



[Media Alert]

18TH TASVEER FILM FESTIVAL SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES IN-PERSON FEST AND LAUNCHES VIRTUAL SEGMENT

Seattle, WA (October 16, 2023) – The 18th annual Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF) wrapped up its in-person event in Seattle yesterday after a successful four-day run featuring 83 film screenings, industry panels, and networking events centered around South Asian cinema. The festival now transitions to an all-virtual format, running from October 16th to 22nd, to share the finest contemporary South Asian films with a global audience.

The closing night ceremony announced the film winners, including the Audience Choice Award and Jury Awards, spanning categories such as Narrative Feature, Short Narrative, Documentary, Short Documentary, and more. The winners include:

TASVEER JURY AWARD

- Tasveer Jury Prize- Feature Narrative: *Blue Sunshine* by Samyuktha Vijayan
 - Honorable Mention: *New Strains* by Artemis Shaw & Prashanth Kamalakanthan
- Tasveer Jury Prize - Feature Documentary: *Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest* by Nancy Svendsen
 - Honorable Mention: *Tortoise Under the Earth* by Shishir Jha
- Tasveer Jury Prize - Narrative Short: *Yellow* by Elham Ehsas
 - Honorable Mention: *Nocturnal Burger* by Reema Maya
- Tasveer Jury Prize - Documentary Short: *American Sikh* by Vishavjit Singh & Ryan Westra
 - Honorable Mention: *Age of Learning* by Shuvangi Khadka

TASVEER AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

- Tasveer Audience Choice Award- Best Narrative Feature: *Munnel* by Visakesa Chandrasekaram
- Tasveer Audience Choice Award- Best Documentary Feature: *Call Me Dancer* by Pip Gilmour and Leslie Shampaine
- Tasveer Audience Choice Award- Best Short Narrative: *Eid Mubarak* (Mahnoor Euceph), *Barely Breathing* (Derek Evans) and *Dosh* (Radha Mehta).

- Tasveer Audience Choice Award- Best Short Documentary: *American Sikh* by Vishavjit Singh

As of June 2023, Tasveer Film Festival became the first ever South Asian Film Festival to be an Oscar-qualifying Film Festival. With this qualification now the Tasveer Jury awards for Short films can now be entered for Oscars Consideration.

The Tasveer Film Fund were also awarded during the closing night festivities. Each winner will be awarded \$25,000 and mentorship. The fund was made possible by Netflix Fund for Creative Equity. The Emmy Award winning documentarian, Mo Naqvi and Emmy Award winning producer Apoorva Bakshi were part of the panel deliberating the Tasveer Film Fund winners.

- Tasveer Film Fund Documentary: Hemal Trivedi (Yatra)
- Tasveer Film Fund Short Narrative: Rajan Gill (CHANNEL BIBI)
- Tasveer Film Fund LGBTQI+: Ibrahim Rana (Me and My Guardian Angel)

"Last night was a historic and enchanting moment for us as 'Blue Sunshine,' the first Trans South Asian Film, clinched the prestigious Best Jury Award for Narrative Feature – the highest honor at any film festival," exclaimed Rita Meher, Tasveer's executive director. "Although the live event has concluded, our enthusiasm remains undiminished as we look forward to engaging with a global online audience in the week ahead."

Starting October 16th, the virtual segment of the Tasveer South Asian Film Festival will commence, featuring over 70 films, including features, documentaries, and shorts. The spotlight this year is on the lesser-known film industries of South Asia, including Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and the diaspora. The program highlights emerging voices and unique perspectives in South Asian independent filmmaking and will offer live Video on Demand screenings, followed by Q&A sessions.

TSAFF aims to promote South Asian cinema and challenge stereotypes through independent films. This year's diverse lineup tackles complex social issues while representing the multiplicity of South Asian experiences. For more details on films, schedules and passes, visit tasveerfestival.org.

About Tasveer:

Tasveer is a Seattle-based non-profit organization dedicated to bringing independent films from South Asia to global audiences. Beyond the annual film festival, Tasveer's programs include year-round screenings, tours, talks and community events.

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