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# Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, 10 - 22 August

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[Freida Pinto as Rashmi, in Love Sonia, this year's Indian Film Festival of Melbourne opening night film.](#)

The southern hemisphere's largest annual celebration of Indian cinema, the [Indian Film Festival of Melbourne \(IFFM\)](#), will take place from 10-22 August.

This year's unifying theme is 'Inclusion, and the festival explores the richness of contemporary cinema from India and the sub-continent, from Bollywood extravaganzas, to studio and non-studio dramas exploring the new face of modern Indian society, documentaries, and for the first time, a program of films for children. Featuring 60 films in 22 different languages will screen over 22 days.

The opening week coincides with the Indian Independence Day celebrations and the festival is thrilled to commemorate this event through ceremony, dance and the recognition of excellence in India's film culture. Celebrations will include the raising of the Indian flag on Saturday 11 August at Federation Square, hosted by 'the reigning queen of Bollywood' **Rani Mukherjee**, followed by the Bollywood Dance Competition.

The Festival opens with the Australian premiere of ***Love Sonia*** (dir. Tabrez Noorani), with stars **Freida Pinto** (*Slumdog Millionaire*), **Richa Chadha** (*Gangs of Wasseypur* and *Masaan*) and **Mrunal Thakur** joining Noorani on the Red Carpet.

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne is delighted to announce a who's who of India's leading filmmakers and stars as special guests for 2018.

For more details on films, events and special guests visit [www.iffm.com.au](http://www.iffm.com.au)

*ABC Radio Melbourne, proud supporters of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne of Melbourne.*

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