 1 May – Sunday 11 May

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne • Hurrah Bollywood! • Beyond Bollywood • New Voices • From the Subcontinent

Festival Locations • Hoyts Melbourne Central, Hoyts Chadstone, Federation Square, Princess Theatre, Australia India Institute

IFFM Opening Night • Hoyts Melbourne Central, Thurs 1 May

IFFM Awards Night • Friday 2 May • Princess Theatre

Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition • Sunday 4 May, 3pm • Federation Square

Bookings and program information • www.iffm.com.au

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), the southern hemisphere's greatest annual celebration of Indian cinema, takes place from 1-11 May. This year's festival explores the richness of contemporary Indian cinema across four program streams, with films spanning Bollywood to art house and the subcontinent, as well as establishing an international competition, the **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards**. The 11-day festival presents a world-class program overflowing with gala events, master classes with India's leading film figures, and over 45 films screenings across four Melbourne venues.

The festival is delighted to announce a number of India's biggest stars as special guests for 2014. The stellar list includes godfather of Indian cinema **Amitabh Bachchan**, who will be honoured as the IFFM International Screen Icon for 2014. To celebrate this visit by one of the world's most iconic stars La Trobe University is creating the 'Shri Amitabh Bachchan' scholarship and Mr Bachchan will personally present the inaugural scholarship to a student during his visit. Other guests include national award-winning arthouse star **Konkona Sen Sharma**; iconic filmmakers **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** and **RajKumar Hirani**; Bollywood siren **Malaika Arora Khan**; popular actress, director, producer and writer, **Suhasini Maniratnam**; celebrated writer and director of the record-breaking *Dhoom 3*, **Vijay Krishna Acharya**; and from Lollywood, Pakistani producer **Hassan Wagas Rana (Waar)** and acclaimed Pakistani actor, writer and director **Shaan Shahid**.

This year's festival proudly launches the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards (IFFM Awards), judged by a panel of Australian and Indian film legends including Phillip Noyce, Jill Bilcock, Raju Hirani, Simi Garewal, Rajeev Masand and Suhasini Maniratnam. In the first Indian cinema awards of its kind in Australia, winners in the categories of Best Film, Best Performance, Best Director, Best Independent Film and the People's Choice Award will be announced at a red carpet gala event on 2 May at the Princess Theatre with a dazzling entertainment program presented by local Melbourne talents.

IFFM kicks off on 1 May with the Australian premiere of the newly-restored *Sholay* 3D, followed by a Q&A with the film's star Amitabh Bachchan. Since its release in 1975, the spaghetti western-style action adventure film has established itself as a beloved classic of Indian cinema and is critically regarded as one of the best Indian films of all time. "We are really delighted to open the festival with a screening of this most cherished film," said festival director Mitu Bhowmick Lange.

Turning its focus to contemporary India, IFFM presents four dynamic program streams of new films from India and the subcontinent. "The program reflects the films coming out of India today - questioning the social injustices, our relationship with our neighbours, gender inequality, while we also celebrate the wonderful Bollywood musicals that we all so love", said Bhowmick-Lange.

'Hurrah Bollywood!' features the best mainstream Hindi cinema from the last 12 months, featuring *Bhaagh Milkha Bhaagh*, the incredible true story of track legend Milkha Singh; romantic smash-hit *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram Leela*, a Bollywood adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*; and the highest-grossing Bollywood film of all time, *Dhoom 3*, starring Aamir Khan. 'Beyond Bollywood' presents art house and cinema in regional Indian languages, with program highlights such as the critically-acclaimed *Anumati*, the story of an old man's attempt to save his dying wife; the wonderfully original *Filmistan*, about a friendship that bonds over Bollywood across Borders; the Marathi film, *Fandry*, exploring the caste system of India; *B A Pass*; and *Apur Panchali*, for which Kaushik Ganguli won Best Director at the International Film Festival of India Awards. 'New Voices' celebrates exciting emerging talents, presenting *Ship of Theseus*, directed by Sydney Film Festival jury member Anand Gandhi; and Ritesh Batra's *The Lunch Box*, following screenings at the Cannes, Sundance and Toronto International film festivals. 'Films from the Subcontinent' features eight films from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. Closing the festival is *Goyner Baksho*, directed by Aparna Sen which will be introduced by leading actor, Konkona Sen Sharma.

IFFM offers a window into the future of filmmaking with screenings of winners and finalists in the Western Union short film competition open to filmmakers from India and Australia. The annual competition supports and encourages the careers of young filmmakers from India and Australia and fosters industry ties between the two countries. The 2014 winners will be announced at the IFFM Awards night and the winning films screened.

The colour and rhythm of Bollywood is expressed most joyously in its dancing. At Federation Square on 4 May audiences can emulate their screen heroes and join in the Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition to be judged by the incredible Malaika Arora Khan, a judge on TV show *India's Got Talent*.

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne was established in 2012 as an initiative of the Victorian Coalition Government.

www.iffm.com.au • Facebook facebook.com/pages/Indian-Film-Festival/ • Twitter twitter.com/#!/IndianFFMelb

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