



Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg e.V. • Friedrichstraße 37 • 70174 Stuttgart

Stuttgart, 19. Juni 2017

Subject: Stuttgart's 14th Indian Film Festival, 19th-23rd July 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you all a warm welcome to the world of Indian cinema!

Stuttgart's 14th Indian Film Festival will take place between the 19th and 23rd July 2017 in the Metropol Cinema on Bolzstraße, and will show off more than 40 current productions from all over India.

Please read a bit about this cultural highlight taking place this summer in the capital of Baden-Württemberg.

Thank you and best wishes,

Hans-Peter Jahn

PR Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg



Press Briefing

Stuttgart's 14th Indian Film Festival from 19th-23rd July 2017

Election Campaigns in India and Small Acts Of Rebellion

Opening with the comedy 'Newton' and the German premiere of 'Lipstick under my Burkha'

Election campaigning in Indian and small everyday acts of rebellion are two top themes on the bill at Stuttgart's 14th Indian Film Festival. Europe's biggest Indian film festival will open on Wednesday 19th July 2017 at the Metropol Cinema with Amir Masurkar's black comedy 'Newton'. The screening of Alankirta Shrivastava's 'Lipstick under my Burkha' is another big highlight. From start to finish on the 23rd July 2017, the Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg will host more than 40 current films from all over India, to be shown at the Metropol Cinema (on Bolzstraße in central (Mitte) Stuttgart).

In an important election year for both Europe and Germany, it is fitting that 'Newton' has an electoral theme. It depicts a dutiful Indian election campaigner on a difficult task in the Chhattisgarh jungle, where his goal is to get the Gond Adivasi people to the ballot box. How election campaigner Newton, magnificently portrayed by Bollywood Beau Rajkumar Rao, manages to complete his complicated task in the midst of a conflict zone is a very good lesson in democracy.

'An Insignificant Man', directed by Khushboo Ranka and Vinay Shukla, is a documentary about election campaigns to be shown on Thursday 20th July 2017 as part of a school presentation. Elisa Kromeier, from the Festival Management department, points out that a polarising election campaigner stands for "the desire for political renewal and change that can be felt all over the world".

The screening of Alankrita Shrivastava's 'Lipstick under my Burkha' is eagerly anticipated. Dilip Mehta's documentary 'Mostly Sunny' tells the tale of Sunny Leone, a girl born in the small Indian town of Somia to strict Sikh parents, but grew up in California. The Bollywood star with an American passport began her career as a cover girl and pornstar. You can watch her play the role of Leila in Rahul Dholakia's Bollywood flick 'Raees' as part of Stuttgart's Indian Film Festival experience, alongside Shah Rukh Khan as a clever criminal.

Stuttgart's 14th Indian Film Festival will take you on a five-day journey through modern day Indian cinema. Festival director Oliver Mahn believes that the Festival "belongs to summer in Stuttgart". Undisputedly the festival brings exciting, socio-critical and entertaining films to the screen and Elisa Kromeier and the other festival organisers have sought to show films with universal stories that will be understood all over the world, whether they be about relationships – such as in 'A Death in the Gunj' or 'Mukti Bhawan – Hotel Salvation' from Bhutiana, love – such as in 'Shab – The Night' by Onir, future loves –



such as in 'Kaasav – The Turtle' by Sumitra Bhave, death – such as in 'Mukti Bhawan – Hotel Salvation' or dreams and wishes – such as in 'Half Ticket' by Samit Kakkad. Vinod Kapri's thriller 'Pihu' is a nervejangler of the just-about-bearable kind.

Samit Kakkad's 'Half Ticket' offers a festival experience for the whole family in the form of a wonderful feature film. Stuttgart's very own actress, Juliane Bacher, will narrate the story of two children from the slums who dream of tasty pizza in German, while fans of mystery stories will not want to miss Anurag Kashyap's 'Wrong Side Raju'. Kokona Sen Sharma appears in both 'Lipstick under my Burkha' and also with his directorial debut 'A Death in the Gunj', in which the international Indian film star Om Puri ('East is East') makes his final appearance after sadly passing away in January.

The best storytellers from India exhibit their skill even in quiet films that give the weakest in society a voice. In N. Padmakumar's film 'A Billion Color Story', a middle-class family is confronted with racism for the first time in a poor area after they move house, Rahul V. Chitella's short film 'Azaad' encourages brave and courageous journalists, 'Escaping Agra' by Pallavi Somuestty portrays the fate of a transgender person, and in Shikha Makan's 'Bachelor Girls', the audience gets to know the difficulties of an educated single woman looking for a flat in Mumbai.

This unique event is also presented by the architect Didi Contractor, who once worked as an interior architect for the rich in the metropolises and, at an advanced age in northern India, rediscovered original constructions and natural building materials. Director Haobam Paban Kumar created an ethnographic thriller with his feature film debut 'Loktak Lairembee - Lady of the Lake'. It is at Loktak Lake, a scenic paradise in the north-east of India, where extreme beauty meets extreme violence. You can also experience a day in India up close at Stuttgart's Indian Film Festival with Richie Mehta's documentary 'India in a Day'. You just can't get more Indian - the 14th edition of the Indian Filmfestival Stuttgart again represents a current crosssection and mirror of the Indian society. The festival will delight all with a promising selection of films that never looks away and promises a cinema experience for every taste.

The festival will close with a ceremony honouring this year's award winners. The 'German Star of India' from Stuttgart has become a bestowed film prize amongst Indian filmmakers. Along with a cheque for €4,000, the 'German Star of India' recognises the best feature film and is sponsored by the main festival sponsor, the entrepreneur from Stuttgart and honorary consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Württemberg and Rheinland-Pfalz. The prizes for Best Short Film and Best Documentary are also accompanied by a cheque for €1,000. The 'Director's Vision Award' is awarded to a dedicated director, and the audience will decide the winner of the 'Audience Award'. This Award is sponsored by Zee.One.