A Festival Exploring South Asian Culture in the West

Desh Pradesh
November 6-10, 1991 Euclid Theatre 394 Euclid Ave, Toronto

Five days of outspoken and challenging programs taking up issues of identity, Home, racism, lesbian and gay life, feminism and women's experience among South Asians in the West.

Featuring the changing shape of South Asian cultural expression with new and provocative films, videos, poetry, literature, theatre, music and performance art by artists and activists living in Britain, The United States and Canada.

Film + Video premieres:
Khaba by Pratibha Parmar (U.K.)
Bolo Bolo by Gita Senana and Ian Rashid (Canada)
Jasena Pratid in of a Hidja by Prat Kallan (U.S.)
Knowing her place by John Krishnan (U.S.)
Democracy in exile by Manjita Datta (India)
A Night at the Gym by Rekhaa Mehta (U.K./South Africa)

Feature Film Sneak Preview:
Masala by Srinivas Krishna (Toronto)

Film + Video premieres:
Khaba by Pratibha Parmar (U.K.)
Bolo Bolo by Gita Senana and Ian Rashid (Canada)
Jasena Pratid in of a Hidja by Prat Kallan (U.S.)
Knowing her place by John Krishnan (U.S.)
Democracy in exile by Manjita Datta (India)
A Night at the Gym by Rekhaa Mehta (U.K./South Africa)

Appearing with their film or video work:
Pratibha Parmar (U.K.)
Srinivas Krishna (Toronto)
Gita Senana (Toronto)
Ian Rashid (Toronto/U.K.)
Manjita Datta (India)

For more information (416) 972-0554
Presented by Khush.
The Euclid Theatre

Advance Passes $3.50 available at:
The Toronto Women's Bookstore (Harbord St.)
The Art's The Rosedale Library (Chancellor St.)
Pages Bookstore (Queen St. W.)
The Indian Record Shop (Gerrard St. E.)

Readings/Performance/Presentation:
Sunil Gupta (U.K.), Moyez Vassanji (Toronto), Nayan Shah (U.S.), Seifah Ruaning (Vancouver), Raj Puria (Vancouver), Ramachandrapuram (Toronto), Arnold Ibrahim (Toronto), Mahiska Mendez (Toronto), Aruna Sivastava (Vancouver), Ashok Mathur (Calgary), Jusila Rukhsan (Toronto), Sunsara Thobani (Vancouver) and many more...

Bhangra + Dance Party at the Rivoli, 332 Queen St. W. Friday Nov. 8, 9:30pm featuring British Bhangra DJ Rup + Toronto's CKLN DJ Michelle Mohabir

Theatre performances:
Beyond The Kala Pan
Indo Caribbean women's collective
Shanmehenui/Bayskaram
South Asian Sisters in solidarity
Wednesday November 6th

7:30 pm
Shifting Identities
The Canadian premiere of Khush by Pratibha Parmar. Also, a dramatic reading of Suniti Namjoshi’s work by Toronto Actor Malika Mendez and Takari and Coke a video documentary by Rukhsana Mosam (U.K.), about South Asians in South Africa will precede the play.

Saturday November 9th

Daytime Workshops

5:30 pm
India Without Romance
Progressive feminist film maker Manjita Datta from India presents Democracy in Crisis, a left perspective on the current political situation in India including coverage of the 1991 Indian elections. A discussion with the film maker will follow the screening.

9:30 pm
Deh Pradesh Dance Party
The Rivoli - 332 Queen St. W. With British Bhangra DJ “Ritu” and Toronto’s CKLN DJ Michelle Mohabeer.

Evening Programmes:

7:00 pm
Womanvision
A Nice Arrangement: a short film by Gurinder Chada (director of I’m British But), Knowing Her Place a video by Indu Krishnan (U.S.) investigating cultural schizophrenia experienced by a woman and Bayshorem/Shameless, a play by Toronto’s South Asian Sisters in Solidarity.

9:30 pm
Brown and Out

Thursday November 7th

7:00 pm
Brave New Words
Literary readings featuring Toronto’s Moyez Vassanji, author of No New Land, Indo Caribbean writer Ramabai Espinet, and Vancouver critic Aruna Srivastava and Calgary publisher and poet Ashok Mathur, present in view, Interview, Identification.

Friday November 8th

5:30 pm
India Without Romance
Progressive feminist film maker Manjita Datta from India presents Democracy in Crisis, a left perspective on the current political situation in India including coverage of the 1991 Indian elections. A discussion with the film maker will follow the screening.

9:30 pm
Masala
A sneak preview of Toronto director Srinivas Krishna’s dramatic-comedy about the lives of two South Asian families. Starring Saad Jaffrey (in three different roles). Masala opens in major Canadian cinemas in late November. The Director will be on hand for a discussion following the film.

9:30 pm
Desh Pradesh Dance Party
The Rivoli - 332 Queen St. W. With British Bhangra DJ “Ritu” and Toronto’s CKLN DJ Michelle Mohabeer.

Friday November 8th

Noon:
Violence Against Women
Panelists include Vancouver feminist activist Sunera Thobani and Faizah Rafiq of DIVA alongside screening of a video produced by South Asian women in Vancouver.

2 pm:
Identity, Sexuality and History
A presentation by Nayan Shah (U.S.) on race and sexuality construction of identities by South Asian lesbians and gay men.

4 pm:
Organizing around AIDS/HIV in the South Asian communities
Featuring the Premiere of Bolero a video by Gita Saxena and Ian Rashid about South Asians and HIV/AIDS, special guest Aisha Khan, chair of Muslim Women’s Aid U.K., an HIV/AIDS steering group in London, Aids Activists Kalpesh Oza & Anthony Mohammed.

Evening Programmes:

7:00 pm
Womanvision
A Nice Arrangement: a short film by Gurinder Chada (director of I’m British But), Knowing Her Place a video by Indu Krishnan (U.S.) investigating cultural schizophrenia experienced by a woman and Bayshorem/Shameless, a play by Toronto’s South Asian Sisters in Solidarity.

9:30 pm
Brown and Out

Sunday November 10th

Noon:
Hybrid Musics
A discussion of the evolving forms of South Asian music from Bhangra to soca to classical. With British DJ Ritu and others.

2 pm:
Home as a Mythic Space
Exploring the meaning of home to various sectors of the South Asian community. With Michelle Mohabeer (Tor/Guyana), Moyez Vassanji (Tor/East Africa), Pratibha Parmar (U.K./East Africa), Raj Pannu (Van/India), and Arun Prabha Mukherjee (Tor/India).

4 pm:
Print Media Alternatives
Existing and forming magazines and journals which serve as a forum for South Asian culture in the west; DIVA (Toronto), Rungh (Vancouver), Ankur (Vancouver), Toronto South Asian Review, Khush Khayal, and others.

Sunday evening
Closing Celebrasian

7:00 pm
Toronto musicians Sheila James – solo vocals and keyboards, Ritesh Das and friends on tabla, sitar and keyboards, a writers cabaret featuring twelve writers on the theme of “Home”, and The Tarana Dance School with an Indo Caribbean dance piece Oh Tassawale.