

India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) in collaboration with Majha House, Amritsar presents

August 30 and 31, 2019

Conference Hall, Guru Nanak Bhawan, Guru Nanak Dev University
Makka Singh Colony, Amritsar, Punjab 143005

August 30, 2019

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM: Inauguration

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM: **Out of Thin Air**

(Shabani Hassanwalia & Samreen Farooqui | Hindi/English with English subtitles | 50 min)

Shabani Hassanwalia will be present for a Q & A after the screening

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM: Tea Break

12:00 PM - 01:15 PM: **Leh Kharyok**

(Tashi Morup, Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation | Ladakhi/English with English subtitles | 59 min)

01:15 PM - 02:15 PM: Lunch

02:15 PM - 03:30 PM: **City of Photos**

(Nishtha Jain | English with subtitles | 60 min)

03:30 PM - 04:45 PM: **Kitte Mil Ve Mahi**

(Ajay Bharadwaj | Punjabi with English subtitles | 72 min)

04:45 PM - 05:00 PM: Tea Break

05:00 PM - 06:30 PM: **Gali**

(Samreen Farooqui & Shabani Hassanwalia | Hindi/Punjabi with English subtitles | 52 min)

Shabani Hassanwalia will be present for a Q & A after the screening

August 31, 2019

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM: **Kumar Talkies**

(Pankaj Rishi Kumar | Hindi with English subtitles | 76 min)

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM: Tea Break

12:00 PM - 01:30 PM: **The Nine Months**

(Merajur Rahman Baruah | Assamese with English subtitles | 77 min)

01:30 PM - 02:15 PM: Lunch

02:15 PM - 03:30 PM: **I, Dance**

(Sonya Fatah and Rajiv Rao | English/Hindi/Urdu | 60 min)

03:30 PM - 05:00 PM: **Pala**

(Gurvinder Singh | Punjabi with English subtitles | 83min)

05:00 PM - 05:15 PM: Tea Break

05:15 PM - 06:30 PM: **The Common Task**

(Pallavi Paul | English/Hindi with English subtitles | 52 min)

Pallavi Paul will be present for a Q & A after the screening

06:30 PM - 07:00 PM: Closing Remarks

All the films being screened have been supported by IFA



IFA FILM FESTIVAL

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Out of Thin Air (Shabani Hassanwalia, Samreen Farooqui | Punjabi with English subtitles | 83 minutes)

Out of Thin Air is the story of one of the most surreal and hostile landscapes in the world. This is the story of Ladakh, not through the postcards that tourists often see, but through the subterranean, local film movement that has taken such strong root here in the last six years, that it has become a voice of the people. Today, taxi drivers, grocery store owners, cops and monks are producers, directors, camerapersons and actors of one of the youngest, and most dynamic, local film industries in the world

Leh Kharyok (Tashi Morup, Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation | Ladakhi / English with English subtitles | 59 minutes)

Leh Kharyok is a study and a documentation of the musical traditions of old town Leh, as a representation of life and connections between generations. Through oral histories, archival data, investigation of monastic festivals and interviews with young contemporary musicians, the film traces the musical legacy of the old town through centuries of political and cultural upheavals. With this, it also provides insights into the history of Leh as embedded in its music

City of Photos (Nishtha Jain | English with subtitles | 60 minutes)

City Of Photos explores the little known ethos of neighbourhood photo studios in Indian cities, discovering entire imaginary worlds in the smallest of spaces. Desires, memories and stories all so deeply linked to photographs all come together as a part of the personal journey into the city of photos

Kitte Mil Ve Mahi (Ajay Bharadwaj | Punjabi / English with English subtitles | 72 minutes)

A deeply felt and moving film, Ajay Bharadwaj's Kitte Mil Ve Mahi cuts to the quick and puts across a well-reasoned and eloquent quest of the Dalits in Punjab to take on the legitimacy of the deeply exploitative and humiliating caste system. This sensitively crafted and provocative film provides a glimpse of the alternate cultural forms of the Punjabi Dalits that critique the oppression of the 'upper' castes and articulate a powerful vision of social justice. It focuses, in particular, on the popular Sufi traditions of the Punjabi Dalits

Gali (Samreen Farooqui, Shabani Hassanwalia | Hindi / Punjabi with English subtitles | 52 minutes)

The film explores the subculture of B-boying and Breaking as an Indian form of contemporary street dance, that focuses on the performers at Khirki village, New Delhi, a volatile melting pot of Jats, Biharis, Nigerians, Afghans, and struggling artists which is shaping the area's youth in the unlikeliest of ways. It delves into a world that grew under the shadow of globalization, of a youth that role-plays participation, as well as, dissent, against a mainstream that continues to exclude them. The documentary catches them in their search for space, as their choice of musical expression unites them with those fighting invisibility, throughout the world

Kumar Talkies (Pankaj Rishi Kumar | Hindi with English subtitles | 76 minutes)

Kumar Talkies highlights the relationship between the crisis facing the small town of Kalpi in Uttar Pradesh and the decline of its oldest surviving cinema theatre. The film explores the impact of the products of the Mumbai film industry and popular culture on the town's social and economic life, collective imagination and identity

The Nine Months (Merajur Rahman Baruah | Assamese with English subtitles | 77 minutes)

Nine Months is an evocative film that explores the history, form, style and aesthetics of Assam's mobile theatre. It records the transformation in themes and repertoires in the genre of performance, captures the experience and perspectives of its promoters, directors, actors, technicians, and stagehands and documents the impact of globalisation on its practice. It explores the various kinds of plays staged by the mobile theatre, the issues they deal with and how the genre has transformed from presenting mythological and folk stories to contemporary themes with social and political implications

I, Dance (Sonya Fatah, Rajiv Rao | English / Hindi / Urdu | 60 minutes)

I, Dance is a documentary that tells the difficult story of classical dance in Pakistan primarily through the lens of Sheema Kermani, one of the country's few classical dancers. The struggle is set against the largely military backdrop of a country struggling to define itself. I, DANCE takes us into the lives and worlds of women who dared to defy the social, political and legal code for the performing arts. That struggle is one reason why today, in Pakistan, there is a mini revival and reinterpretation of this lost heritage

Pala (Gurvinder Singh | Punjabi with English subtitles | 83 minutes)

The film is a profile of Pala, a storyteller from Punjab. It deals with the diversity of the centuries old storytelling and musical tradition of which he is a part, but a tradition which is rapidly on decline. Pala claims to belong to no particular faith and can with ease transform himself and his musical talent to suit the needs of the space where he is performing. What he represents is a kind of folk religion, which has assimilated the traits of all the three principal faiths of Punjab, namely Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam

The Common Task (Pallavi Paul | English / Hindi with English subtitles (contains graphic language) | 52 minutes)

An experimental HD video film on the Mars One project, which aims to set up the first human settlement in Mars. It is about the proposition of a one-way trip to Mars, and explores the philosophical possibilities of interplanetary travel. Woven around the stories of two applicants who want to make this journey, the film includes scientific reports, plans, charts, and personal journals, interspersed with interviews with future astronauts

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