

“From Bombay to Bollywood: 50 Years of Indian Cinema” opens January 9 at the Northwest Film Center

Indian cinema boasts the most prolific output of any national film industry on the planet, with its films, stars, and songs beloved at home and by millions around the world, yet it remains largely unknown to many audiences in the west.

Often incorrectly referred to as Bollywood — a term that actually only applies to the Hindi cinema of Mumbai, one of many film production centers in the country — Indian cinema is much more than the “song-and-a-wedding” fare typically referenced in western pop culture. Blending the traditions of musical storytelling and popular myth with dozens of different genres — often all in the same movie — Indian cinema eschews easy classification and demands recognition for its diversity and vitality.

Beginning January 9, the Northwest Film Center will screen a ten-film retrospective — “From Bombay to Bollywood: 50 Years of Indian Cinema” — that offers a primer on popular Indian cinema as well as a rare opportunity to celebrate the classic films as they are meant to be seen — big movies on the big screen.

The films featured as part of the series are:

Awaara

January 9, noon

Awaara tells the story of the intertwining lives of a poor tramp and the privileged young woman he loves. Blending comedy, romance, and pointed social commentary, producer, director, and star Raj Kapoor’s film forges a distinctly Indian identity while also giving a nod to the classics of Hollywood cinema. (India, 1951, 193 minutes)

Pyaasa

January 10, 6:30pm

Pyaasa (Thirsty), the most autobiographical of lyrical filmmaker Guru Dutt’s works, tells the story of a struggling young poet whose genius goes unrecognized until he is mistaken for dead and his work is “posthumously” published through the efforts of a golden-hearted prostitute. Suffused with an air of romantic longing, *Pyaasa* is both a celebration of the creative spirit and a harsh condemnation of society’s hypocritical attitude about



FROM BOMBAY TO BOLLYWOOD. Beginning January 9, the Northwest Film Center will screen a ten-film retrospective — “From Bombay to Bollywood: 50 Years of Indian Cinema” — that offers a primer on popular Indian cinema as well as a rare opportunity to celebrate the classic films as they are meant to be seen — big movies on the big screen. Pictured is an image from the film *Awaara*, which screens at the film center on Saturday, January 9 at noon. (Photo courtesy of the Northwest Film Center)

artists. (India, 1957, 146 minutes)

Mother India

January 16, 1:00pm

Mehboob Khan’s *Mother India* is an epic celebration of the indomitable spirit that weathered seemingly insurmountable hardships following the country’s independence from Britain. Allegorically told through the many trials and tribulations faced by Radha, a poor village woman, the story follows its heroine as she endures abandonment, destitution, floods, and fires with the same steely, selfless resolve. (India, 1957, 172 minutes)

Charulata

January 17, 2:00pm

Satyajit Ray’s *Charulata* focuses on the titular lonely housewife of an affluent Bengali family. While her husband spends his days toiling at his beloved newspaper, Charulata paces the confines of her mansion like a caged bird, dreaming of becoming a writer and breaking free of her restrictive life. (India, 1965, 117 minutes)

Sholay

January 24, 3:00pm

Often credited as the most popular film in the history of India and perhaps the one with the greatest impact on India’s pop culture, Ramesh Sippy’s *Sholay* has stunning scenes that have retained iconic status. The film centers on charismatic outlaws who are recruited by a former police-

man to help bring down a ruthless bandit. It is considered one of the great examples of the genre-mixing masala film, blending romance, action, slapstick comedy, and melodrama. (India, 1975, 204 minutes)

Salaam Bombay!

January 31, 4:00pm

Mira Nair’s *Salaam Bombay!* tells the story of a young boy who must fend for himself as he struggles to earn 500 rupees to pay for his brother’s damaged bike. The film is tender in its compassion for its young subjects and unflinching in its portrayal of the harsh realities of life on the streets of Bombay. (India, 1988, 114 minutes)

Satya

February 6, 6:00pm

Satya, by Ram Gopal Varma, was a surprise breakout hit and has been critically lauded for its realistic depiction of gang violence in Mumbai. The film follows a mysterious young man who becomes embroiled in a gangland turf war and quickly finds himself in over his head as he struggles to keep his violent life of crime secret from the object of his affections. (India, 1998, 171 minutes)

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge

February 7, 6:00pm

Aditya Chopra’s *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* tells the story of two non-resident Indians who meet on holiday in Europe

and fall in love. Even though the woman’s marriage has already been arranged to another, the man follows her to India to win over her parents and make her his bride. *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* is one of India’s best-loved romances as well as its longest running. (India, 1995, 181 minutes)

Devdas

March 6, 3:00pm

Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s *Devdas* focuses on star-crossed childhood sweethearts who are wrenched apart by circumstance and harsh societal strictures — a separation that sends them both into a tragic downward spiral. Operatic in every sense of the word, Bhansali’s adaptation of the legendary Bengali novel by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay features dazzling sets and costumes as well as stunning musical numbers. (India, 2002, 185 minutes)

Lagaan

March 12, 2:00pm

In Ashutosh Gowariker’s *Lagaan*, which takes place at the height of the British Raj (colonial rule) in the district of Champaner, an extreme drought forces a poor village to appeal to the local governor for relief from high taxes (*lagaan*). When a handsome young villager insults the commanding officer of the cantonment, the village is offered a wager: beat the British officers in a game of cricket and enjoy three years free of tax — or lose, and pay triple tax. (India, 2001, 225 minutes)

All films featured as part of “From Bombay to Bollywood: 50 Years of Indian Cinema” are screened at the Northwest Film Center’s Whitsell Auditorium, located at 1219 S.W. Park Avenue. To learn more, or to buy tickets, call (503) 221-1156 or visit <www.nwfilm.org>.

SELECT™ Package

THE BIG DEAL

\$19⁹⁹ mo. **BEST VALUE**

FOR 12 MOS. PLUS ADD'L FEES.
REQ'S ENROLLMENT IN AUTO BILL PAY & 24-MONTH AGREEMENT.
OVER 145 CHANNELS

Get incredible savings on our most popular packages.

Ask me how to Bundle and save. CALL TODAY!

YRHW Satellite
503-974-4388

DIRECTV
Now part of the AT&T Family
AUTHORIZED DEALER

*PACKAGE OFFERS: Base package prices include Instant Bill Credit for 12 months. Customer must, at point of sale, activate and maintain a qualifying programming package and Auto Bill Pay. After 12 mos., then prevailing rate for base package applies (currently, \$49.99/mo. for SELECT) unless canceled or changed by customer prior to end of the promotional period. Some offers may not be available through all channels and in select areas. **GENERAL TV SERVICE TERMS: Subject to Equipment Lease Agreement and DIRECTV Customer Agreement. Must maintain a base TV package of \$29.99/mo. or above or international service bundle. Advanced Receiver fee (\$15/mo.) required for all HD DVRs. TiVo service fee (\$5/mo.) required for TiVo HD DVR from DIRECTV lease. There is a fee of \$6.50/mo. for each receiver and/or Genie Mini/DIRECTV Ready TV/Device on your account. \$19.95 Handling & Delivery fee may apply. Non-activation charge of \$150 per receiver may apply. Taxes not included. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Visit directv.com/legal or call 1-800-DIRECTV for details. ©2015 AT&T Intellectual Property. All Rights Reserved. AT&T, Globe logo, DIRECTV, and all other DIRECTV marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

Control your diabetes For Life.

당신의 당뇨병을 조정하십시오. 일생동안.

ကျားနာမှုကို ထိန်းချုပ်ရန်အတွက် ဝါးပင်ကို အသုံးပြုပါ။

अपनी डायबिटीज को नियंत्रित करने के लिए नियमित रूप से किये।

ជំងឺស៊ុគ្រាសរបស់អ្នកអាចត្រូវបានគ្រប់គ្រងបានដោយប្រើប្រាស់កែវឈើ។

ગુજરાતી ગુણવત્તાવાળું સ્વાસ્થ્ય. સ્વાસ્થ્યને જાળવવાનું સારું સાધન.

Tewj koj lus kab mob nishav qab zib. Rau lub neej troj sia.

E mātama i kou ma'i kōpae'a - no kou nohona holo ōko'a.

ကျန်းမာရေးကို ထိန်းချုပ်ရန်အတွက် ဝါးပင်ကို အသုံးပြုပါ။

Lun Kiām Sui Tiou Duang. Dè Suối Dơi Sống Khỏe.

Pamahalaan ang inyong diyabetes. upang manatiling malusog at masigla.

Adahi i Daibites-mu. Para i Lina'la'-mu.

la pulea lou ma'i suka. Mo lou soifuaga.

NATIONAL DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

For more information, please call 1-800-860-8747 or visit www.ndep.nih.gov.

Wondering what events are going on this week?
Check out The Asian Reporter’s Community and A.C.E. Calendar sections, on pages 10 and 12.