

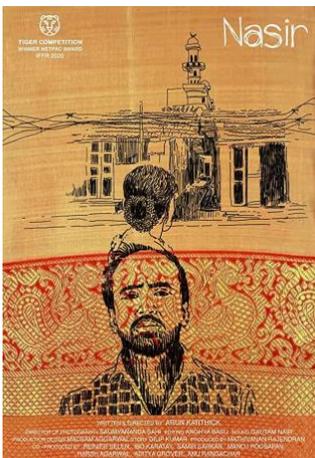


Press release

For immediate release

OIFFA ANNOUNCES ITS OPENING AND CLOSING FILMS JUNE 22 TO 26, 2021

Ottawa, June 18, 2021 — The **Ottawa Indian Film Festival Awards (OIFFA)**, which enters its 4th edition, is proud to announce its Opening and Closing Films. The Festival will open on June 22 with Tamil director Arun Karthick's feature film *Nasir*. On June 26, the Closing Film will be Marathi director Akshay Indikar's *Chronicle of Space (Sthalpuran)*. The Festival is extremely pleased to be back with an exciting selection of Indian films for an all virtual program, after a forced pause in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Festival will take place entirely ONLINE from June 22 to 26, 2021.



Winner of the NETPAC Award for the 2020 edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), *Nasir* provides an intimate foray into the life of a Muslim salesman in the province of Tamil Nadu. Hardworking and optimistic despite tough working conditions and the rampant threat of confessional violence, Nasir is a loving, romantic figure, harbouring a passion for poetry, song, and children. By choosing to focus on the events of a single day and by carefully observing the protagonist's vicinity, director Arun Karthick creates a film that is at once touching and realistic, personal and universal, a heartbreaking plea against the communal bigotry that would shatter even the simplest dream of happiness. With the screening of this film lies a chance for the audience to discover one of the most original, exciting, passionate and vital new voices in Tamil cinema, that of a naturally gifted author who developed his vision from within. A true humanist who lived for 16 months in a Muslim ghetto in order to grasp the feel of the place, its inhabitants and their plight so as to better translate it onscreen.

Away from the hustle and bustle of city life lies the backdrop of the contemplative *Chronicle of Space* from celebrated Maharashtra filmmaker Akshay Indikar. Hailed as one of the foremost practitioners of Marathi-language cinema, Indikar crafts a timeless tale of loss and change as he follows the bewildered wanderings of an eight-year-old boy named Dighu. Having just moved out of the city to his grandparents' village in rural Konkan (on the West Coast of India), Dighu struggles to make sense of his new environment, but also of his father's sudden disappearance, about which the grown-ups observe a strict omertà. Luckily, through the spectacle of pouring water, diary confessions and imaginary escapes, the young protagonist will eventually find solace from loneliness and grief. Selected for the Generation section of the 70th Berlinale, the film was in the running for the prestigious Crystal Bear award. It would go on to win the Young Cinema Award at the Asia Pacific Awards in November 2020. Selected earlier this year for the Kerala International Film Festival and the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, now is the chance for Canadian audiences to marvel at this tender gem, full of wistful beauty.



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OIFFA is the National Capital's and Eastern Canada's preeminent festival dedicated to Indian cinema and all things Indian with its **OFFICIAL COMPETITION** and **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** sections open to filmmakers from India and the Indian diaspora as well as films featuring Indian content. In its 4th year now, the Festival is extremely pleased to continue to cultivate an audience for Indian cinema and Indian culture not only in Ottawa, but throughout Canada and North American, thanks to the magic of its new online screening platform.

OIFFA's full program is available on the Festival's website, so stay tuned for this very special virtual edition. Details of the screenings as well as tickets will be available through the screening platform, accessible from the **OIFFA** website at www.oiffa.com.

For more information, go to www.oiffa.com.

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