

Stuttgart in July 2024

Dear colleague

from 17 to 21 July 2024, the state capital of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, will be celebrating the magic of Indian cinema. The organising Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg e. V. has selected a good 65 current feature films, short films, documentaries and commercials for the 21st edition of the Indian Film Festival, which will delight audiences with world, European and German premieres. The festival cinemas are once again the Stuttgart city centre cinemas.

Please report on the 21st Indian Film Festival Stuttgart. The following press release (Part 1 and part 2) provides information about the five festival days and the varied programme.

Thank you and best regards
Hans-Peter Jahn
Press spokesman
Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg e. V.

From 17 to 21 July 2024 in the city centre cinemas:

Stuttgart celebrates the magic of Indian cinema

Ex-Bollywood child star Ayesha Kapur celebrates her return to the big screen in Stuttgart

STUTTGART - With a varied programme, the 21st Indian Film Festival Stuttgart from 17 to 21 July will show why it is not only Europe's largest Indian film festival, but also an important address for the world's largest film market. The audience can look forward to a programme full of premieres. Ex-Boöywood child star Ayesha Kapur is coming to Stuttgart after a 19-year absence from the big screen for the world premiere of 'Hari Ka Om - Hari's Om' by Harish Vyas. The now 29-year-old starred alongside Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan in the box office hit 'Black' in the 2nd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart programme in 2005. The new feature film 'Logout' by India's hottest shooting

star and trendsetter Babil Khan will also have its world premiere in Stuttgart. The son of the unforgettable actor Irrfan Khan plays an influencer who is trembling for his life in this spectacular thriller by director Amit Golani. Golani and his screenwriter will be present at the screenings on 18 and 19 July.

The film festival on Wednesday, 17 July 2024, with the drama 'Narayaneete Moonnaanmakkal - Three Sons of Narayani' by Sharan Venugopals, in which three brothers meet again after a long time at the deathbed of their terminally ill mother, old family rifts break open again and a flirtation takes the situation to extremes.

Exactly 65 current feature films, short films and documentaries will bring the new Indian cinema to the state capital of Baden-Württemberg with further premieres until 21 July 2024. Fans can expect a cinematic trip to India that will delight with a mixture of realism and great cinema moments: magical, committed, authentic. At the end, the coveted 'German Star of India' film awards totalling 7,500 euros will be presented.

World premiere of 'Logout': superstar Babil Khan as an influencer in mortal fear

Audiences can look forward to major feature films that have already screened at international film festivals. These include the Marathi feature film 'Valli' (77th Festival de Cannes) written and directed by Manoj Shinde and 'Bhera - The Deaf' by Shrikant Prabhakar, another Marathi feature film from Cannes, or the Berlinale entry 'In The Belly of a Tiger' by director Siddhartha Jatla, which was honoured with the Director's Vision Award at the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart in 2018. In addition to the world premiere of 'Logout', the programme promises several European and German arthouse and independent premieres. 'Logout' focuses on this year's school day on Thursday, 18 July from 2024. Gloria 2 is already almost sold out. 'Logout' will be shown again on Friday, 19 July.

Actress Ayesha Kapur brings real Bollywood glamour to Stuttgart

The German-Indian film actress Ayesha Kapur (29) is coming to Stuttgart for the world premiere of her new cinema film 'Hari Ka Om - Hari's Om' by Harish Vyas. 19 years after her debut as a child star in the box office hit 'Black', the multi-award-winning star is now returning to the international screen in her first leading adult role. Ayesha Kapur will celebrate the world premiere on Sunday, 21 July 2024 (4.30 pm) at the 21st Indian Film Festival Stuttgart in the city centre cinemas (Cinema). The fashion-loving actress will be wearing a customised dress from the Upasana brand, which was made in her Indian hometown of Auroville. She will also be wearing jewellery from her own label 'Ayesha Accessories', which was specially made for the world premiere.

Ayesha Kapur was born in Düsseldorf to German mother Jacqueline and Indian father Dilip Kapur, who owns the leather goods chain 'Hidesign'. After her first major film role in India and her second Indian feature film 'Sikandar' (2009), Kapur took a long break from film, studied at Columbia University in New York and graduated there in 2020. Ayesha Kapur on Germany: "I have been visiting my grandparents in Dortmund since I was a child. This will be my first time in Stuttgart and I am looking forward to connecting my memories of the upcoming world premiere with this city."

In 2005, the 2nd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart started with 'Black' by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Kapur first appeared in front of the camera as a deaf and blind girl alongside living screen legend Amitabh Bachchan and audience favourite Rani Mukerji.

Talking about her first lead role as an adult actress in 'Hari Ka Om', she says, "It was an exciting opportunity for me to play a character that is very different and at the same time very similar to me.

Priya, the character I play in Hari Om, comes from a completely different world. She comes from a medium-sized town in India, has a relatively conservative background and doesn't really speak English. I grew up very internationally, speaking several languages, travelling and living in different parts of the world, with English being my first language. Yet she is similar to me in many ways, I think there is a certain innocence and gentleness that I can associate with her. At its core it is similar to me, despite many external things like differences in language, culture etc. I've worked very hard on the language and diction and put myself in her world through research - and I'm looking forward to showing my ability to play different characters in this film."

The premiere film, which is also the closing film of the 21st Indian Film Festival, accompanies the terminally ill Hari Prasad, who lives according to ancient Indian traditions, and his son Om, who lives in a generational conflict with his father, on their joint journey of destiny to the holy city of Kashi (Varanasi). In this visually stunning tour, a disturbed father-son relationship is to be healed. Ayesha Kapur plays along with a strong cast, including Raghuvir Yadav, Anshuman Jha, Soni Razdan, Samta Sudhiksha and Jagat Rawat.

Stuttgart celebrates the magic of Indian cinema from 17 to 21 July

Indian Film Festival Stuttgart: The nominees

Stuttgart celebrates the magic of Indian cinema: From 17 to 21 July, Europe's largest Indian film festival presents 65 current feature films, short films, documentaries and commercials from all regions of the world's largest film market. Enchanting, committed and authentic.

The audience can look forward to several world, international and German premieres. The festival, organised by the Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg and sponsored by the city of Stuttgart and the state of Baden-Württemberg, will once again focus on the competition for the coveted 'German Star of India' film prize (total value 7,500 euros). The feature film category shines with a varied mixture of tragic fates, unexpected lightness and amusing comedies.

The programme takes an unadulterated look at a country full of contradictions with further feature films, documentaries and short films.

The following feature films are nominated:

'Narayaneente Moonnaanakkal (Three sons of Nanayani)' by Sharan Venugopal: The film festival starts with this drama on Wednesday, 17 July, 8 pm. Three brothers meet again after a long time at the deathbed of their terminally ill mother. Old family rifts reopen, arguments break out and a flirtation takes the situation to extremes.

'Logout' by Amit Golani: On the second day of the festival, 18 July 2024, 10 a.m., India's top star Babil Khan will take to the screen at School Day from 10 a.m. The brand-new influencer thriller 'Logout' is a world premiere and focuses on this year's School Day. Babil Khan plays 26-year-old influencer Pratyush from Delhi, who is adored by almost 10 million followers and is in agony after losing his mobile phone. (Repeat: 19 July, 8 pm).

Director Rajni Basumatary cast and crew for her feature film 'Gorai Phakhri - Wild Swans' (European premiere, 18 July, 6 pm) with women. The story is set in the foothills of Bodoland on the India-Bhutan border and explores the lives of women in a patriarchal society recovering from decades of armed conflict between the state and separatist groups.

'Bhera - The Deaf' by Shrikant Prabhakar, a world premiere (21 July, 2 pm), is set in a remote village in Lower Konkan and Mumbai during the Covid era. Anibai, who lives alone on the outskirts of the village, is eagerly waiting for her son Suresh, who is stuck in Mumbai during the pandemic. Anibai is suffering from appendicitis and the deaf-mute village boy Vishnu is her only connection to the rest of the world.

In 'Athoi', Kiran Rao gives Shakespeare's 'Othello' an Indian makeover and revives the theatre classic with contemporary dialogue and a fast-paced Quentin Tarantino narrative style to create a 160-minute screen spectacle (20 July, 9 pm)

With his feature film debut 'Mithya' (German premiere, 20 July, 5 pm), director Sumanth Bhat fulfilled a long-cherished wish. 'Mithya' tells the poignant story of an eleven-year-old boy who has to come to terms with the wounds of losing his parents.

Jayant Digambar Somalkar's feature film debut 'Sthal - A Match', a European premiere (20 July, 6.30 pm), was made with non-professional actors from the director's village and is about a young woman's struggle against patriarchal traditions that deprive women of their freedom of choice and arranged marriages as the only option for self-improvement.

These documentaries are nominated: 'Parama: A Journey with Aparna Sen' by Suman Gosh, 'Chaawal (Rice)' by Tamjeed Elahi Khan, 'Never say die' by Diya Gambhir, 'Langur – The Man Monkey' by Haider Khan and '13TWR' by Prashant More ,

These short films are nominated: 'Kshan' by Sakshi Singh (Co-operation with Pocket films), 'Thanks Mom' by Manik Talwar (Co-operation with Pocket films), 'Kav Kav' by Dr. Swanand Wagh (Co-operation with Pocket films), 'Thursday Special' by Varun Tandon, 'Sultan' by Avinash Kisanrao Kambikar, 'Papa Ko Pani Se Dar Lagta Hai (My Father Is Afraid of Water)' by Prateek Rajendra Srivastava, 'Opposite Poles' by Vignesh Paramasivam, 'Umbara' by Pranay Ramesh Kotangale, 'Pankhol' by Parag Pradip Sawant, 'Buigavne (Scarecrow)' by Akhil Lotlikar, 'Blackhole' by Pradyumna Patil.

The following prizes will also be awarded: an advertising film prize (500 euros), the Director's Vision Award, which honours directors who demonstrate exceptional social or political commitment with their film contribution, and the Audience Award, which is endowed with 1000 euros.

More: www.indisches-filmfestival.de