

## **1<sup>st</sup> SCARBOROUGH FILM FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF INDIAN CINEMA!**

**Toronto, May 28<sup>th</sup>.** Scarborough Film Festival is celebrating 100 year of Indian Cinema with 2 feature films from India and 1 film by a Toronto based Indian filmmaker.

At the forefront of the celebration is a film *Celluloid Man* by Shivendra Dungarpur, about Mr. Nair who founded National Film Archive of India. Film not only brings many personal stories from Mr. Nair as he walked the long road to open and keep NFAI alive, but also covers history of Indian and World cinema through the eyes of Mr. Nair as the head of NFAI. The film has its Canadian Premiere at the festival June 8<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Theatre. To mark the celebration, the screening will be free for people under 18 and over 60 years of age.

*Tasher Dosh* by Q, which plays on Thursday as part of the official in-Competition selection, has its North American Premiere, after premiering at Rome Film Festival late last year. "It is a vanguard film which can only be described as a new and never before seen layer of Indian cinema, giving us a chance to witness other type of cinema art that comes from India, something that most people are not familiar with." said Director of Festival Programming, Eric Marchen.

Toronto based filmmaker Maria-Saroja Ponnambalam will present her feature documentary *PANDI*, which will have its World Premiere, and tells a story of her uncle Pandi, who immigrated from Chennai to Toronto, and aspired to become a film directed, but committed suicide due to mental illness. This touching story told through old footage of home videos shot by Pandi, interviews with relatives and animated slides not only cover subjects like metal illness, but also how people cope with immigration and personal aspirations that fall too short at times.

"We are celebrating 100 years of cinema, but we are also celebrating our first year, the diverse programming of films from across the globe, Scarborough filmmakers and Scarborough as a great neighborhood of Toronto, as well as great films" said June Kim, festival co-Director. "Our motto is 'Watch Great Films' and we are confident we achieved that as we bring amazing films from Canada, USA, Australia, Russian, India, Estonia, France, Iran, Algeria, Italy. We invite everyone to come and celebrate with us the art of international films and multicultural cinema!"

The 1<sup>st</sup> Scarborough Film Festival will run June 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, holding screenings at the Fox Theatre and University of Toronto Scarborough Theatre. The festival is 2<sup>nd</sup> only in GTA to be open to select and screen any types of films from anywhere in the world, and 1<sup>st</sup> and only of its kind in GTA held outside of Toronto's downtown core.

### **About Scarborough Film Festival**

Scarborough Film Festival is a volunteer-driven Non-For-Profit run collective led by arts and culture-professionals and aficionados. There is no organization in Scarborough or similar organization outside of Toronto downtown core that currently provides the services and emphasis that Scarborough Film Festival will provide by bridging Scarborough and downtown Toronto, bringing people and cultures together in more accessible ways. Scarborough Film Festival will be filling an important gap in alternative programming, education and entertainment, and enhancing cultural scene of East York and Scarborough through the art of film.

The Scarborough Film Festival is generously supported by local and national organizations: WJ Properties, KPMG, OMNI Television, Scarborough Arts, Centennial College, University of Toronto Scarborough, GiftCardsWild, Pattison Onestop, Full Media Center, Social Media Learning, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Scarborough Mirror and Metroland Media Group.

For additional information and/or images, contact the PR Office at 1.416.845.4362, [pr@scarboroughfilmfestival.com](mailto:pr@scarboroughfilmfestival.com) or visit our official web site at [www.scarboroughfilmfestival.com](http://www.scarboroughfilmfestival.com)

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