



SIXTH IAAC FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM

NOV 1-5, 2006

For more information visit [www.iaac.us](http://www.iaac.us)

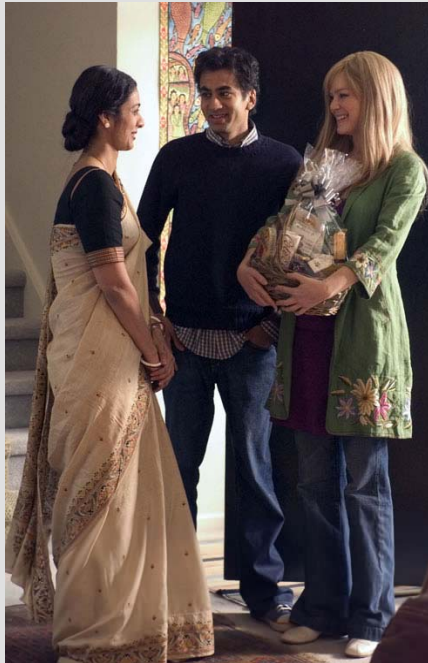
To purchase tickets visit [www.meraticket.com](http://www.meraticket.com)

Screening Locations

Opening Night Screening - The Namesake - Nov 1, 2006  
AMC Lincoln Square  
1998 Broadway (corner of 68<sup>th</sup> Street)  
New York City

Festival Screenings - Nov 2-5, 2006  
Maya Deren Theater and Courthouse Theatre  
Anthology Film Archives  
32 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)  
New York City

Closing Night Screening - Backwaters - Nov 5, 2006  
New York Asia Society and Museum  
725 Park Ave (70<sup>th</sup> Street)  
New York City



#### OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY, NOV 1, 6:30 PM - AMC Lincoln Square (68th and Broadway)

#### **Namesake** (Narrative Feature)

117 mins, 2006, English/ Bengali, US Premiere

**Screening:** Wednesday, Nov 1, 7pm - AMC Lincoln Square (68<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway)

**Festivals/Awards:** Toronto Film Festival, Telluride Film Festival

**Cast:** Tabu, Irfan Khan, Kal Penn, Jacinda Barrett, Zuleikha Robinson, Glenne Headley, Brooke Smith

**Synopsis:** THE NAMESAKE is the story of the Ganguli family whose move from Calcutta to New York evokes a lifelong balancing act to meld to a new world without forgetting the old. Though parents Ashoke and Ashima (Irfan Khan, Tabu) long for the family and culture that enveloped them in India, they take great pride in the opportunities their sacrifices have afforded their children. Paradoxically, their son Gogol (Kal Penn) is torn between finding his own unique identity without losing his heritage. Even Gogol's name represents the family's journey into the unknown. Helmed by the Academy Award®-nominated Mira Nair, THE NAMESAKE is based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri. The film's screen adaptation was penned by Sooni Taraporevala, with whom Nair previously collaborated on MISSISSIPPI MASALA and the Oscar®-nominated SALAAM BOMBAY!

#### **Director: Mira Nair**

Accomplished Film Director /Writer /Producer Mira Nair was born in Bhubaneswar, India in 1957. Educated at both Delhi University and Harvard University, Nair began her artistic career as an actor before turning her attention to film. She found incipient success as a documentary filmmaker, winning awards for So Far From India and India Cabaret. In 1988, Nair's debut feature, Salaam Bombay!, was nominated for an Academy Award, Golden Globe, and BAFTA Award for Best Foreign Language Film. It also won the Camera D'Or (for best first feature) and the Prix du Publique (for most popular entry) at the Cannes Film Festival as well as 25 other international awards. Nair's next film, Mississippi Masala, an interracial love story set in the American South and Uganda, starring Denzel Washington and Sarita Choudhury, won three awards at the Venice Film Festival including Best Screenplay and The Audience Choice Award. Subsequent films include The Perez Family (with Marisa Tomei, Anjelica Huston, Alfred Molina and Chazz Palminteri), about an exiled Cuban family in Miami; and the sensuous Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love, which she directed and co-wrote. Nair directed My Own Country based on Dr. Abraham Verghese's best-selling memoir about a young immigrant doctor dealing with the AIDS epidemic. Made in 1998, My Own Country starred Naveen Andrews, Glenne Headly, Marisa Tomei, Swoosie Kurtz, and Hal Holbrook, and was awarded the NAACP award for best fiction feature. Nair returned to the documentary form in August 1999 with The Laughing Club of India, which was awarded The Special Jury Prize in the Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels 2000. In the summer of 2000, Nair shot Monsoon Wedding in 30 days, a story of a Punjabi wedding starring Naseeruddin Shah and an ensemble of Indian actors. The film opened to tremendous critical acclaim and commercial success and went on to win the Golden Lion at the 2001 Venice Film Festival and receive Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations for Best Foreign Language Film.

#### PROGRAM: FEATURE 1

Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Courthouse - Anthology

#### **Punching at the Sun** (Narrative Feature)

83 mins, , English

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Courthouse - Anthology

**Festivals/Awards:** 2006 Sundance Film Festival, 2006 Tribeca Film Festival, Winner Best Narrative - San Francisco Asian American Film Festival.

**Cast:** Misu Khan, Nina Edmonds, Hassan El-Gendi, Ferdusy Dia, Kazi Rahman, Karan Singh, Mohammad Mirza, Rana Quraishi, Farhad Asghar, Raymond Vasquez, Keyonn Sheppard

**Synopsis:** Punching at the Sun is a crackling, emotionally-charged dream ride through the streets of Elmhurst, Queens. It is a tale of rage and redemption as seen through the fiery eyes of Mameet Nayak: a headstrong Indian teen lost in the shadow of his brother's death.



**Director: Tanuj Chopra**

Chopra's projects have taken him from India to Manhattan. His short film, Butterfly, won three best film awards in addition to playing at over 20 festivals across North America, Europe, India and Pakistan. His other films Uljhan and Bade Bahiya (Big Brother) have also played in a number of festivals around the country.

**Necessary Illusions** (Narrative Short)

20 mins, 2005, Italian; French; English Subtitles, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Courthouse - Anthology

**Festivals/Awards:** Official Selection at Torino Film Festival, Recipient of the Visionary Award at the Washington DC Independent Film Festival.

**Cast:** Anup Sugunan, Timothy Sean, Freddie Johnson, Jarred Clowes, Rob Foran

**Synopsis:** Shaira Keirostami enters an airport expecting routine travel. However, things have changed since 9/11. This movie's title is a nod to controversial author Noam Chomsky.

**Director: Fayeque M. Rahman**

A self-proclaimed 'Euro-Mutt', Rahman's venture into film making is marked by his film "Necessary Illusions" which won the visionary award at the Washington DC International Film Festival. His follow-up, also starring Anup Sugunan as the lead, 'What Shadows Hide' is a powerful story about events closer to home.

**Lucky** (Narrative Short)

20 mins, 2005, Zulu/English/Tamil

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Courthouse - Anthology

**Festivals/Awards:** 77 festivals 22 awards. Includes, Berlin, Edinburgh, AFI, & Clermont Ferrand

**Cast:** Joy Mwandla, Muthul Naidoo

**Synopsis:** Lucky is an AIDS orphan desperate to leave his rural Zulu village for the bright lights of Durban. He is full of excitement and hope but Lucky has to learn about life the hard way, not through school or education but through an unlikely bond with a racist Indian neighbor.

**Director: Avie Luthra**

Luthra has directed a number of award-winning short films over the last ten years. He won BBC's Dennis Porter award in 2001, and Channel 4's Northern Soul award in 2000. He is listed in Screen International's "Stars of Tomorrow" (2004).



**PROGRAM: SHORTS/DOCS 1**

**Thursday, Nov 2 - 6:00pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**View From a Grain of Sand** (Doc Feature)

82 mins, English

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 8:30pm - Maya Deren - Anthology

**Synopsis:** A view from the grain of sand is a thirty-year journey by 3 Afghan women. Shot over the three years, a doctor, teacher and social activist tell how their lives were violently affected by wars of international making and three different regimes in Afghanistan

**Director: Meena Nanji**

Meena Nanji has been working in film/video for the last 10 years. Her experimental work that explores issues of cultural hybridity and representation has been recognized by the NEA, Rockefeller Foundation, and Women in Film Foundation among others and has also won numerous awards internationally.

**Toba Tek Singh** (Narrative Short)

18 mins, 2005, Urdu, English, Punjabi, Hindi, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2, 8:30 p.m. - Courthouse - Anthology

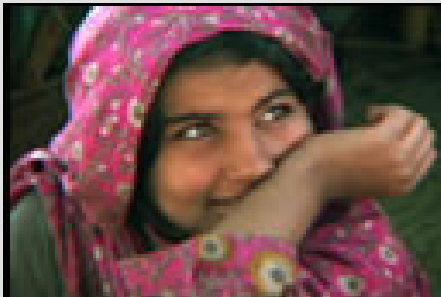
**Festivals/Awards:** New York Asian American International Festival, 2005, 22nd VC Filmfest, The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, 2006, 7th CrossRoads Film Festival, Jackson, MadCat Film Festival 2006, Bite the Mango festival 2006

**Cast:** Midhat Kazim, Omair Rana, Imran Siddiqui, Adeel Ansari, Zahid Qureshi, Usman Raja, Ali Imtiaz

**Synopsis:** It is 1947. The newly created governments of India and Pakistan wish to exchange lunatics. Bishan Singh, a Sikh lunatic in Pakistan, wants to know whether his hometown, Toba Tek Singh, has gone to India or Pakistan. No one seems to know. Based on the classic short story by Manto, Toba Tek Singh is a search for an identity in a world gone suddenly mad.

**Director: Afia Nathaniel**

Ordinary people have extraordinary stories to tell", says Afia



Serena Nathaniel. A poet-writer-mathematician-computer scientist-copywriter-activist, Afia is Pakistan's first independent female filmmaker from a minority background.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 2**

**Nov 2 - 8:30pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Narrative Feature - TBD**

**The Morning Fog (Narrative Short)**

22 mins, 2006, English, World Premiere

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 8:30pm - Courthouse - Anthology

**Cast:** Ira Dubey, Vivek Gombar

**Synopsis:** A Bombay girl fantasizes about seeing a tiger in the wild. When she runs off on a school safari trip, she is betrayed and left to fend for herself in the dangerous jungle. To survive, she must unravel the secrets of the wild where an elusive tiger roams and ancient mysteries abound.

**Director:** Aminta Goyel

Currently working on a feature screenplay on the Indian Diaspora, Goyel is interested in exploring themes of identity in the multi-cultural fractures of modernity. She has directed numerous plays and short films and has a BA from Cornell and an MFA from USC.



**PROGRAM: SHORTS/DOCS 2**

**Screening: Thursday, Nov 2 - 8:30 pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**Kabaddi Cops (Doc Short)**

25 mins, 2005, English

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:** Kabaddi Cops is the remarkable story about a determined group of Canadian police officers from the Toronto area who take up a 4000-year old sport from India called 'Kabaddi', in order to bond with the local South-Asian community.

**Director:** Greg Cote

Self-taught, with no formal schooling in the arts, this former police officer and private investigator enjoys capturing images and turning them into films. Kabaddi Cops is Cote's second short documentary. His first film, 'Where There's Smoke', won two awards in March 2005 at the Dawson City International Film Festival.



**The Séance (Narrative Short)**

6 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Cast:** Rick Pizarro, Tom Cappadona

**Synopsis:** When we open the door to the other side, it can reveal a great many things.

**Director:** Arun Vaidyanathan

Popular for his engaging interviews with leading South Indian movie stars, Vaidyanathan has written, directed and hosted more than 50 shows for Raj TV in India. He is known for his short films 'As you wish', 'Br(a)illiant' and 'Stinking Cigar' as well as the Tamil short film "Thaniyoru Manidhanukku", that was screened at three film festivals including IAAC, New York.



**Flower girl (Narrative Short)**

12 mins, 2005, Only Music, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** London Film Festival - 2005, Pusan Film Festival - 2005, IFFLA (2006)

**Cast:** Samara Chopra, K. Ramaswam, Kapila Vatsyayan, Pakhi Sen

**Synopsis:** Flower Girl has been adapted from a beautiful Indian folk tale. The Flower Girl lives in a forest with her grandmother and sister. She has the magical power to transform herself into a flowering tree that bears the most irresistible aromatic flowers. But one day a wealthy official falls in love with her beauty and fragrance. Determined to possess her, he exploits her gifts. Washed away in a storm, destitute on the flowing river, she is lovingly rescued and healed by her younger sister and her friends, to whom she passes on her magical gifts.

**Director:** Rajan Khosa

Khosa's directorial debut "Dance of the Wind" opened at the Venice Film Festival and won multiple awards at Rotterdam, Chicago, Nantes and London film festivals. Known for his screenplay "SATORI", Khosa's "Wisdom Tree" received the National Award in India. His recent film "Flower Girl" was made for the World Expo 2005 at





Aichi, Japan.

**Singing Pictures: Women Painters of Naya** (Doc Feature)

34 mins, 2005, Bengali w/English subtitles, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** Material Culture and Archaeology Prize, International Ethnographic Film Festival of the Royal Anthropological Institute, UK, 2005, Athens International Film & Video Festival, Ohio, 2006, Society for Visual Anthropology/American Anthropological Association Conference & San Jose 2006

**Synopsis:** For generations, the Patua (Chitrakar) of West Bengal have been painters and singers of stories depicted in scrolls. Recently, a group of women from Naya revived this dying practice and formed a collaborative where they could candidly discuss issues of Islam and birth control, victimization of women, female education, poverty and work, religious tolerance and intolerance, and depict some of these ideas in the scrolls. Their stories attest to what it means to be a woman in Bengal, India today, demonstrating how a small group of determined women can empower themselves by adapting an ancient art to new conditions.

**Directors:** Brittany Gravely for Ákos Östör, Lina Fruzzetti, Aditi Nath Sarkar

Anthropology professors Fruzzetti and Östör have co-directed films such as Seed and Earth (1994) and Fishers of Dar (2002). While Fruzzetti is the author of 'Women, Orphans, and Poverty', Östör has authored monographs such as the Play of the Gods and Vessels of Time. Co-director Sarkar is the author of numerous articles about the Patua tradition of West Bengal and a co-producer of the documentary, Future of Our Cities: Calcutta

**Un posh teli yeli wan posh (You Will Get Your Bread Only if the Forests Last)** (Doc Short)

13 mins, 2003

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:** Profiling the destructive impact that militancy, violence, and terrorism have on the Kashmir environment, this film also depicts how simple village people brave militants' bullets to protect their forests and land.

**Director:** Aaradhana Kohli Kapur

Kapur has a post-graduate degree in International Relations & Mass Communications. An established film director who specializes in social/developmental communication, she has researched, produced, directed and scripted films, public service messages and docu-features on myriad issues. Her endeavor is to create communication that builds bridges and breaks barriers.



**PROGRAM: FEATURE 3**

**Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Yours Emotionally!**

86 Mins, English

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Premjit, Jack Lamport, Pratik Gandhi, Iravati Karnik, Ikhlag Khan, Ajay Rohilla, Abhay, Ashwin, Mansoor

**Synopsis:** In this compelling comic drama, two gay friends go on holiday to India, where they attend an eye-opening gay sex party. Despite the circumstances, Ravi immediately falls for the handsome working-class Mani, but Ravi's dreams of bringing Mani home to England are unrealistic. Their story parallels that of Murthy and Anna, an older gay couple whom Ravi and Paul meet. Will the older men be able to help Ravi keep his newfound love? Will Ravi's friendship with Paul survive Ravi's obsession and Paul's disloyalty?

**Director:** Sridhar Rangayan

An engineer by training, Rangayan has several documentary films to his credit. He has also been associated with feature films, like "Papeeha" directed by Sai Paranjape and "English, August" directed by Dev Benegal. His film on issues of sexual orientation, "The Pink Mirror (Gulabi Aina)," dealt with cross-dressing drag queens.



**Two Men in Shoulder Stand**

20 Mins, English

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Manu Narayan

**Synopsis:** "Two Men in Shoulder Stand" is a look at religious and

HIV discordance. The couple is sero-discordant (one HIV-positive, the other not); one Muslim, the other Hindu. On a slightly lighter note "Tara Tara Didi" mixes Shakespearean verse with Indian legends in a Bollywood spoof examining same sex love.

**Director:** Paul Knox

Knox is the co-recipient of the United Nations Society of Writers Award for his exchange work with the Russian Academy of Theater Arts. He is also a co-founder of the Tides Foundation-India Fund, which supports gay and AIDS groups in South Asia. "Gehri Dosti: Five Short Plays with a South Asian Bent" covers a range of subjects, from gay marriage to AIDS to violence against women.

#### **Modern Day Arranged Marriage**

5 Mins, English

**Cast:** Debargo Sanyal, . Poorna Jagannathan

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Courthouse - Anthology

**Synopsis:** When Rajesh and Suna arrange to meet at a cafe;, will it just be coffee on the menu or can it be marriage?

**Director:** Rehana Mirza

Mirza, who is currently an MFA Candidate in Playwriting at Columbia University, is also a Leopold Schepp Scholar, an LMCC Artist Grant Recipient, and a member of the Ma-Yi Writer's Lab. She has many film direction and screenwriting projects to her credit and is best known for her play, 'Barriers' and her script, 'Quarter Life Crisis'.



#### **PROGRAM: SHORTS/DOCS 3**

**Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

#### **All Roads Lead to Here (Narrative Short)**

5 mins, 2005, English

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** San Francisco Asian American FF, Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, Artwallah, DC Asia Pacific Film Festival, 3rd-I Film Festival, Calgary ImagiASIAN Film Fest, Seattle Indie South Asian Film Festival, Bumbershoot Film Festival

**Cast:** Gurpreet "The Table Guy" Chana and Jugular "The Human Beat Box"

**Synopsis:** Gurpreet "The Tabla Guy" is sent back on a mission from the far east to the west to assassinate Jugular "The Human Beat Box" but their intentions are clouded by an evil conductor. This visually and acoustically fascinating video was produced for Bravo Fact, a foundation to promote and stimulate unique forms of expression in Canadian music.

**Directors:** Richie Mehta & Stuart McIntyre

Mehta's short films 'System of Units', 'All Roads Lead to Here' and 'Amal' have played at many leading international film festivals and have won awards in Japan, Los Angeles, Germany and Toronto. Mehta and Editor/Director McIntyre, who partnered for 'All Roads Lead to Here' are currently working on a feature-length adaptation of AMAL.



#### **Sufi Soul: The Mystic Music of Islam (Doc Feature)**

50 mins, 2005, English

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** WOMEX UK, MOFFOM Prague, World Performing Arts Festival, Lahore.

**Cast:** William Dalrymple

**Synopsis:** As Muslim extremists dominate the headlines, Dalrymple explores the world of Sufism and its message of tolerance and peace. From the Whirling Dervishes, to the ecstatic vocals of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, this eye-opening documentary is musically powerful and visually rich. Filmed in Syria, Turkey, Pakistan, India and Morocco.

**Director:** Simon Broughton

Simon Broughton was a documentary and music director at the BBC until he turned freelancer ten years ago. His films range from The Music of Terezin, about composers in the Jewish ghetto during WWII, to Breaking the Silence, about the return of music to Afghanistan after the Taliban. He is also the editor of the world music magazine, Songlines.



#### **Anamika-Her Glorious Past (Doc Short)**

21 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 6pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:** The Devdasis are known as "The Lovers of the Lord." In ancient Indian tradition, young girls who were trained in the classical art forms were chosen to be married to God and the

temple. These women were highly respected as patrons of the arts and for their status in society. They would never be the victims of widowhood. The film explores the glorious past of the Devdasi tradition in India

**Director: Pavitra Chalam**

A graduate student at New York Film Academy, Chalam made her film debut with 'Bus', when she represented India in the Youth Initiative for Peace in Pakistan. "Anamika" marks the beginning of her quest to understand the transformation of the Devdasi tradition, from the revered patron of the arts to the fallen woman of today.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 4**

**Friday, Nov 3 - 8:30pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Nina's Heavenly Delights** (Narrative Feature)

90 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Maya Deren

**Cast:** Art Malik, Laura Fraser, Shelley Conn, Ronny Jhutti, Veena Sood, Raji James, Rita Wolf, and Elaine C Smith

**Synopsis:** An original comedy that is a sizzling combination of family, food and surprises, this film is an exhilarating love story where Scottish humor meets Bollywood spectacle.

**Director: Pratibha Parmar**

Parmar, who owns a film production company, is an award-winning producer and director. She has made music promos for Morcheeba, Tori Amos, Ghostlands and Midge Ure and has directed and produced 'Warrior Marks'. Her films have been exhibited widely at international film festivals and broadcasted on television in many countries.

**Twins of Mankala** (Doc Short)

11 mins, 2006, English/Kikuyu

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Courthouse

**Synopsis:** "Twins Of Mankala" compares a routine day of twin eight-year old Kenyan girls living in Massachusetts and another, born and raised in Kilo, Kenya. A profound examination of culture and place through the eyes of Kenyan youth living on opposite sides of the world, the film looks at the environments that will shape the children as they grow up.

**Director: Jason Dasilva**

DaSilva's film "Olivia's Puzzle", qualified for the Academy Awards in 2004, after screening at over 30 festivals and winning various awards. "A Song For Daniel" and "Twins Of Mankala" also premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and were screened nationally on PBS. His feature film, "Lest We Forget", premiered at the International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam in 2004.

**Pria** (Narrative Short)

12 mins, 2004, English

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** WorldFest Houston (Platinum Remi - Romantic Comedy), Sprockets Toronto (Audience Choice Award), World Wide Short Film Fest, YorktoNarrative Short Film and Video Festival (Nominated Golden Sheaf Award), Goyang Film Festival Korea, Los Angeles Indian Film Festival, Washington DC Asian Pacific Film Festival, NBC Comedy Shorts

**Cast:** Natasha Chandel

**Synopsis:** To meet the boy of her dreams, a 15 year-old South-Asian girl tries to lose her accent by imitating lines from her favorite movies.

**Director: Theodore Bezaire**

A founding member of The Dot Film Company, Bezaire functions mainly as a writer and director. He holds a BA in Communication Studies from the University of Windsor and a diploma from the C.I.L.E.C.T. affiliated Advanced Television and Film Program at Sheridan College.

**Davy and Stu** (Narrative Short)

13 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** Winner, CINE Golden Eagle Prize for Excellence in Filmmaking, Grand Prize, Rhode Island International Film Festival (Alternative Spirit), 2006 Hamptons International Film Festival (Student Award), NewFest International (New York City), Canadian Film Centre Worldwide Shorts Film Festival (Toronto), Provincetown International Film Festival, Philly International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Reeling at Gay Games VII (Special Showcase), Rhode



Island International Film Festival, Palm Springs International Film Festival, Montreal World Film Festival, Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival, Atlantic Film Festival (Nova Scotia), Reel Affirmations LGBT Festival, Seattle International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Action/Cut Short Film Competition Finals, & Image/Out Rochester LGBT Intl. Film Festival, Winner.

**Cast:** Travis Walters, Nicholas Cutro

**Synopsis:** As the sun sets over a swampy Scotland bog, two boys meet in the darkness as part of a nightly ritual. But are they there for the same reasons? Based on Anton Dudley's play, DAVY & STU is a heart-wrenching look at the intensity of adolescent romance and forbidden love.

**Director: Soman Chainani**

Chainani, the recipient of the prestigious FMI Fellowship for excellence in writing and directing, is a MFA filmmaker at Columbia University in New York. He has worked alongside Mira Nair at the acclaimed director's production company, Mirabai Films, during post production on Vanity Fair, starring Reese Witherspoon, and development of Nair's upcoming film, The Namesake.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 5**

**Friday, Nov 3, 8:30pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**Waking Dreams** (Narrative Feature)

104 mins, 2006, English, World Premiere

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Maya Deren

**Cast:** Sulekha Naidu, Sakina Jaffrey, Maggie Wheeler, Jamie Elman, Megan Ward, Sharat Babu

**Synopsis:** Set against a backdrop of video games and "Tollywood" fantasies, this ensemble comedy centers on a Telugu-American family. Recent college grad Latha forsakes medical school and stumbles toward an uncertain future, while her parents' marriage strains under new temptations and old sacrifices. Holding fast to their dreams, the characters discover romance and opportunity in unexpected places.

**Director: Deepika Daggubati**

Born in India and raised in Texas, Deepika Daggubati graduated from Georgetown University and California Institute of the Arts.

Deepika's short films include Potosi Rd., which was profiled in INDIA/New England. Waking Dreams marks her feature debut as a writer-director. Deepika is currently writing an original movie for Disney Channel.

**Dharini** (Narrative Short)

21 min, 2006

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Maya Deren

**Cast:** Sakina Jaffrey

**Synopsis:** Through the wisdom and wonderment of a child-woman's eyes, Dharini traverses to the core of the human spirit and discovers there the strength and imagination to overcome the most profound grief.

**Director: Anupama Pradhan**

Anupama is a recent MFA graduate in Directing from the American Film Institute. A Fulbright scholar in Kathak, she began her career with a love for storytelling through live performance that quickly expanded to include film. Anupama has written and directed several short films, including the Sloan-award winning Dharini.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 6 - KIDS SPECIAL**

**Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Belly Full of Dreams** (Narrative Feature with Animation)

90 mins, 2005, Telugu

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** IFFLA, Berlin Film Festival, Cannes, London Film Festival, Venice Film Festival, Cairo Film Festival.

**Cast:** Sai Kumar, Shiva Kumar, Shriya Saran, Evv Naresh, Tanikala Bharani, Surya

**Synopsis:** As the narrative alternates between the puppet world and the real world, we follow Ramu in his travels, exploring both his physical and emotional journeys as he confronts a corrupt system that is threatening to destroy the nation.

**Director: Prakash Kovelamudi**

Kovelamudi comes from a family of filmmakers instrumental in re-defining the nature of Telugu films in South India. "A Belly Full of Dreams" which strives to transcend language and cultural







barriers is his first feature film as writer/director.

**Sita Sings the Blues - 2 episodes** (Narrative Short - Animation)

8 mins, 2006, English, BANishment! - New York Premiere

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Courthouse

**Synopsis:** A feature-in-progress combining the ancient Indian epic Ramayana, the 1920's blues vocals of Annette Hanshaw, and classically informed but modern animation, this film aims to show how the genius of the Ramayana transcends societies and generations, and is as relevant today as it was 3,000 years ago.

**Director: Nina Paley**

Nina Paley first 'encountered' the Ramayana while living in Trivandrum, Kerala, in 2002, and hasn't been the same since. In addition to making independent animation films, Nina teaches Animation at Parsons School of Design in Manhattan.

**Horn Ok Please** (Narrative Short - Animation)

9 mins, 2005

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Courthouse

**Synopsis:** HORN OK PLEASE is a day in the life of a hapless Bombay taxi driver who strives to earn enough to buy the air-conditioned car of his dreams. As the day progresses, his goal seems within reach; however the traffic, the exasperating passengers and the pre-monsoon heat take their toll as he starts to show signs of weakness.

**Director: Joel Simon**

The founder of an animation studio in Belfast, Simon has produced children animation series and short films like Second Helpings and Horn Ok Please. His documentary, Ciderpunks won him several awards for best animation at film festivals worldwide.

**Chakachak** (Narrative Short - Animation)

4 mins, 2005, Music

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Courthouse

**Synopsis:** Chakachak is the animated sequence from a larger feature project. Fast paced and furious, this animated sequence is a child's thoughts attempting to understand the damage human beings are causing to the environment and its consequences.

**Director: Chetan Sharma**

Chetan started early in life when he joined Ram Mohan at 15, where he worked under Gayatri's direction on a 20-minute film for CFSI. Animagic, based in Mumbai, was established in 1997 by Gayatri and Sumant Rao along with Chetan Sharma and has been involved in making one fascinating animation among another.

**Boond** (Narrative Short - Animation)

5 mins, 2005

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, Noon - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** Nova Cinema Indian Film Festival, Brussels, Belgium in Oct., 2005, Won 1st prize in the Student Animation category of IDPA award for excellence, 2005, Won a Silver Conch Award, in Film and Video Competition (International Section) of Mumbai International Film Festival' 2006

**Synopsis:** An entire life is encapsulated in a drop that forms to perish on to the earth and rejoin the water from which it originated. The film depicts the nostalgic memory of the person and shows death as a loss. Boond is a tribute to a friend who succumbed to lung cancer.

**Director: Kavita Singh**

Singh studied animation film design from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad before joining Star News in Mumbai, India. In 2004, she directed an animated film on water pollution for the Films Division, Government of India.

**PROGRAM: SHORTS/DOCS 4**

**Saturday, Nov 4 - Noon - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**Riding Solo to the Top of the World** (Doc Feature)

93 mins, 2005, English, US Premiere

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 8:30pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** Best Documentary - Mumbai International Film Festival; National Critics Award - Mumbai International Film Festival; Best Documentary - History/Biography SIGNS Film Festival, Kerala

**Synopsis:** Riding Solo To The Top Of The World is the unique experience of a lonesome traveler, who rides his motorcycle from



Mumbai to one of the remotest places in the world capturing moments of beauty, pain, love, hardship, self doubt and spiritual triumphs as a one-man film unit.

**Director: Gaurav Jani**

Jani assisted the noted film maker Ram Gopal Verma but soon quit commercial films to make 'his kind of films'. With no experience of operating a professional camera nor recording sound, he set off on a solo motorcycle journey. Riding Solo To The Top Of The World is his debut film.

**Clear Cut, Simple** (Narrative Short)

13 mins, English

**Screening:** Friday, Nov 3 - 8:30pm - Maya Deren

**Premiere (WORLD/US/NYC):** NYC (East Coast Premiere)

**Festivals/Awards:** Angelus Awards Nominee

**Cast List:** Rob Teper & Navid Negahban

**Synopsis:** When a young U.S. Army officer receives news from his commander that his trusted Iraqi interpreter is allegedly an insurgent, their friendship is put to the ultimate test. As the clock ticks towards a raid on his Iraqi friend's home, he must decide who to believe and what to do. Based on a true story.

**Director: Vineet Dewan**

Hailing from India, the Middle-East, England and both American Coasts, Dewan (Yale '02, USC Cinema '07) has always been a foreigner; he looks at the world slightly differently. He is a winner of the Huston Directing Award, the Bush Cinematography Award and the MMPA National Diversity Award.



**PROGRAM: FEATURE 7**

**Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Podokkhep "Footsteps"** (Narrative Feature)

93 mins, 2006, Bengali, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 8:30pm - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** Selected at the Vancouver International Film Festival

**Cast:** Soumitra Chatterjee, Nandita Das, Sweta Dutta, Tota Roy Chowdhury, Shabritri Chatterjee, June Maliah

**Synopsis:** At the end, the only love which lasts is the love that has accepted everything: every disappointment, every failure and every betrayal; which has accepted even the sad fact that in the end there is no desire as deep as the simple desire for companionship.

**Director: Suman Ghosh**

Ghosh studied film at Cornell University, New York, where he also received a Ph.D in Economics. He has previously directed and produced a documentary on Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, titled "Amartya Sen: A Life Reexamined" which was screened at many venues worldwide. "Footsteps" is his debut feature film.



**Weaning** (Narrative Short)

15 mins, 2004, Danish

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 8:30pm - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival; Women in the Director's Chair, Chicago; Chicks with Flicks Film Festival (winner, best film), New York; San Diego Girl Film Festival (winner, jury award); Seattle International Film Festival; Female Eye Film Festival

**Cast:** Signe Glæsel, Lars Lippert, Sigurd

**Synopsis:** A nursing mother is weaned by her eight-month old son.

**Director: Gitanjali Kapila**

After being awarded a production grant from the Danish Film Institute, this Columbia University graduate created 'WEANING', which was recently screened at the 2006 Seattle International Film Festival. Kapila is now working on a feature length script of 'Double Happiness', produced as a staged reading by Chicago ScriptWorks and Silk Road Theatre Project in June 2006.



**Solitude** (Narrative Short) 2 mins, 2006, English, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Thursday, Nov 2 - 8:30pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Lisa Raimondi, Sasha Douglas, Zarina Nares, Jahanara Nares, Koko Raimondia, Nathalia Meer, S. Ashraf Meer

**Synopsis:** A woman is running in a forest. She sees another runner on a parallel path. They start to race, the other runner becoming

younger and younger as they do. The woman pushes herself harder. As she emerges from the forest, she hears a child's giggle. She sees herself at 2. A smile of recognition.

**Director: S. Ashraf Meer**

Ashraf Meer is a filmmaker, writer, animator, designer, and founding member of the directing collective, Mass Republic. Since 1991, Ashraf has been making short film/video pieces on his life as an American-born Muslim, of Indian origin. Ashraf lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two children.



**PROGRAM: FEATURE 8**

**Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**Dombivli Fast** (Narrative Feature)

110 mins, 2005, Marathi

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Maya Deren

**Cast:** Sandeep Kulkarni, Sandesh Jadhav, Shilpa Tulaskar, Doshyan Wach

**Synopsis:** Unable to bear the rampant corruption and lawlessness around him, Madhav Apte, a righteous, cultured and educated man decides to take matters into his own hands. In an effort to cleanse society of its ills, Madhav finds himself on the wrong side of the law with his wife and children affected and cops on his trail.

**Director: Nishikant Kamat**

Director Nishikant Kamat makes a stunning debut with this gritty, realistic depiction of a lower middle-class Mumbai family placed in hostile circumstances.

**I am Bombay** (Doc Short)

27 mins, 2006, Hindi/English/Marathi, World Premiere

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** NYU Graduate Film Festival, 2006

**Synopsis:** Using six-degrees-of-separation, the film moves from one character to the next, glimpsing the city of Mumbai through the contrasting perspectives and lifestyles of a slum dweller and a film star, an upper class housewife and an artist, a street vendor and a dance choreographer.

**Director: Preeti Mankar**

Mankar is a documentary filmmaker with an MA from NYU. "I Am Bombay" is her first feature-length production. Other films include "An Arranged Marriage" and "LES" - a visual portrait of Manhattan's Lower East Side. She grew up in Mumbai, India, and now lives in New York.



**Bombay Skies** (Narrative Short)

20 mins, 2006, English, World Premiere

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2:30pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** The list award for best short by the Los Angeles Film School

**Cast:** Rajat Kapoor, Amit Salounke, Rita Rani,

**Synopsis:** American born Anjali runs off to India with dreams of becoming a movie star in Bombay. Her father goes after her vowing to bring her back, but when a little street boy takes him on a journey through the gritty streets of Bombay in search of his daughter, he ends up falling in love with the city he once called home.

**Director: Rita Rani**

Rani won the 2003 Images award at the Filmi Film festival in Toronto as a performer in 'Trade Offs' and has produced two short films, 'The Loop' and 'Behind the Curtain'. Her film, 'The Call', won the Visionary Award for the best student short at the Valley International Film festival.



**PROGRAM: FEATURE 9**

**Saturday, Nov 4, 6pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Hiding Divya** (Narrative Feature)

88 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 6pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Madhur Jaffrey, Pooja Kumar

**Synopsis:** Mirza tackles the issue of mental illness in her feature debut, which follows three generations of Indian-American women struggling to cope with the illness in their family. The film narrates the story of a daughter who is forced to confront her past and discover that some family secrets shouldnt be hidden.

**Director: Rehana Mirza**

Mirza, who is currently an MFA Candidate in Playwriting at Columbia





University, is also a Leopold Schepp Scholar, an LMCC Artist Grant Recipient, and a member of the Ma-Yi Writer's Lab. She has many film direction and screenwriting projects to her credit and is best known for her play, 'Barriers' and her script, 'Quarter Life Crisis'.

**Gandhi at the Bat** (Narrative Short)

11 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 6pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Delfin Labao, Lee Perkins, David Ross Paterson

**Synopsis:** Based on a short story by Chet Williamson that originally appeared in the New Yorker in 1983, Gandhi at the Bat is a faithful recreation of a 1930s-style newsreel. This movie includes over 75 shots which transform the actual shooting location into a faithful recreation of Yankee Stadium as it was over seventy years ago.

**Director:** Stephanie Argy/Alec Boehm

Argy and Boehm have recently completed the short film, 'Scene', and are in pre-production on their first feature, a caper movie set in 1937 called 'Red Machine'. While Argy has written for movie trade magazines and websites, Boehm has worked as a cameraman on numerous commercials, short films and a feature documentary.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 10**

**Saturday, Nov 4, 6pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**Dansh** (Narrative Feature)

90 Mins, Hindi

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 6pm - Maya Deren

**Cast:** Kay Kay Menon, Sonali Kulkarni, Aditya Shrivastava

**Synopsis:** Based on the conflict between the Mizo National Front and the Indian armed forces, DANSH unfolds in a single night. The wife of a M.N.F. spokesman is a victim of the atrocities inflicted by the Indian army in the past. Old wounds begin to resurface when a doctor enters her world. The doctor has seen his share of misery in the assassination of his father, at the hands of M.N.F.

**Director:** Kanika Verma

**A Son's Sacrifice** (Narrative Short)

27 mins, English

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 6pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:** A first-generation American, Imran must confront his mixed heritage and gain acceptance from his father's immigrant community at the traditional storefront slaughterhouse. On the holiest day of the year, Imran must lead a sacrifice that will define him as a Muslim, as an American, and as a son.

**Director:** Yoni Brook

An independent documentary producer and photojournalist, Brook has directed and served as a cinematographer on numerous documentary and short films. He received honors at the Pictures of the Year International and was named the national College Photographer of the Year by the Missouri School of Journalism.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 11**

**Saturday, Nov 4, 8:30pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Dubai Return aka King Liar** (Narrative Feature)

130 Mins, 2005, Hindi with English subtitles

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 8:30pm - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** IFFI (International Film Festival Goa, 2005, Kara Film Festival, Karachi, 2005, Osian's Cinefan, New Delhi, 2006

**Cast:** Irrfan Khan, Divya Dutta, Razak Khan, Ritu Shivpuri, Vijay Maurya

**Synopsis:** Ten years ago, Aftab Angrez made his debut as a hit-man with a high profile killing whose credit unfortunately went to someone else. Now he is back in Mumbai, and with the help of two long-lost gang-mates, he is out to regain his lost glory. But is fame and glory amongst one's peers more important than mundane domestic bliss? A bitter-sweet tale about lovable losers, identity crises, dashed hopes and many misfired bullets.

**Director:** Aditya Bhattacharya

Bhattacharya, the son and grandson respectively of legendary filmmakers Basu Bhattacharya and Bimal Roy, is a writer, director and producer who divides his time between Rome and Mumbai. His first feature, Raakh (Ashes, 1988) starring Aamir Khan, won three National Awards. He has also directed several music videos,



commercials and international films.

**Mausi** (Narrative Short)

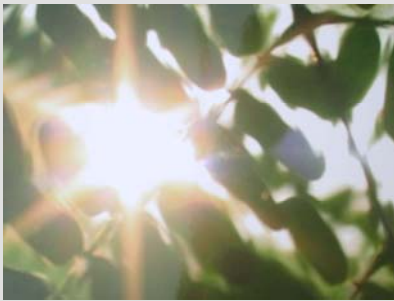
7 mins, , English/Hindi, Premiere

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 8:30pm - Courthouse

**Synopsis:** Mausui focuses on a working class family where guns, drugs, food and a nagging relative make it a difficult household. But Mausui just might surprise her family by putting together the most unlikely romantic partners.

**Director: Sarba Das**

Das graduated from NYU's Tisch School of Arts with a Masters in Film. She was among the eight filmmakers selected to participate in the IFP/LA 2005 Directors Lab and is the winner of the 2006 Richard Vague Production Fund Award for Alumni (New York University's Kanbar Institute of Film and Television at the Tisch School of the Arts).



**PROGRAM: SHORTS/DOCS 5**

**Saturday, Nov 4, 8:30pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**Of Such Times: The Modern Indian Woman--Reflections and Journeys**  
(Doc Short)

31 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 8:30pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:** What and who is the 'Modern Indian Woman?' What is her quintessence? As styles of expression and presentation change, one assumes a corresponding change in the basic fabric of a generation; in their intent, their motives, in what drives them to action. Perhaps this assumption has reason. Yet perhaps it's time women know the minds of other women.

**Director: Vandana Kohli**

Trained in film editing at the Film and Television Institute (FTII) in India, Kohli has won awards and accolades, including the RAPA award for Best Director, 'Into the Abyss: A Film on Major Depression'.

**The House on Gulmohar Ave.** (Doc Short)

30 mins, 2005, English, US Premiere

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4, 8:30pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** The Open Frame Film Festival 2005, KARA 2005, International Film Festival, Karachi 2005, 9th International Short & Independent Film Festival, Dhaka 2005, TRI Continental Film Festival 2006

**Synopsis:** The House on Gulmohar Avenue traces the personal journey of the filmmaker through the ideas of identity and belonging. The film is set in a part of New Delhi called Okhla, where four generations of the filmmaker's family have lived. An area that is sometimes also called Mini Pakistan.

**Director: Samina Mishra**

Samina Mishra is a documentary filmmaker and media practitioner based in New Delhi. Her work includes The House on Gulmohar Avenue, a film about identity, Home and Away, a multimedia exhibition and Hina in the Old City, a non-fiction book on the Walled City of Delhi for children.

**Barrel Children** (Doc Short)

26 mins, 2006, Trinidadian English/ Standard English Subtitles, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Saturday, Nov 4 - 8:30 pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** Nominated for 2006 NYWIFT Scholarship, Official Selection RIFF 2006, Official Selection Kairi Festival Trinidad 2006, Official Selection IAAC NYC 2006.

**Synopsis:** Ricardo, Chablis, and Ronnie Belmontes have been living in Trinidad for over ten years with their uncle, Seeraj, while their mother Maya works as a nanny in the United States in order to support them. "Barrel Children" takes an intimate look at a family separated by migration.

**Director: Cara Elmslie Weir**

Weir's interest lies in making films that explore the complexities in everyday situations. She has a Masters degree in Documentary Film from City College of New York, and has worked within various sectors of the arts, including graphic design, teaching youth media classes, and public television programming.



**PROGRAM: FEATURE 12**

**Sunday, Nov 5, Noon - Courthouse - Anthology**

**American Blend** (Narrative Feature)

100 mins, 2005, English

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, Noon - Courthouse

**Festivals/Awards:** Best Director and Best Achievement filmmaker award at the Riverside International Film Festival, USA, Mami International Film Festival

**Cast:** Anupam Kher, Dee Wallace, Ranjit Chowdhry, David Oyelowo,

**Synopsis:** 'American Blend' is about the coming together of people. A cultural explosion of a cross-cultural, part-Indian, part-American family in LA, their trials and tribulations, and their ultimate coming together in a colourful, musical, wonderful blend of both cultures.

**Director: Varun Khanna**

The writer & director of two feature films, 'Beyond Honor' and 'Spice of Life', Khanna was once chosen as an upcoming director in the US during a national search for theater talent. In 1996, he moved to California to write and edit television news magazine weekly broadcasts on the International Channel, KSCI, WPXN, and KTSF.

**Independence Day** (Narrative Short)

7 mins, 2006, English, World Premiere

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, Noon - Courthouse

**Cast:** Roopashree Jeevaji, David Bianchi, Vito Morte

**Synopsis:** A young Muslim woman is struggling with her daily mundane chores at a bakery owned by her authoritarian father. She meets a wanton young man who brings both pleasure and turmoil infused in a hotbed of virulence of her father. She is conflicted between the American dream of independence with the conservative rearing of her faith. The pressures force her to face obstacles that will forever change her life.

**Director: Nabila Lester**

The daughter of a theater director and opera singer, dramatic design is in Lester's blood. She has developed her style as a graffiti post-modernist designer and works as a set designer. She is also enrolled at USC in the Masters in Production program.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 13**

**Sunday, Nov 5, Noon - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**A Vagabond Day** (Narrative Feature)

90 mins, 2005, Marathi

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, Noon - Maya Deren

**Director: Vijay Patkar**

**Retirement Rehearsal** (Narrative Short)

24 mins, 2003, English

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, Noon - Maya Deren

**Cast:** Daamen Krall, D. Ann Nadeau, Elliot Grey, Marija Thomas

**Synopsis:** Retirement Rehearsal is a dramatic comedy about a man forced into early retirement. The film follows an emotional and sometimes amusing relationship between a husband and wife as they cope with the adjustment of beginning a new phase of life together - the golden years.

**Director: Anisha Pattnaik**

Currently packaging her passion project Final Boarding, Pattnaik has assisted in the making of 'Leela', and was hired to direct a French-American independent feature, Between the Lines. She has a MFA degree in directing from the AFI and developed her skills as a writer at UCLA.

**The Last Dance** (Narrative Short)

15 mins, 2005, English, NYC Premiere

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, Noon - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, Montreal World Film Festival (2006 selection), Bollywood and Beyond World Film Festival, Stuttgart, International Film Festival of Kerala, Mumbai International Film Festival, Pune International Film Festival. Awards - Special Jury Award - 0110 Digital Film Festival, French Embassy Award.

**Cast:** Silloo Mahava, Bomi Dotiwala

**Synopsis:** We all grapple with loneliness, we all wear masks, we all need fairy wings to make our wishes come true. Meroo is 65. She has

just found love. She has just lost it.

**Director: Akshay Roy**

Roy worked as an assistant director on Nair's 'The Namesake' and 'Vanity Fair', Mehta's 'Water', Greengrass's 'The Bourne Supremacy', and Akhtar's 'Lakshya'. His short film, 'The Last Dance' was selected at the Indian Film Festival of LA, the Montreal World Film Festival, Stuttgart, the Mumbai and Pune International Film Festivals among others.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 14**

**Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**My Bollywood Bride** (Narrative Feature)

94 Mins, English/Hindi

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Jason Lewis, Kashmir Shah, Gulshan Grover, and Sanjay Suri  
**Synopsis:** A familiar relationship comedy with an Indian twist, "My Bollywood Bride" revisits the age-old romantic formula: Boy meets, loses, and hopes to find girl. It tells the story of a copy writer who meets and romances an Indian beauty while she is on a vacation in California.

**Director: Rajeev Virani**

Virani is a San Francisco-born ad-film maker turned director. He is currently directing the Rahul Bose-scripted 'The Whisperers', a psychological drama involving two strong-willed men pitted against each other in the confines of a room.

**0:0 pm** (Narrative Short)

15 mins, 2004, Hindi

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Dadhi Pandey, Murari, Ravi Kale, Ravi Sanghvi, Seema Adhikari

**Synopsis:** 0:0 PM follows the lives and professional struggles of two friends who work as post-mortem servants. Life goes on, and while one is confined to the home, the other keeps his daily routine only to face the horrifying truth of where the profession can lead to

**Director: Surendra Hiwarale**

Surya has been associated with two well-known film directors Sreeram Raghavan on his award winning film 'Ek Hasina Thi' and Ram Gopal Varma on his musical 'Naach'. As Chief A.D., he recently finished a film called Mr. Ya Miss. 0:0 PM is his first attempt at Director, Writer and Producer.

**1001 Auditions** (Narrative Short)

21 mins, 2006, English, World Premiere

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Courthouse

**Cast:** Pooja Kumar

**Synopsis:** "After years of dead-end auditions and struggling for ten years, Meera is ready to give up life in N.Y. Follow Meera through the hilarious triumphs and humiliating defeats on her last day of auditions where she runs the gauntlet: confronting dismissive casting directors, lecherous producers, and the success of her former friends.

**Director: Arun Singh**

A chemist by training, Singh wrote two screenplays while working on his novel. Later, he studied film-making at the New York Film Academy and attended Screenplay writing classes at the famous Gotham Writers' Workshop in New York. "1001 Auditions" is his first short film that he wrote, directed, and produced.

**Sirah** (Narrative Short)

18 mins 23 secs, 2005, English

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30 pm - Courthouse

**Synopsis:** Sirah, a young Muslim girl born in the United States, desperately wants to connect with other girls. She must choose between a world she wants to be a part of and the world she is brought up in. Her decision of fitting in or maintaining the culture she grew up in tears her apart.

**Director: Cristine Spindler**

Spindler first joined forces with the film industry and the FSU Film School in 2002 as an actor. Knowing she wanted to be on the other side of the camera however, she chose to do a Master of Fine Arts in Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts. She hopes to make great movies with great filmmakers someday.





**PROGRAM: SHORTS/DOCS 6**

**Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**I for India (Doc Feature)**

70 mins, 2005, English

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Maya Deren

**Festivals/Awards:** Sundance 2006, Visions du Réel 2006 - Regards Neufs, Best documentary - Karachi International Film Festival, Best documentary - Asian Festival of First Films, Silver award - Film South Asia, Charles C. Guggenheim Emerging Artist Award, Full Frame Documentary Festival, It's All True, Melbourne International Film Festival, New Zealand Film Festival, Boston International Film Festival, Seattle Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, Indian Film Festival of L.A, Cleveland International Film Festival, & Asian American Festival, N.Y

**Synopsis:** A bitter-sweet time capsule of alienation, discovery, racism, and belonging, I for India is a chronicle of immigration in 1960s Britain and beyond, seen through the eyes of one Asian family and their movie camera. A tale of migration and belonging, the story is told primarily through Super 8 films and audio letters sent between India and England during a period of 40 years.

**Director: Sandhya Suri**

Suri studied documentary at The National Film and Television School. Her graduation film "SAFAR" received the Jury's special mention at Cinema du Reel and the award for Best Short Film at the British Film Institute's Imagine Asia festival. 'I for India' is her first feature length documentary.

**Once More Removed (Doc Feature)**

52 mins, 2006, English

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:** This documentary tells the story of a people who have been once more removed from India. It is filmed in India, New York, Toronto and Guyana and spans three continents to investigate the massive India Diaspora, its causes, and its effect on subsequent displaced generations.

**Director: Shundell Prasad**

A NYU Tisch School of Arts graduate, Prasad recently completed her first documentary film, 'Once More Removed: A journey back to India'. She has worked for HBO's documentary division in NYC as well as other media outlets such as CNN, A&E, and the Wall Street Journal.

**El Charango (Doc Short)**

22 mins, 2005

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 2:30pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:** This short documentary is about a littler instrument, a large silver mine and the highest city in the world. El Charango is the second film by filmmaker/director Jim Virga and producer/editor Tula Goenka, the award winning team of Dancing on Mother Earth

**Director: Tula Goenka**

In her 20 years of experience, professor Goenka has worked on several award-winning documentaries as well as with leading directors such as Spike Lee and Mira Nair. In 2002, she produced and edited the PBS documentary, 'Dancing on Mother Earth', which was screened in several film festivals, including the prestigious Smithsonian's Native American Film and Video Festival. Goenka also serves as the director of Syracuse University's annual South Asian Human Rights Film Festival.

**PROGRAM: FEATURE 15**

**Sunday, Nov 5, 6:00pm - Courthouse - Anthology**

**Narrative Feature - TBD**

**PROGRAM: SHORTS/DOCS 7**

**Sunday, Nov 5, 6:00pm - Maya Deren - Anthology**

**Men of Burden-Pedelling Towards a Horizon (Doc Feature)**

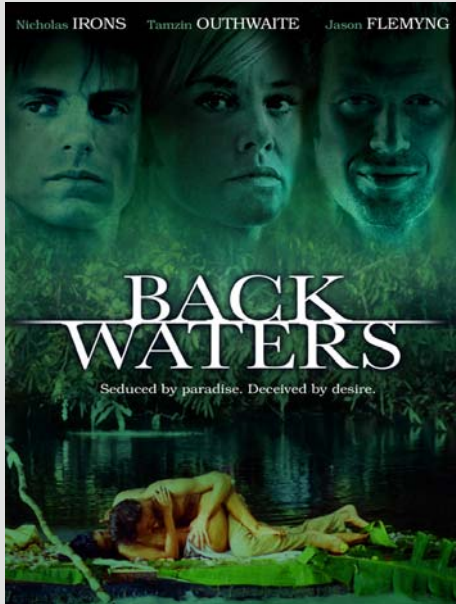
75 Mins, 2006

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 6:00pm - Maya Deren

**Synopsis:**

**Director: Raghu Jeganathan**





**CLOSING NIGHT PRESENTATION**  
**Sunday, Nov 5, 6pm - Asia Society**

**Backwaters** (Narrative Feature)

95 mins, English

**Screening:** Sunday, Nov 5, 6pm - TBD

**Cast:** Tamzin Outhwaite, Jason Flemyng, Gulshan Grover, Nicholas Irons, Sandra Teles

**Synopsis:** Andy (Nicholas Irons) is driving his pretty wife, TV soap-star Lili (Tamzin Outhwaite) home from a party at her brother Jason's house, (Jason Flemyng). They have a serious car crash - Andy miraculously escapes unhurt but Lili is left wheelchair bound. Her career is ruined - she drinks to ease the pain. Six months later, their marriage in trouble, they fly to Southern India, where Lili hopes to benefit from the renowned Ayurvedic healing treatments found in the beautiful backwaters of Kerala. Private massages are arranged on their houseboat and after long daily sessions, a bitter and angry Lili, still blaming Andy for the accident, starts to show a slight but significant improvement. Andy's writing career is going through a bad patch. Looking for inspiration, he takes long walks along the backwaters while Lili is occupied with her treatment. During one such stroll, he meets a stunningly beautiful local Indian girl. Inevitably, a lovers' tryst begins and they start meeting in the afternoons. Returning to his houseboat from one such idyllic rendezvous, Andy discovers that his bad-tempered wife has disappeared. After a frantic search, the police find Lili's lifeless body caught in a local fisherman's net. Despite their differences, Andy is devastated by Lili's gruesome fate. As nothing has been stolen from the houseboat he is immediately a prime suspect. The Police quickly hear about the couple's continuous alcohol-fuelled bickering and that Andy is to be the beneficiary of Lili's enormous life insurance policy. With his innocence now seriously in question, Andy is relying on his lover to simply confirm that they were together all afternoon, providing him with his critical alibi. When she refuses, he starts to realize that something weird is going on. The Inspector, reluctantly, has no choice but to charge him. Is he being framed? Who would do this to him? Andy does not understand. He must try to find out who really killed Lili.

**Director:** Jagmohan Mundhra

Mundhra is best known for his films: Kamla, Bawandar, Provoked, Backwaters, Night Eyes and Improper Conduct. His film, Bawandar won several international and national awards including Best Picture in following film-festivals: San Jose, Bermuda, Houston, Zanzibar and Karachi and best actress for Nandita Das in Santa Monica, and Best Music for Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt in Karachi. It also won the V.Shantaram award for cinematic excellence for best regional film, best actor, best actress, best cinematography, best director and best editor. In 2002, his film, Kamla was invited to be screened at the prestigious Film Society of Lincoln Center as a part of a retrospective on the career of Shabana Azmi. Similarly, Bawandar was screened by the Brooklyn Museum of Art and was also screened at the South Asian Film Festival in NYC organized by the Indo American Art Council.