

Indian Film Festival of MELBOURNE

Principal Partner



INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE REVEALS 2018 PROGRAM

The southern hemisphere's largest annual celebration of Indian cinema, **the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM)**, is delighted to announce details of its exciting 2018 program. Taking place from 10-22 August with 'Inclusion' as its unifying theme, this year's 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. 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 **Rani Mukherjee**, followed by the Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition in the afternoon and the star-studded **Westpac Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards** at The Palais Theatre on Sunday 12 August.



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.

IFFM closes on 22 August with the Australian premiere of **Sir** (dir Rohena Gera), a love story between a wealthy young Mumbai businessman and a countrywoman who comes to work as his maid, arriving direct from Cannes 2018 Critics Week.

Festival highlights include Australian premieres of **Haami**, Nandita Roy and Shiboprasad Mukherjee's film about two best friends; **Village Rockstars** (dir Rima Das), the story of a tenacious 10-year-old girl living in a remote village in Northeast

India who fights against stereotypes and poverty to pursue her dream of owning a guitar and forming a rock band (Toronto and Cannes Film Festivals); **Garbage** (dir Quashiq Mukherjee), a furious thriller about violence to women (Berlin Film Festival); **Gali Guliyan (In the Shadows)**, dir Dipesh Jain), a tense psychological thriller (New York International Film Festival); **Chumbak** (dir Sandeep Modi), a coming of age story about a table-cleaning-waiter-boy; **White** (dir Aneek Chaudhury), a romantic drama (Cannes Film Festival); and the multiple award winning **Tikli and Laxmi Bomb** (dir Aditya Kripilani), about two Mumbai based sex workers who decide to kick men out of the business and start a cooperative run by and for women.

IFFM is excited to present the Australian premiere of Anushka Meenakshi and Iswar Srikumar's documentary **Up, Down & Sideways**, about the rice cultivators of Phek and their incredible love of singing, and for its first Children's program, the award winning **Ishu** (dir Utpal Borpuar); **The Cake Story**, Rukshana Tabbassum's heart-warming tale about Monu and his father, who are left to spend the day with each other on his birthday; and **The Summer of Miracles** (dir Prasanth Vijay), which depicts a 9-year old's obsession with becoming invisible.



INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE SPECIAL GUESTS

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. The stellar list includes *Love Sonia* filmmaker **Tabrez Noorani**, and the film’s stars **Frieda Pinto** (*Slumdog Millionaire*), **Richa Chadha** (*Gangs of Wasseypur* and *Masaan*), and **Mrunal Thakur**; acclaimed actors **Ali Fazel**, (*Victoria and Abdul* screening at Federation Square for IFFM) and **Rani Mukherji**, dubbed ‘the reigning queen of Bollywood; writer, TV producer and director **Siddharth P Malhorta**, whose film *Hichikii*, about a person suffering from Tourette syndrome screens at IFFM; South Indian – Telugu film superstar **Ram Charan**; **Raj Kumar Hirani**, director of the record-breaking blockbuster *Sanju*, and widely regarded as one of the most successful and critically acclaimed filmmakers of the 21st century Hindi cinema; actor **Vicky Kaushal** (*Masaan*); screenwriter **Abhijat Joshi**; and renowned Indian film critic and entertainment reporter **Rajeev Masand**.

IFFM Programs • Beyond Bollywood • Documentaries • Children’s Films • Hurrah Bollywood • From the Subcontinent
Festival Locations • HOYTS Melbourne Central, Highpoint, Chadstone, Broadmeadows, Forest Hill • Federation Square • The Palais Theatre, St Kilda
IFFM Opening Night • Friday 10 August, 7:00pm • HOYTS Melbourne Central
Westpac IFFM Awards Night • Sunday 12 August, 6:30pm • The Palais Theatre
Indian Independence Day Hoisting of the Flag • Saturday 11 August, 11:00am • Federation Square
Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition • Saturday 11 August, 12:00pm– Federation Square
Bookings and program information • www.iffm.com.au

Opening Night and Westpac IFFM Awards nights and all films are on sale now.

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

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