

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Not Just Bollywood returns with a celebration of Irrfan Khan and a focus on Bengali cinema



*The Warrior, starring Irrfan Khan, is a highlight of this year's Not Just Bollywood season*

Images can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3ANUN47>

The programme for this year's [Not Just Bollywood](#) season at HOME has been announced – with a particular celebration of the films of Irrfan Khan and a focus on Bengali cinema.

Now in its fifth year, Not Just Bollywood showcases contemporary Indian independent cinema with films in a variety of languages and from a range of regional film industries.

The season is curated by Rachel Hayward, HOME's Head of Film, and UK-based film scholar Omar Ahmed

Irrfan Khan's tragic death at the age of fifty-three came as a shock to the film world, and he left behind a rich and memorable body of work.

# HOME

As well as a One Hour Intro on Saturday 2 October giving an insight into Irrfan's career, there will be a duo of film screenings – **The Namesake**, directed by Mira Nair and with a soundtrack by Nitin Sawhney on Saturday 25 September, and **The Warrior**, Asif Kapadia's debut feature, also on Saturday 2 October. In *The Namesake* a young couple struggle to bridge the divide with their son after moving to New York City, while in *The Warrior*, set in feudal Rajasthan, Khan plays Lafcadia, a guilt-ridden warrior who renounces violence and undergoes a spiritual journey.

This year, HOME will also be teaming up with the Manchester Indian Film Festival, a new sister festival of the Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival, to present a series of film shorts, **Too Desi Too Queer**, on Wednesday, 29 September.

The programme is a dynamic and thought-provoking selection of six recent LGBTQIA+ short films exploring the lives, experiences and well-being of South Asian LGBTQIA+ communities in the Subcontinent and diaspora.

The shorts include **Stray Dogs Come out at Night, Wig, Compartment, Ekaant, I Know Her** and **Vaidya**.

Also screening as part of HOME's partnership with the Manchester Indian Film Festival is **The Wanderlust of Apu**, on Monday 27 September, a follow-up to Satyajit Ray's classic Apu Trilogy, bringing the warm and endearing character back as he embarks on a spirited journey with his son Kajol in search of new beginnings.

Four more films complete this year's *Not Just Bollywood* line up. On Monday, 4 October, HOME will present the UK Premiere of **Manohar and I**, winner of Best Film at the International Film Festival of Kerala in 2018. Director Amitabha Chatterjee's captivating story is tale of loners in a modern-day Calcutta, an exceptional portrayal of friendships and family relationships, what we choose to share and what we keep secret.

On Thursday, 20 September, screens **A Dog and His Man**, a startling directorial debut from Siddharth Tripathy, one of the new wave of Indian independent filmmakers who continue to question the status quo of Indian society. Having been served an eviction notice to leave his home in Chhattisgarh, Shoukie looks on despondently as his village is steadily consumed by a mining company who go about wiping away a history and past with a ruthless, apathetic determination. Together with his dog Kheru, his only friend, Shoukie defies the orders of the mining company and remains the last person in a village which has witnessed mass displacement, in a defiant political tale about exploitation, displacement and greed.

**Nirvana Inn**, on Saturday 9 October, is a contemporary Indian Gothic from Tamil filmmaker Vijay Jayapal that takes cues from the work of Stephen King and Alfred Hitchcock to blur the line between reality and the subconscious.

Monday, 11 October is International Day of the Girl Child, and the release date for **I Am Belmaya** (also screening on Wednesday 13 October), a true story of rebellion, tragedy

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and triumph, set in the slums and mountains of Nepal. Silenced and subjugated all her life, an uneducated young Dalit woman takes the movie camera and power into her hands to tell her story.

Tickets for all films go on sale on Friday, 3 September. More information is available at [homemcr.org](http://homemcr.org).

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

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**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 over 600 films from nearly 60 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 CBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. [www.homemcr.org](http://www.homemcr.org) | @HOME\_mcr | Facebook HOME\_mcr

The **London, Manchester and Birmingham Indian Film Festivals** are organised to showcase the best of independent Indian, South Asian and UK Asian films, in cinemas around the UK and online via the site [www.LoveLIFFatHome.com](http://www.LoveLIFFatHome.com). The festival is supported by funders including the British Film Institute (BFI) via its Lottery fund. For more information on the festival's annual programme check out the website [www.londonindianfilmfestival.co.uk](http://www.londonindianfilmfestival.co.uk) (or you can substitute [www.manchesterindianfilmfestival.co.uk](http://www.manchesterindianfilmfestival.co.uk))

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Did you know that HOME is a charity? We need your support to bring the best film, theatre and art to Manchester and inspire the next generation. Get involved at [www.homemcr.org/support](http://www.homemcr.org/support)

HOME is proud to have achieved the BFI's diversity standards for its film programme.

