

Indian Film Festival of MELBOURNE 2017

Presented by



2017 INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE

Thursday 10 August – Tuesday 22 August

IFFM Programs • Beyond Bollywood • Film India World • Hurrah Bollywood • Master Strokes • Subcontinent
Festival Locations • HOYTS Melbourne Central, Highpoint, Chadstone, Broadmeadows, Forest Hill • Federation Square • Melbourne Recital Centre
IFFM Opening Night • Thursday 10 August, 7:00pm – HOYTS Melbourne Central
Westpac IFFM Awards Night • Friday 11 August, 7:00pm – Melbourne Recital Centre
Indian Independence Day Hoisting of the Flag • Saturday 12 August, 11am – Federation Square
Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition • Saturday 12 August, 12pm – Federation Square
Books and program information • www.iffm.com.au

Friday 7 July The 2017 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), the southern hemisphere's greatest annual celebration of Indian cinema today unveiled details of the 2017 program. Taking place from 10-22 August with 'Diversity' as its unifying theme, this year's festival explores the richness of contemporary cinema from India and the sub-continent – featuring 60 films in 20 different languages, spanning Bollywood box-office hits to documentaries and art-house festival favourites, as well as hosting the fourth edition of the annual **Westpac Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards**.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley has said "The Indian Film Festival once again promises to deliver the best cinema from India and the sub-continent. We look forward to welcoming some of the world's biggest screen stars to Victoria and encourage new audiences to discover for themselves why this festival has become one of Australia's most significant foreign language film events."

The festival is delighted to announce a number of India's biggest stars as special guests for 2017. The stellar list features **Alankrita Shrivastava**, director of award winning *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, the film's star and director of *A Death in the Gunj*, **Konkona Sen Sharma**; **Onir**, director of *Shab*, and one of the few openly gay directors in Bollywood; world renowned, director and celebrity **Karan Johar** who has over one million twitter followers; **Shobu Yarlagadda** producer of the blockbuster *Baahubali* series; **Rajeev Masand**, leading entertainment journalist; actress **Tannishtha Chatterjee** from *UnIndian* and *Lion*, and the festival's patron and superstar **Vidya Balan**, a tireless champion for challenging female stereotypes in Indian cinema.

OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHTS

IFFM opens on 10 August with *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, the highly acclaimed and controversial drama exploring social taboos and personal struggles of four Indian women from diverse backgrounds.

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 12 August at Federation Square, followed by the Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition judged by **Malaika Arora** and a special surprise guest.

Shab, as the closing film on August 22, IFFM is delighted to have **Raveena Tandon**, **Ashish Bisht**, **Onir** and the IFFM's festival ambassador **Vidya Balan** in attendance. Directed by **Onir**, *Shab* is a story of people coming from different walks of life, some in search for love and some towards realisation of their dreams. It is the story of how destiny and the city shapes their lives.

WESTPAC IFFM AWARDS & NOMINEES

IFFM is proud to once again host the **Westpac Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards (IFFM Awards)**, the first Indian cinema awards of their kind in Australia. Westpac is the proud to sponsor of IFFM for the second consecutive year. **Ganesh Chandrasekhar**, Westpac's General Manager for Premium Customers & Growth Markets has said, "As Australia's oldest company and first bank, we're a big supporter of multiculturalism and diversity in the community. We're thrilled to take part in this

wonderful celebration of South Asian cinema to recognise the talented artists and the important contributions that all multicultural Australians make to our wider community.”

A jury panel of leading Indian and Australian film industry figures including **Simi Garewal, Andrew Anastasios, Rajeev Masand** and **Paul Ireland** – will honour winners in five categories: Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, Best Film, and Best Indie Film.

The winners will be announced at a red carpet gala event on 11 August at the Melbourne Recital Centre with a host of Indian stars and industry leaders in attendance. The awards will feature a special performance by the **Kakar Sisters**. 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 12 August at Federation Square, followed by the **Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition** judged by **Malaika Arora**.

DIVERSITY

Focusing on ‘Diversity’ as this year’s theme, IFFM presents 60 contemporary and classic films in 20 different languages from India and the sub-continent – with films from Pakistan, Nepal, Canada, Sri Lanka, and many more.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Program highlights include the world premiere of **Mahadeb Shi’s** documentary **Tramjatra** – following an ex tram conductor’s journey to Kolkata in an attempt to try and save their trams; the Australian premiere of **Shubhashish Bhutani’s Hotel Salvation**, an extraordinary tale of a father and son relationship, and illustration of traditional Hindu philosophy of death and freedom.

The ‘Hurrah Bollywood’ program features the best mainstream Hindi cinema from the last twelve months, and will be screening **Ae Dil Hai Mushkil, M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story** and **Dear Zindagi** at Federation Square. ‘Beyond Bollywood’ presents art house and cinema in regional Indian languages, with program highlights including the feature film **Chronicles of Hari**, directed by **Harikatha Prasanga** – exploring sexuality and societal stigma through traditional practice of ‘yakshagana’ theatre. ‘From The Subcontinent’ features films from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan, including much acclaimed Bangladeshi crime thriller **Aynabaji**, directed by **Amitabh Reza Chowdhury**. ‘Film India World’ presents Toronto based **Deepa Mehta’s Anatomy of Violence**, a Canadian drama that premiered at last year’s Toronto International Film Festival. ‘Master Strokes’ showcases some of the greatest classics from India’s rich cinematic history. IFFM is a 13-day feast for the eyes, ears and mind.

Tickets to [Westpac IFFM Awards Night are on sale now](#), and festival tickets are on sale Friday, 10 July.

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

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