



September 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 – October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017  
@CSAFFestival #CSAFFestival  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **8th Annual Chicago South Asian Film Festival Brings Together the Best of Independent Films, Talent and, Filmgoers to Chicago**

*Three-Day Festival of Dynamic Film Selections, Intimate Film Discussions and Events launches SAFA Awards and Brings Art, Culture, and Entertainment to Chicago and Oakbrook*

Chicago, IL – August 28, 2017 – The Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) reveals the film and talent lineup for this year's event, to be held between September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The festival, the largest of its kind in the Midwest, will present over 25 films in downtown Chicago, at the Showplace ICON Theater in the South Loop, at DePaul University's School of Cinematic Arts in the loop, and in Oakbrook, at the Oakbrook AMC Theater.

A carefully curated collection of independent films, shorts, documentaries, events and discussions will create the three-day Festival experience. The Festival will open at the Oakbrook AMC Theater, with Red Carpet performances by local dance companies on the central festival theme of "Women in Cinema". Renowned actors Shabana Azmi and Rajkummar Rao will walk the Red Carpet and Ms. Azmi will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Opening Night will close with the Chicago premiere of Newton by director Amit Masurkar and includes dynamic performances by Rajkummar Rao. Newton premiered at the Berlin Film Festival to rave reviews earlier this year. There will be a Q&A session with Mr. Rao after the film. On September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, festival activities will be primarily centered in the city of Chicago, where we will have the Chicago premiere of such films as Sonata, Trapped and Gurgaon. Filmmakers and talent from each film will be available for post-screening moderated Q&A sessions. CSAFF will close on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> with an awards ceremony, presenting awards for best feature and short films, as chosen by our jury and audience. CSAFF also includes a lineup of additional South Asian film talent such as Askhay Oberoi, Fawzia Mirza, Shahana Goswami, Barun Sobti, Adeel Hussain and Mehreen Jabbar and Aparna Sen. These luminaries will be present throughout the festival at our Q&A sessions and other ceremonies.

Festival details and film roster provided below. View additional details and the full film schedule here: <http://www.csaff.org/film-guide/>

Our arts-conscious sponsors include DePaul University, Counsel General of India Chicago, Bank of America, B-Raja, and Air India.

For additional information on CSAFF 2017, including screening times, locations, featured guests and ticketing details, please visit [www.csaff.org](http://www.csaff.org) or contact [press@csaff.org](mailto:press@csaff.org).

### **About CSAFF**

Chicago South Asian Film Festival, is dedicated to fostering a diverse cinematic experience through South Asian films. The Festival was founded in 2010 and is organized by the Chicago South Asian Arts Council Inc. The Festival is held in late September and includes a stellar selection of films and guests, panel discussions, opportunities for filmmakers and film lovers to connect, musical performances, tributes to major artists and galas. In 2014, the Festival introduced the South Asian Films in America (SAFA) Awards, an Award honoring South Asian Films and Artists exclusively in Chicago. Our audience is the largest growing ethnic group in America, particularly Chicagoland, and the Festival is committed to providing a groundbreaking cinematic experience for filmmakers and moviegoers alike with the warmth and personal touch that is unique to Chicago. For more information, visit <http://www.csaff.org/>.

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## Festival Details:

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Showplace ICON Theater: Roosevelt Collection 1011 South Delano Court, Downtown Chicago

DePaul University: Daley Building, 247 S. State St, Chicago, IL

Oakbrook AMC Theater: 300 Oakbrook Center, Oakbrook, IL 60523

- Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017:
  - Official Red Carpet Opening Night at Showplace ICON Theater
  - Evening performances
  - Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
  - VIP Cocktail Reception to follow the film
  - Meet & Greet with the artists
- Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017:
  - In-Competition Film Screenings of Shorts, Features and Documentaries
  - Post screening Q&A's with film talent
  - CSAFF After-party
- Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017:
  - In-Competition Film Screenings
  - Post screening Q&A's
  - Closing night and award ceremony
  - Evening performances

## In-Competition Feature Film Details:

Movie	Venue	Director
Newton	Oak Brook AMC	Amir Masurkar
Machines	DePaul University	Rahul Jain
Railway Children	DePaul University	Prithvi Konanur
Shanivaar Ko Do Baje	DePaul University	Parimal Alope
Lathe Joshi	DePaul University	Mangeshi Joshi
The Lady of the Lake	DePaul University	Haobam Paban Kumar
Wrong Side Raju	Showplace Icon	Mikhil Musale
Western Ghats	Showplace Icon	Lenin Bharathi
Trapped	Showplace Icon	Vikramaditya Motwane
You Are My Sunday	Showplace Icon	Milind Dhaimade
Sonar Baran Paki	Showplace Icon	Bobby Sarma Baruah
A Suitable Girl	Showplace Icon	Sarita Khurana
Dobara Phir Se	Showplace Icon	Mehreen Jabbar
Live From Dhaka	Showplace Icon	Abdullah Mohhammad Saad
Gurgaon	Showplace Icon	Shanker Ramen
Sonata	Showplace Icon	Aparna Sen

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## In-Competition Short Film Details:

Movie	Country	Director
I See You	Oak Brook AMC	Manjari Makijany
Code Switched	DePaul University	Karan Sunil
Fresh Blood	DePaul University	Richa Rudola
Bad Indians	DePaul University	Faroukh Virani
Five O'Clock Shadow	DePaul University	Sangeeta Agrawal
The Somasundarams	DePaul University	Amrita Singh
The Messengers	DePaul University	Sean Sankalp Raju
Null Hypothesis	DePaul University	Archita Mandal Fallini
(Out)Caste	DePaul University	Shilpi Shikha Agrawal
Knock	DePaul University	Moses Tulasi
Cereal Killer	DePaul University	Sikandar Kher
The Medicine	DePaul University	Amol Deshmukh
The Arrangement	DePaul University	Josh Romero
Aamer	DePaul University	Amira Bhargava
The Pits	DePaul University	Shetu Modi
Waterbaby	Showplace Icon	Pia Shah
The Fish Curry	Showplace Icon	Abishek Verma
Maya	Showplace Icon	Ani I.V. Sasi
Sketches	Showplace Icon	Rajas Paranjpe
COLA	Showplace Icon	Abhay Raha
Sanyog	Showplace Icon	Aly Rana