

1 week ago **INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE ANNOUNCES DATES  
AND EMBRACES 'INCLUSION' AS ITS 2018 THEME**



[<https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-79uaeAlx2wg/WxjHEMyojYI/AAAAAABh7A/R4rTq7GZCYovgh2CUyDI-SuzBFIZX8dnQCLcBGAs/s1600/Mitu%2BBhowmick%2BLange.jpeg>]

**The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM)** – the southern hemisphere's greatest annual celebration of Indian cinema – today announces details for their much anticipated 2018 program.

Taking place from **10<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> August** under the unifying theme of '**Inclusion**', this year's Festival offers all Australians the opportunity to explore the richness and diversity of contemporary Indian cinema, from Bollywood box-office hits, documentaries and art-house premieres, to a Bollywood dance competition and master classes with key figures from the Indian film industry.

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne has seen the biggest Bollywood names grace the festival. From Amitabh Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Anil Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra, Karan Johar, Rishi Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut, Rani Mukherjee, Konkona Sen Sharma, Richa Chadha and many more celebrated industry individuals. The festival sees over 40,000 patrons from India and the Sub-Continent every year attending various events that are hosted all over the vibrant city of Melbourne.

IFFM Director **Mitu Bhowmick Lange** is also thrilled to announce BMW as the sponsor of the **2018 BMW Short Film Competition**, providing an invaluable platform for aspiring and emerging filmmakers to showcase their work. The winning entry will be shown at screenings throughout the festival, and the winning filmmakers will be flown across the globe: the Australian winner to India, and the Indian winner to Australia.

Judging the award will be IFFM's Special Guest, and acclaimed actor **Ali Fazal**, named by Variety as one of the '10 actors to watch in 2017'. Fazal's recent credits include the lead role of Abdul opposite Dame Judi Dench's Queen Victoria in *Victoria and Abdul*, and the Bollywood blockbuster *3 Idiots*. He has recently signed on *Prassthanam* with Sanjay Dutt and *Milan Talkies* with Tigmanshu Dhulia

IFFM Director **Mitu Bhowmick-Lange** commented: *"The theme of inclusion is the principal belief of our festival and we very excited to explore it through our BMW Short Film Competition"*

*"I am thrilled to be a part of IFFM 2018. This will be my first time at the festival and I am honoured to be on the jury for the short film competition. It's great to know that we will get to see some wonderful work by talent from across India and filmmakers down under."* - **Ali Fazal**