

Stuttgart, 14th June 2022

Press Release: 19th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart (20 to 24 July 2022)

Dear colleague,

Please inform your readers about the 19th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart in your JULY print edition. ONLINE editors are requested to publish this press release after 17 June 2022.

For queries and further free film stills, please contact me at + 49 1520 322 87 86. Please forward a PDF of your publication to jahn@filmbuerobw.de

Thank you for your editorial support to the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart.

Best regards
Hans-Peter Jahn
Press Spokesperson
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----- Start of Press Release:

19th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart, 20-24 July 2022

THEY RISK IT ALL FOR THEIR DREAMS

Hindi remake of 'Run Lola Run' - 'Skater Girl' rolls away from prejudice - Rap musical with slum kids - 'Big B' Amitabh Bachchan as football coach

To make their dream of freedom come true, these heroines and heroes risk it all: In 'Skater Girl' by Manjari Makijany, young Prerna rolls away from old village traditions and prejudices. In the Hindi remake 'Loop Lapeta' by Aakash Bhatia, Tom Tykwer's Lola must race against the clock once more and take the right turn. In the rap musical 'Tangra Blues' by Supriyo Sen, young people emulate their

idol 'Gully Boy' in the shadow of vicious street fights. India's superstar Amitabh Bachchan – Big B for short – plays the founder of a slum football team in 'Jhund' by Nagraj Manjule. In 'Mehrunisa' by Sandeep Kumar, after her husband's death a widow burns their double bed to make room for a free new life. Three young women break a taboo in 'Cheepatakadumpa' by Devashish Makhija and talk to each other about sexuality. And committed women never give up; they conquer the digital world in 'Writing with Fire' by Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas with their initially printed newspaper.

Nothing is impossible in the films at the 19th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart – subject to courage, power, and vision. Finally, back on the big screen are almost 30 current films, directed by great storytellers from all over India. From 20 to 24 July 2022, the Film Festival will provide a unique overview of new Indian cinema at Innenstadt Kinos Stuttgart (Gloria, EM, and Cinema). The multi-faceted programme appeals to all generations.

Those who present their VVS ticket at the box office will be granted discounted admission.

Relationship between servant and master

The audience gets to know people in India who put all their eggs in one basket to lead a self-determined life. The tender opening film 'Shankar's Fairies' by director Irfana Majumdar is about the relationship between servant and master as well as friendships between generations. The sensitively staged drama, which is set in 1962 in the North of India, focuses on two people from different backgrounds who are bonded by a shared love of stories.

Young, bold and against all odds

Bengali cinema is represented by Supriyo Sen's brightly coloured rap musical 'Tangra Blues'. Composer Anindit Roy contributes great rap songs to the musical thriller. Kolkata's slum is ruled by the law of the street and the kids dream of great fame. The Festival audience gets to know popular youngsters of Indian cinema and simply must root for the strong-voiced heroines and heroes. The same target group as 'Tangra Blues' is addressed by 'Skater Girl', boldly and confidently directed by Manjari Makijani. Village girl Perna grows up in a world where men have the say. Girls are kitchen maids and being prepared for an arranged marriage. Only boys whizz through the village on skateboards. Perna does away with outdated role concepts and dashes 'on wheels' into the world of her dreams.

With 'Loop Lapeta' by Aakash Bhatia, the Festival brings a Hindi remake of the German 90s cult film 'Run Lola Run' by Tom Tykwer to the big screen. Taapsee Pannu excels in the lead role and it's going to be interesting for the audience to see how the race in Goa works out.

'Big B' is back: India's superstar Amitabh Bachchan coaches slum kids

A reunion with Amitabh Bachchan, the uncrowned king of Indian cinema, brings the biopic 'Jhund' by Nagraj Manjule about Vijay Barse, the founder of the NGO Slum Soccer. Not only different teams but also worlds meet on the football pitch. Bachchan is convincing as a calm, sensitive coach with his hands in his pockets and his eyes on his mission.

What you absolutely have to see

One of the must-see films at the Festival is 'Adieu Godard' by Amartya Bhattchacharyya. An old man who regularly rents pornography from the video store in his conservative village, accidentally discovers the world of French director Jean-Luc Godard. From then on, he concentrates on Godard's works and makes the villagers marvel and shake their heads about his idea of a Godard film festival.

Further strong representatives of modern Indian cinema are screened in Stuttgart: In Ritwik Pareek's wonderfully satirical debut film 'Dug Dug', fake news glorify someone killed in an accident: A cyclist

is transfigured into a saint and founder of a religion. Religious commerce and idolatry are exposed with irreverence and wit.

Eighty-year-old actress wants to make a fresh start

In Vinod Bharathan's feature film 'Karma Café', an Indian who returns to his homeland after a job abroad must prove himself as the manager of a French café.

In the literary adaptation of Anees Salim's bestseller 'Kasiminte Kadal - The Small-Town Sea', director Shyamaprasad depicts two strokes of fate in the life of young Kasim. First, he must move from the vibrant city to his father's boring hometown; then his father's death confronts him with further challenges.

In his feature film 'Mehrunsia', Sandeep Kumar follows in his feature film 'Mehrunsia' an eighty-year-old actress, who wants to relaunch her career after the death of her husband. But at her age, the odds are against her. The spectacular scene when she burns the marital bed after her husband's death gets under your skin – a subversive act of liberation.

In Sumantra Roy's 'Ghasjomi - Grasslands', a student interviews Bengali middle-class housewives about childhood, school, love, and marriage. This is how she meets Ipsita, 15 years her senior, who comes from a completely different background and changes and shapes the student's life in an unexpected way.

Family film 'Gandhi & Co.' with German live dialogue

A very special highlight in the Festival programme is the Indian family film 'Gandhi & Co. by Manish Saini. The focus is on the two eleven-year-old rascals Minto and Mitra, who are notorious for their pranks. One time they go too far and are taught a lesson.

Stuttgart actress Juliane Bacher will speak the dialogues of the family film live in German in the cinema auditorium. 'Gandhi & Co.' will be shown in the original language version with English subtitles. That is why Juliane Bacher provides the German voice without drowning out the original language. "I only make myself available without intervening creatively," she explains. In 2010, the South Tyrolean-born Juliane Bacher first spoke the German dialogues live for an Indian Film Festival family film: Irfan Kamal's 'Thanks Maa'. What began as an experiment, has since gained a loyal audience. Juliane Bacher studied acting at the State University of Music and the Performing Arts Stuttgart. She is very familiar with India through her yoga classes.

School film: A tribute to the fourth power in the state

The documentary film 'Writing with Fire' by Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas is about the fourth power in the state – the press. The moving homage to the power of journalism depicts the struggle of a group of women who defy the oppression by the male world and establish their own newspaper on the internet, too. It is the first Indian documentary film to be nominated for an Oscar in the Best Documentary category.

'Writing with Fire' is this year's school film, with a special information offering for students from grades nine to thirteen from all over Baden-Württemberg. The cinema will thus be turned into a classroom on Thursday, 21 July 2022. Funded by the Fund for German Film Festivals of the Goethe-Institut in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office.

Shorts – popular short trip through Indian society

The shorts have long since become a popular short trip through Indian society. Here are two examples from the cleverly curated mix of short films, which once again guarantees a glimpse of life in all its intensity. 'Bedsore' by Navin Chandra Ganes is set in the Banchhada tribe, where the birth of a girl is a stroke of luck. Tradition has it that girls secure the livelihood of a family through prostitution. In 'Cheepatakadumpa' by Devashish Makhija, three friends meet again after several years. Bold and straightforward, they go on about the world of men and talk openly about their sexual experience.

Documentaries about the Theater am Faden guest performance in India

The Film Festival dedicates the Thursday evening to a woman from Stuttgart who was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit as a cultural ambassador by the Federal President only a few days ago. Helga Brehme, who is now celebrating the 50th anniversary of her Theater am Faden in Stuttgart, is represented in the programme of the 19th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart with two documentaries: 'Barnava Jageer Rajasthan – a journey to the most populated musicians' village in the Thar Desert' and 'Raaga Festival at Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur'.

Both films were made by Nawab Khan. Helga Brehme, our long-time cooperation partner, will talk about her activities in India in the cinema auditorium and musicians from India will perform live.

Staufermedaille (Staufer Medal) for Curator Uma da Cunha

Longtime Festival curator Uma da Cunha from Mumbai will be honoured with the Baden-Württemberg 'Staufermedaille' at the Opening Ceremony. Minister-President Winfried Kretschmann has chosen a truly strong woman who, as the grande dame of new Indian cinema, has also left her mark on the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart with her passion, energy, charm, and an infinite love for her metier. For 19 years now, the curator, who is very well connected throughout the Indian film industry, has supported the programme management in Stuttgart and turned the capital of Baden-Württemberg into a popular, renowned launch pad for Indian film productions in Europe.

'German Star of India' film awards coveted in India

At the Festival finale, the 'German Star of India' film awards coveted in India will be presented: 'German Star of India' in the categories Best Feature Film (4000 Euro), Best Documentary Film (1000 Euro), Best Short Film (1000 Euro), Director's Vision Award (un-endowed) and Audience Award (1000 Euro).

Ticket prices and VVS discount

The Indian Film Festival Stuttgart attaches great importance to sustainability: There is a discount for all visitors who present a VVS ticket at the box office.

A ticket costs 9 Euro (8 Euro reduced).

For the Family Film on Sunday, 24 July 2022, 3 p.m., the following applies: FSK approval from 6 years; ticket prices: adults 9 Euro/8 Euro reduced; children and youths between 6 and 16 years 5 Euro per ticket.

Preparations for 20th Festival anniversary in 2023 already underway

Festival director Oliver Mahn, who this time also compiled the film programme together with the two curators, Therese Hayes in Palm Springs and Uma da Cunha in Mumbai, regards the 19th edition of the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart with mixed feelings: "After two online editions due to the pandemic, we are looking forward to returning to the cinema. But we miss the closed Metropol cinema a lot." No red carpet in front of the former Festival palace; instead, the focus is fully on the film programme. And in the background, preparations are already underway for the 20th anniversary of the Stuttgart Indian Film Festival in 2023.

Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp: "Immerse oneself in another world"

"Especially in turbulent times, one would like to immerse oneself in another world. That is why I am all the more pleased that the Indian Film Festival can finally take place live in Stuttgart again this year," emphasises Andreas Lapp, Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate and main sponsor of the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart.

Basic information on the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart

The 19th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart takes place from 20 to 24 July 2022 at Innenstadt Kinos Stuttgart (Cinema and EM, Bolz-/Königstraße). Organiser is Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg. Main sponsor is Andreas Lapp, Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate and cable entrepreneur in Stuttgart. The state of Baden-Württemberg and the state capital Stuttgart support the Film Festival. Stuttgart and the Indian metropolis of Mumbai have been twinned for decades. For almost two decades, the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart has been a highlight in the cultural summer programme in Baden-Württemberg. In parallel with the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart, the Indian Honorary Consulate for Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate organises the Indian Summer (www.honorarkonsulat-indien.de).

All about the film programme at www.indisches-filmfestival.de

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