



For Immediate Release

## “THE INDIA NOW”

### Celebrating Contemporary Indian Cinema at MoMA

Presented Films are : ‘Yes Madam Sir’, ‘The Firm Land’, ‘Firaq’, ‘Wagah’, ‘Smile Pinki’, ‘Luck by Chance’, ‘Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!’, ‘Yarwng’ (Roots), ‘The Voyeurs’ (Ami, Yasin Aur Amar Madhubala), ‘Children of the Pyre’, ‘A Mango Tree in the Front Yard’, ‘Supermen of Malegaon’, ‘Quick Gun Murugan’.



**June 05 – 18, 2009**

**Marguerite & Kent Charugundla** and **Tamarind Art Council** are proud to sponsor “*The New India*”, a two – week, 16 film exhibition celebrating contemporary Indian Cinema between **June 5 -18, 2009**, at the **Museum of Modern Art**. The exhibition is organized by Joshua Siegel, Associate Curator, Department of Film, MoMA, and guest curator Uma da Cunha. The exhibition will take place at The Roy and Niuta Titus Theatres at MoMA.

Following the success of MoMA's 2007 *India Now* exhibition, *The New India* presents sixteen contemporary Indian feature and short-length films, including eight New York theatrical premieres. The selection captures the astonishing range of fiction and documentary styles and genres in Indian cinema today. Several filmmakers will introduce their work, including Naseeruddin Shah, Nandita Das, Abhay Deol, and the Academy Award–winning documentary maker Megan Mylan.

*The New India* opens with the New York premiere of Megan Doneman's *Yes Madam, Sir*, a riveting portrait, narrated by Helen Mirren, and one of India's most inspiring and controversial public figures, Kiran Bedi. Both Doneman and Bedi will introduce the opening-night screening.

Other highlights include three recent commercial and critical Bollywood hits: Ashutosh Gowariker's *Jodhaa Akbar*, Zoya Akhtar's *Luck by Chance*, a witty send-up of the Bollywood dream factory; and Dibakar Banerjee's *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!*, a sharp satire of New Delhi culture introduced by its star, Abhay Deol, on June 8. In addition, celebrating genre moviemaking with their New York premieres are Shashank Ghosh's outrageous "curry Western" *Quick Gun Murugan*, from the wildly popular Tamil cinema of southern India, and Faiza Ahmad Kahn's

infectiously charming documentary *Supermen of Malegaon*. Bengali cinema is represented by one of its most internationally respected filmmakers, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, with *The Voyeurs*. And exemplifying the so-called unconventional, or "parallel," cinema is Neeraj Pandey's sleeper hit *A Wednesday*, a disturbing cat-and-mouse thriller introduced by its legendary star, Naseeruddin Shah on June 10.

*The New India* also explores some of the devastating problems afflicting India today, from child exploitation and AIDS, to sectarian riots and tribal uprooting. Politically charged fiction films include Chapour Haghghat's *The Firm Land* (introduced by the director on June 6); Nandita Das's *Firaaq* (introduced by the celebrated actor-filmmaker and activist on June 6); and Father Joseph Pulinthanath's *Roots*. The exhibition features a notably strong selection of recent non-fiction films, many of them centering on stories of children that are both inspiring and disturbing: Megan Mylan's Academy Award-winning short subject *Smile Pinki* (introduced by the director on June 7), Rajesh S. Jala's *Children of the Pyre*, and Sourav Sarangi's *Bilal*.

For screening schedules, please visit [www.tamarindarts.org](http://www.tamarindarts.org) or [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org)

### About Tamarind Art Council

Tamarind Art Council (TAC) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting contemporary art in North America. Our focus is to support all types of artistic expression, including performing and fine arts, by sponsoring art-related activities and cross-cultural events in order to expand awareness for art and culture.

**Our mission:** Tamarind Art Council exemplifies how life can revolve around the arts. Our mission is to impel the work of contemporary artists and performers and to facilitate public appreciation for these unique cultural art forms. Some of our events include art exhibitions, performing arts, book launches, lectures and other cultural programs. As part of our on-going efforts, we support art museums, cultural communities and not-for-profit organizations around the globe. Tamarind Art has become a nexus for many art organizations and is a foremost resource center for gaining an understanding of all art forms, artists, and other areas of interest to individuals, businesses and art connoisseurs.

Tamarind Art Council is proud to announce sponsorship of The Museum of Modern Art's (MoMA) film screening "INDIA NOW," a bi-annual program launched in 2007, which is to be presented at the museum as "NEW INDIA" again in June 2009.

Our most successful and well-received exhibition, displayed from April 10<sup>th</sup> – May 3, 2008, entitled "Gandhi: The Legacy," was held in collaboration with Philip Glass Opera and Satya Graha Forum. This unique photography exhibition captured a nostalgic view of Gandhi's true legacy. There were two scholarly lectures presented during the exhibition. One from Ram Rahman, who placed contemporary Indian Photography into the context of the "lost" histories of photography in the post-Independence era, and another lecture on Mahatma Gandhi by Prof. Akeel Bilgrami, Johnsonian Professor of Philosophy, dept of philosophy, Director, Heyman Centre for the Humanities Columbia University, concluded this special exhibition.

Other sponsorships include Festival of India with WMI featuring Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Husain, Masters of Indian Music – Rahul Sharma & Zakir Husain with WMI in November 2007, Prema Murthy's Fuzzy Logic Exhibition at P.S. 1 MoMA from June – September 2007, and the Contemporary Photography and Video Art exhibition "India Public Places/Private Spaces" held at the Newark Museum of Art from September 2007 – January 2008. Our ongoing effort continued in 2009 with a lecture by Pablo Bartholomew in April 2009. A talk by Rebecca S. Brown, an associate professor of art history at Johns Hopkins University, and author of the recent book, *Art for a Modern India, 1947-1980*. April 17, 2009. We are participating in ACAW with several performances in the Asia Art Week, and many others.

**For more information about Tamarind Art Council, please visit our website at [www.tamarindarts.org](http://www.tamarindarts.org). Tamarind Art Council is located at 142 E. 39<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, 10016. Contact us by calling (212)200-8000 or emailing [admin@tamarindarts.org](mailto:admin@tamarindarts.org).**

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