

26 July 2019



Lipstick Under My Burkha, directed by Alankrita Shrivastava

Not Just Bollywood 2019 programme announced

Third annual season is dedicated to the work of women directors

Wed 11 Sep - Wed 2 Oct 2019

HOME's annual celebration of contemporary Indian culture, **Not Just Bollywood**, will return for a third year and will reflect HOME's ongoing *Celebrating Women in Global Cinema* season with the programme devoted to films directed by women. Curated by UK-based film scholar, Omar Ahmed and HOME's Head of Film Rachel Hayward, the 2019 programme is presented in partnership with much-loved Bombay café, [Dishoom](#), who will also present an Indian cookery workshop as part of the season's special events programme.

Kicking off the season on 11 September, is the first film in **Deepa Mehta's** controversial '**Elements**' trilogy, a body of work exploring homosexuality in contemporary India (*Fire*, 1996), the horrors of Partition (*Earth*, 1998), and religion (*Water*, 2005). Rarely screened before in the UK, the trilogy highlights the work of two of Indian cinema's most politically engaged women filmmakers - director

HOME

Deepa Mehta and prolific actor-director Nandita Das (*Manto*, *Firaaq*) who stars in both *Fire* and *Earth*.

Reflecting the increasing prominence of women filmmakers in independent Indian cinema, the 2019 programme also includes three debut features.

Konkona Sen Sharma's ***A Death in the Gunj*** (2016) is a critically acclaimed period piece featuring an ensemble cast of some of India's most well-respected actors, including Ranvir Shorey, Tillotama Shome, Kalki Koechlin and Om Puri. Rohena Gera's ***Sir*** (2018) is a contemporary urban fairy tale set in Mumbai, while Anu Menon's ***Waiting*** (2015), shot in the historic coastal city of Kochi, offers a philosophical commentary on death, love and social media. Spectacular locations are also on display in Ukrainian-born Dar Gai's second feature, ***Namdev Bhau in Search of Silence*** (2018), which follows an old Mumbai man as he journeys to Silent Valley in the high Himalayas on a mission to find some peace and quiet.

The award-winning and critically acclaimed ***Lipstick Under My Burkha*** (2016) from Alankrita Shrivastava, one of India's leading contemporary writer-directors, will screen on 21 September. Initially banned by the censors in India, the film, about four small-town Indian women, is a timely exploration of sexual desire, resistance and patriarchal oppression. Season co-curator Omar Ahmed cites Shrivastava's film along with *Waiting* and *Sir*, as examples of an ongoing wave of films that celebrate the emergence of the "New Woman" in contemporary India, a topic that will be discussed in a special One Hour Intro event on 28 September - "**The New Woman and Contemporary Indian Cinema.**" The University of Warwick's Dr Saba Hussain will lead an illustrated talk about the impact of the #MeToo movement on Indian society and cinema, linking this to the rise of on-screen resistance and the growing power of the female audience at the Indian box office.



Other special events in the season include a **Dishoom workshop** exploring the flavours, traditions and techniques of Indian cuisine. Dates and booking details for the workshop will be released in due course.

Season co-curator Omar Ahmed comments: *"Building on the tremendous success of last year's edition, we're excited that Not Just Bollywood 2019 will showcase the innovative and radical work of women directors past and present. My thanks go out to HOME for continuing to exhibit and celebrate alternative and independent Indian films and I'm delighted that HOME will be hosting regular Not Just Bollywood programming throughout 2020."*

Co-curator and HOME's Head of Film, Rachel Hayward, adds: *"We're delighted with the synergy between Not Just Bollywood 2019 and our ongoing year-long Celebrating Women in Global Cinema programme, designed to champion and celebrate women in film across the world. We're also excited to welcome Dishoom on board as partners and encourage our audiences to try out their menu of Bombay comfort food and award-winning tipples, including the 'Bollybellini', as the perfect accompaniment to the programme."*

Not Just Bollywood 2019 is presented in partnership with Dishoom, the Bombay café in Manchester. Just as *Not Just Bollywood* celebrates Indian culture beyond the mainstream, so too do Dishoom, who pay loving homage to the Irani cafés and food of Bombay. Like these beloved Bombay institutions, which were the first places in the city where people from all walks of life shared tables, rubbed shoulders and broke bread together, Dishoom is dedicated to breaking down barriers. Their menu brings together dishes from the city's restaurants, street stalls and homes, from Parsi, Hindu and Muslim traditions. This is also expressed through the restaurants, which employ and serve people from all walks of life, at their events, and through their commitment to charity (donating a meal for every meal, totaling 6.6 million meals so far).

#NotJustBollywood



#WomenatHOME

www.homemcr.org/not-just-bollywood

To book tickets please visit www.HOMEmcr.org , or call box office on +44 (0)161 200 1500.

For further information, images or review ticket requests please contact:

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IN BRIEF: *Not Just Bollywood 2019*

The Elements Trilogy

Wed 11 Sep / Sun 15 Sep / Wed 18 Sep

Made over a period of 10 years Deepa Mehta's controversial Elements trilogy was a monumental undertaking exploring gender, sexuality, violence and religion through a largely feminist perspective. Beginning with *Fire* (1996) that examines homosexuality in contemporary India, Mehta went on to confront the horrors of Partition in *Earth* (1998) and finished with *Water* (2005) that critiqued religion. Mehta also faced a battle with censors and faced protests when she made *Water* (2005). The award-winning cast includes Nandita Das, Aamir Khan and Shabana Azmi.

Fire (15) + introduction

Wed 11 Sep, 18:05

Dir Deepa Mehta/CA IN 1996/108 mins/Hindi and English with partial EngST
Shabana Azmi, Nandita Das, Karishma Jhalani

Loosely based on Ismat Chughtai's controversial short story 'Lihaaf' (The Quilt), Deepa Mehta's seminal film is a powerful critique of patriarchy and one of the first Indian films to depict a lesbian relationship. It also stars Shabana Azmi, a major figure in Indian Parallel Cinema, and with a soundtrack by international film composer A. R. Rahman.

Event: This screening will be introduced by season curators Omar Ahmed and Rachel Hayward.

Earth (15)

Sun 15 Sep, 15:45

Dir Deepa Mehta/CA IN 1998/109 mins/Hindi and English with partial EngST
Aamir Khan, Nandita Das, Rahul Khanna

A searing adaptation of Bapsi Sidhwa's novel 'Cracking India' (1991), Deepa Mehta's second part in the Elements trilogy illustrates how women were victims of Partition, subjected to a trauma and symbolised in the marked violence perpetrated against them. The film stars Nandita Das and Aamir Khan.

Water (12A)

Wed 18 Sep, 18:00

Dir Deepa Mehta/CA IN 2005/117 mins/Hindi and English with partial EngST
Sarala, Buddhi Wickrama, Iranganie Serasinghe

The final part of the Elements trilogy is set in 1938 during a time of growing resistance to British rule and deals with the discrimination and ostracism faced by widows in India. Mehta set out to make the film in 2000 but protestors destroyed the sets and Mehta was later forced to film in secrecy in Sri Lanka. The film stars Seema Biswas and Lisa Ray.

Lipstick Under My Burkha

Sat 21 Sep, 18:00

Dir Alankrita Shrivastava/IN 2016/117 mins/Hindi wEngST
Aahana Kumra, Ratna Pathak Shah, Konkona Sen Sharma

Lipstick Under My Burkha is part of an on-going wave of films that celebrate the emergence of the New Woman in contemporary India. Focusing on the lives of four women from a cross section of Indian society, director Alankrita Shrivastava constructs an inclusive and empowering representation of female resistance,



disruption and solidarity. The film faced a battle with censors, leading to a delay in the release of the film. However, widespread critical acclaim meant the film went on to become an unexpected box office hit.

A Death in the Gunj

Sun 22 Sep, 15:50

Dir Konkana Sen Sharma/IN 2016/110 mins/English, Hindi and Bengali with partial EngST

Kalki Koechlin, Vikrant Massey, Gulshan Devaiah

This period piece features an impressive ensemble cast made up of some of India's best actors including Ranvir Shorey, Kalki Koechlin, Tillotama Shome, Vikrant Massey, Gulshan Devaiah, Jim Sarbh and Om Puri. Konkana Sen Sharma's full-length debut feature is a measured and layered study of the repressed tensions and rivalries that steadily rises to the surface amongst a group of friends and family who go on a vacation together. The film has won numerous awards on the festival circuit.

Event: One-Hour Intro: The New Woman and Contemporary Indian Cinema

Sat 28 Sep, 15:30

The re-gendering of narrative storytelling with the recent emergence of the New Woman points to a shifting acknowledgment of the growing power of the female audience at the Indian box office. This illustrated talk will spotlight some of the best examples of this new film practice, celebrating and examining the rise of the New Woman and what this potentially means for the Indian film industry and South Asian cinema more widely.

Led by Dr Saba Hussain, University of Warwick.

Sir

Sat 28 Sep, 17:00

Dir Rohena Gera/IN FR 2018/99 mins/ Hindi, English and Marathi with partial EngST

Tillotama Shome, Vivek Gomber, Ahmareen Anjum

Set in contemporary Mumbai, writer and director Rohena Gera's debut film *Sir* is a sharply crafted urban fairy-tale with fine comic touches. The script is wonderfully underplayed and Tillotama Shome (*Monsoon Wedding*, *Qissa*) is in superb form bringing to life the nuances of Ratna, a widow and migrant worker who has aspirations of becoming a tailor. The cast also includes Vivek Gomber who starred in the award-winning *Court* (Not Just Bollywood 2017).

Namdev Bhau in Search of Silence

Sun 29 Sep, 13:50

Dir Dar Gai/IN 2018/84 mins/Hindi wEngST

Arya Dave, Namdev Gurav, Zoya Hussain

The mythical 'Silent Valley' is the destination for Namdev Bhau, a sixty-five year-old chauffeur who cannot cope with the noise of the city anymore. Ukrainian born Dar Gai's second feature film adopts an episodic narrative that recalls the spirit of the road movie genre. Along the way a young boy Aaliq (Arya Dave) joins Namdev on his search for tranquillity. With magnificent cinematography and a wonderful supporting cast, this is a brilliant study of the want to escape the dread of urban life.

Waiting + introduction

Wed 2 Oct, 18:10

Dir Anu Menon/IN 2015/92 mins/Hindi and English with partial EngST

Naseeruddin Shah, Kalki Koechlin, Jennifer Antony

Shot in the picturesque coastal city of Kochi, two strangers strike up an unlikely friendship in a hospital waiting room that leads to an extended philosophical commentary on death, love and social media. Anu Menon's *Waiting* is another satisfying work from Drishyam Films that re-teams stalwart Parallel Cinema actor Naseeruddin Shah with Kalki Koechlin, one of the best actors of her generation.

Event: This screening will be introduced by Roy Stafford, freelance film educator.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in 2015, HOME has welcomed over two million visitors to its five cinemas, two theatres, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME's five screens showcase the best new independent film releases alongside a unique programme of film seasons, festivals, and special events. HOME's bold and diverse programming has screened 626 films from 57 countries in the past year, and its robust audience numbers consistently make HOME one of the UK's top performing independent cinemas for new releases.

A popular choice for established and emerging filmmakers keen to participate in Q&A events with engaged audiences, HOME has welcomed the following filmmakers and more since opening: Clio Barnard, Gurinder Chadha, Felix Chong, Paddy Considine, Armando Iannucci, Ken Loach, Alice Lowe, Rungano Nyoni, Lynne Ramsay, Nicolas Winding Refn, Whit Stillman, and Ben Wheatley.

Overseen by Creative Director for Film and Culture Jason Wood, HOME also produces a specially curated, original programme of film seasons and special events and is committed to supporting UK film talent and introducing emerging filmmakers to a wide audience.

The patrons of HOME are filmmakers Danny Boyle and Asif Kapadia, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay MBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE.
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HOME, with Showroom Workstation and Tyneside Cinema, are a collective leading Film Hub North, part BFI Film Audience Network supported by National Lottery Funding.

Dishoom pays loving homage to the Irani cafés that were once part of the fabric of life in Bombay. Opened early last century by Zoroastrian immigrants from Iran, there were almost 400 of these cafés at their peak in the 1960s. Today, fewer than 30 remain. These cafés broke down barriers by bringing people together over food and drink. They were the first places in Bombay where people of any culture, class or religion could take cool refuge from the street with a cup of chai, a simple snack or a hearty meal. People from all walks of life shared tables, rubbed shoulders and broke bread together.

Like the old Irani cafés, Dishoom breaks down barriers: in its restaurants, which employ and serve people from all walks of life, at its events, and through charity (donating a meal for every meal - 6.6 million meals so far).

Dishoom serves a lovingly curated menu of Bombay comfort food and award-winning drinks in beautiful restaurants with unique stories. Everything Dishoom does shares its love for Bombay's culture, heritage and people, and everyone is welcomed with warmth.

Dishoom is managed by a team of Babus* led by co-founders Shamil and Kavi Thakrar. Naved Nasir is the Executive Chef-walla. The first Dishoom opened in Covent Garden in 2010, and Dishoom now has five cafés in London, one in Edinburgh, and one in Manchester.

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