

Trikone Australasia

PRESENTS

GULMOHAR: SOUTH ASIAN QUEER FILM FESTIVAL 2008

WHEN: August 15 to 17, 2008

WHERE: MCC, 96 Crystal Street, Petersham, Sydney

<http://www.mccsydney.org/SAQFF>

An explosion of queer colour comes to Sydney this August with the inaugural South Asian Queer Film Festival, Gulmohar.

The three-day festival kicks off on 15 August 2008 to coincide with India's 61st Independence day, and is bound to create controversy back home in India where private consensual sex between same-sex partners is still a criminal offence.

With a mix of films, short films and documentaries, Trikone Australasia hopes to increase visibility of the queer South Asian community in Australia and also send a message to South Asian countries, such as India and Bangladesh, where an individual's choice of being in a same-sex relationship is still seen as a crime.

"The aim of the festival is visibility, voice, vision," says festival director Sadhana Jethanandani. "With Gulmohar, we want to increase visibility of the South Asian queer community in Australia. Voice their emotions and express their feeling through films about and made in South Asian countries. And ultimately become part of the global vision of providing equal rights to the South Asian LGBTQ community," adds Jethanandani.

We are very honoured and excited to announce that, the festival will be opened by Anton Enus. A broadcast journalist with more than 20 years' experience, Anton currently presents the World News on SBS. He was a founding member of South Africa's gay and lesbian sports movement in the early 1980s and he has also served on committees aimed at reconciling Johannesburg's multi-cultural gay and lesbian communities.

One of the highlights of the festival is, of course, the Australian premier of the highly provocative Indo - UK flick, *Yours Emotionally* (2006), which kicks off the festival on Friday 15 August. It tells the story of two UK-born boys, Ravi and Paul, who visit India for a holiday and witness an all-night gay-sex party.

Trikone Australasia is a registered non-profit organization set up in 2007. It aims to offer a supportive, empowering and non-judgemental environment, where queer South Asians can meet, make connections and proudly promote awareness and acceptance of their sexuality in society.

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES & INTERVIEWS, CONTACT

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Trikone Australasia presents - Gulmohar: A South Asian Queer Film Festival 2008
For purchasing tickets please visit <http://www.mca-tix.com/festivals.asp>

**TRIKONE AUSTRALASIA PRESENTS
GULMOHAR: A SOUTH ASIAN QUEER FILM FESTIVAL**

FROM 15 TO 17 AUGUST, 2008

AT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, 96 CRYSTAL ST, PETERSHAM

For Details Go To <http://www.mccsydney.org/SAQFF>

ALL SCREENINGS ARE FOR 18 YEARS AND OVER

FRIDAY 15 AUGUST ~ OPENING NIGHT FEATURE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR DRINKS AT 7PM

followed by the Australian premier of Yours Emotionally

(2007; India / UK; 86 minutes; English language)



Directed by Sridhar Rangayan

Two friends, Ravi and Paul, go on vacation to India where they attend an all night, eye-opening gay sex party. Surprised by the openness of their hosts and the aggressiveness of the guests, the boys fall into the steadily growing Indian gay culture. Ravi is especially bitten hard as he falls for the good looking but deeply closeted Mani. Will caste, economics and customs allow these two love birds a happy ending or will the forces of tradition and homophobia keep them apart?

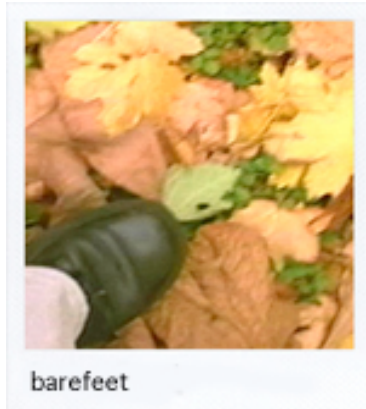
"IN ADDITION TO THE COLOURFUL AND BIZARRE SITUATIONS, THE CAMERA LINGERS LOVINGLY OVER THE QUEER INDIAN MALE BODY AND EXALTS ITS SEXUALITY. WITH A CONSISTENTLY SURREAL LOOK, YOURS EMOTIONALLY FEELS LIKE A BEAUTIFUL FEVER DREAM INSPIRED BY BOTH AVANT-GARDE GAY CINEMA AND THE TROPES OF BOLLYWOOD." ~ COREY EUBANKS, US

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SATURDAY 16 AUGUST ~ SESSION 1

5PM - Barefeet

(2002; US; 7 minutes; English language)



Director/Producer: Sonali Gulati

barefeet is an experimental narrative film of an Indian woman's attempt at revealing a secret to her family. The film explores the meaning of "home" from a transnational perspective and raises important questions about identity, sexuality, secrecy, and nostalgia.

AND

510PM - Our Family

(2007; India; 56 minutes; Tamil language with English subtitles)



Directors: Anjali Monteiro and K.P.Jayasankar

What does it mean to cross that line which sharply divides us on the basis of gender, to free oneself of the socially constructed onus of being male? Is there life beyond a hetero-normative family?

This film is a compassionate and sensitive portrayal of the third sex - their bonding and their aspirations. The film brings together excerpts from Nirvanam, a one person performance, by Pritham K. Chakravarthy and a family of three generations of trans-gendered female subjects who are bound together by ties of adoption and belong to the trans gender community called Aravanis.

Winner Certificate of Merit & Special Mention - Mumbai International Film Festival 2008

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SATURDAY 16 AUGUST ~ SESSION 2

730PM - *sum total*

(US; 5 minutes; English subtitles)



Director/Producer: Sonali Gulati

*What does an Indian lesbian do when her family puts pressure on her to get married? What does her matrimonial advertisement look like? *sum total* answers these questions through a short poetic film that addresses issues of identity, self-representation and heteronormativity.*

AND

740PM - *Sancharam (The Journey)*

(2004; India; 107 minutes; Malayalam language with English subtitles)



Director: Ligy J. Pullappally

*Two girls grow up in rural India and discover as they mature that they have feelings for each other. Life becomes more difficult when the families learn of the affair. Told with beauty, sweetness and smoldering tension, *The Journey* is the first Indian film since Deepa Mehta's *Fire* to seriously and sensitively portray a lesbian relationship*

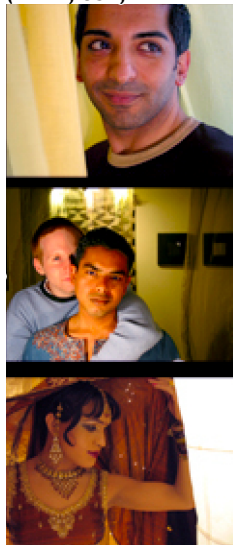
Winner Best Film- 40th Chicago International Film Festival

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SUNDAY 17 AUGUST ~ SESSION 1

12PM ~ *Milind Soman Made Me Gay*

(2007; USA; 27 minutes; English language)



Director: Harjit Gill

This film dives into the memory-scape of four South Asian gay men living in Washington DC; one Hindu, one Muslim, one Christian and one Sikh... to reveal how each negotiates his sexual desire with his cultural and religious background. Underneath the nostalgic explorations of life back home lie harsh realities of homophobia and racism in America, and an on-going struggle to find a place of belonging.

AND

1230PM ~ *Gulabi Aina (The Pink Mirror)*

(2003; India; 40 minutes; Hindi language with English subtitles)



Directed and Written by Sridhar Rangayan

Two bitchy drag queens and a sly gay teenager lust after a handsome hunk. A hilarious comedy replete with bitchiness and camp humour set a la Bollywood. Apart from being a drag romp, the film is an exposition of the Indian gay/transgender landscape, the humanly tender bonds between drag queens in India who form unique, non-patriarchal families and the lurking impact of HIV/AIDS.

Official Selection 70 International Film Festivals

Winner Jury Award for Best Film ~ Fire Island Film Festival 2004, USA

Winner Best Film of the Festival ~ Question de Genre 2004, France

"Gulabi Aina is a heartfelt, hilarious romp through the over-the-top world of our Meena Kumaris and their boytoys" ~ Riyad Vinci Wadia, Pioneering Indian Gay Filmmaker

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SUNDAY 17 AUGUST ~ SESSION 2

2PM *My Brother ... Nikhil*

(2005; India; 120 minutes; Hindi language with English subtitles)

We're excited to announce that this film will be introduced by Raj Suri. Raj was involved in the production of this film, in various capacities, including as stills photographer and is the brother of the lead Sanjay Suri.



Director: Onir

Probably the first main stream Indian film where the lead protagonist is homosexual. Nikhil Kapoor is the state swimming champion. He's loved and adored by his elder sister and mother. One day he's arrested for being HIV positive. As allowed by the Goa public health law for HIV positive people he is kept in forced isolation. Deserted by his parents and friends the only two people who stand by him are his sister Anamika and boyfriend Nigel. This film deals with his fight for dignity; about how a closely knit family falls apart under crisis; about a sisters unconditional love; about a love that withstood social disapproval and finally it's a film about acceptance.

Winner Audience Choice award - 20th Milan International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 2006

Winner Jury and Audience Award - Image + Nation film festival, Montreal

TO BUY TICKETS GO TO

<http://www.mca-tix.com/festivals.asp> or call 1300 306 776
or contact

Alan Maurice on 0422 911 751 ~ Vino Thiagarajah on 0405 542 477

Ticket Prices

- ~ Opening Night \$20 - Join us for drinks at 7pm followed by the film screening**
- ~ Each Session \$15 / \$12 concession**
- ~ All Access festival pass \$60**

Film Festival Organisers:

- ~ Alan Maurice ~ Roopali Pandey ~ Nathan Sram**
- ~ Sadhana Jethanandani ~ Adi ~ Mojave Kannangara**

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