

Desh Pardesh - Program Outline
Fourth Intra-National Conference & Festival
Exploring the Politics of South Asian Cultures in The West
May 4th to the 8th 1994

Festival Pass \$40 Single evening programme \$6, Double evening programme \$9, Panels \$2,

Wednesday May 4

Day

Screenwriting - Project Development Workshop - in collaboration with Trinity Square Video- a two day workshop for emerging South Asian video artists with Shani Mootoo. Participants are asked to bring a treatment for a video project or a work in progress to the workshop. These treatments and ideas will then be discussed within the group in terms of the experiences of the instructor as well as through the examination of the works of other artists. *Space is limited, advance registration required. Call (416) 601-9932 for details.*

Evening - Opening Night 7:00pm

An electrifying opening celebration - a taste of things to come. Featuring dance, readings and an exciting film premiere.

Metro Central YMCA Auditorium -20 Grosvenor St-

10:00pm *Lamp Lighting Reception to open Desh Pardesh & The Visual Arts Studio*

A Desh Pardesh opening celebration at the Visual Arts Studio with ceremonial lighting of Sheherezade Alam's clay divas (lamps). Look forward to other fascinating demonstrations, talks, and visual art by nine artists from across Canada and the United States. Featuring the work of: Ayisha Abraham (US), Sheherezade Alam (Toronto), Neena Arora (Toronto), Debi Ray-Chaudhuri (US), Allan deSouza (US), Ameen Gill (Vancouver), Geevan (Toronto), Rachel Kalpana James (Toronto), Shamina Senaratne (Vancouver)

The Darling Building- 96 Spadina Avenue

Thursday May 5 and Friday May 6

Day

Desh Pardesh Workshops for South Asian aspiring and practicing film and video artists, writers and dance performers

-a writing workshop in different genres: poetry, prose, playwriting

-a visual arts workshop

-and back by popular demand - bhangra, dandya-ras, and garba dance classes

-a dance workshop exploring modern interpretations of classical dance forms - for practitioners and enthusiasts alike

Free for all Festival Pass Holders

As well as caucus meetings for women, lesbians and bisexual women, youth, gay and bisexual men, people living with AIDS/HIV, and a labour forum.

Thursday May 5 and Friday May 6

Evening 7:00pm and 9:00pm

Desh Pardesh Festival continues with South Asian artists and cultural producers presenting an exciting and sensual smorgasbord of performance art, film and video, and dance performance

Metro Central YMCA Auditorium 20 Grosvenor St

Saturday May 7 and Sunday May 8

Day

Desh Pardesh presents a series of dynamic panel discussions featuring prominent political activists and art and cultural producers. Panels will include one on "violence against women in national, communal, ethnic and religious conflict." and one that has been tentatively titled "Necessary Inventions: Identity, Community, Nationalism and their Uses in Cultural Work": artists and critics discuss the questions that are raised when cultural practice is located within political movements.

Admission \$2/panel or with Festival Pass

Two exciting new additions to Desh Pardesh are a forum to be held at the 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. for the Sri Lankan community. To be held in Tamil, targeted at the Tamil community, focussing on issues and concerns of the new immigrant community. The second is a special program for youth. In the same format as the festival mainstage program featuring film and video, performance art, theatre. Location to be announced.

Saturday May 7

Evening 7:00pm and 9:00pm

Festival Program continues its showcase of dynamite work by South Asian artists and activists.

The Metro Central YMCA Auditorium 20 Grosvenor St -

10:00pm Dance

Back again, bigger and better than ever, the Desh Pardesh Bhangra Blow Out Location to be announced - Fundraiser for Toronto Coalition Against Racism

Sunday May 8

7:00pm - Closing Party

Desh Pardesh Festival closes Avec Pyar with a party featuring a medley of music & words. Look forward to the popular as ever writers cabaret and soul-stirring and foot-stomping musical performances.

The Brigantine Room, Harbourfront - Admission \$6 or with Festival Pass