

## By a Correspondent

-NEW YORK

**A**lankrita Shrivastava's "Lipstick Under My Burkha" will launch the New York Indian Film Festival on April 30 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, followed by a fundraising gala. Although banned in India, the film is continuing its march through festivals around the world. It premiered at the Tokyo and Mumbai film festivals, where it won the Spirit of Asia Prize and the Oxfam Award for Best Film on Gender Equality, respectively.

The film was also screened at the Los Angeles Indian Film Festival and the Dallas South Asian Film Festival.

The 17th edition of the New York festival includes 44 shorts, documentaries and feature films from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, representing English, Hindi and seven regional languages - Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati and Bengali.

The festival's centerpiece film is the New York premiere of "An Insignificant Man," Khushboo Ranka and Vinay Shukla's critically acclaimed documentary about India's Aam Aadmi Party activist Arvind Kejriwal. After its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2016, the film has traveled to a number of festivals around the world, including ones in London, Busan and Mumbai.

The New York festival will close on May 7 with the North American premiere of Milind Dhaimade's "You Are My Sunday," a slice-of-life comedy about five close friends who struggle to find a place to play soccer in Mumbai every Sunday.

During the week, films will be screened at the Village East Cinemas, including the centerpiece film, "An Insignificant Man," on May 3. The closing night film, "You Are My Sunday," will be shown at Mason Hall on the Baruch College campus.

Sibling filmmakers Deepa Mehta and Dilip Mehta will present their respective New York Premieres of "Anatomy of Violence," and "Mostly Sunny," on May 6.

The world premieres of both the films were held at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2016.

The festival will pay tribute to Om Puri by screening Konkona Sen Sharma's directorial debut film, "Death in the Gunj," on May 1. One of India's most versatile character actors who starred



Venkata Krishnan Ganesan

## Where Cinema Shines

N.Y. Indian Film Fest brings 44 offerings in 7 languages

in more than 147 films during his illustrious career, Puri died on Jan. 7. He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honor.

Several films which recently won the 64th National Film Awards will also be screened. Marathi films "Ventilator," which won the best director award for Rajesh Mapuskar, best recordist for final mixed track and best editing award, and "Kaasav,"



Above, Aroon Shivdasani, executive and artistic director of the Indo-American Arts Council speaks at the April 18 event to announce the 17th annual New York Indian Film Festival. Left, Shivdasani and NYIFF director Aseem Chhabra, left, with actress Aahana Kumra at the Delhi Art Gallery in New York. Kumar's film "Lipstick Under My Burkha," will open the festival April 30.

(May 4); Shoot a Short Film workshop by National award-winning filmmaker Umesh Kulkarni (May 5 and 6); and documentaries, "With This Ring," (about the women on the Indian National Boxing Team) and celebrating filmmaker Satyajit Ray on his birthday, May 2.

Movie buffs will also be able to see cinema from India's neighbors. Films screened include "Lala Begum" and "Jeewan Hathi," from Pakistan; "Red Butterfly Dream," from Sri Lanka and "Kingdom of Clay Subjects" from Bangladesh.

Through screenings, post-screening discussions, industry panels, an award ceremony, special events, nightly networking parties, and red carpet galas, NYIFF aims to build an awareness of Indian cinema, entertain and educate North Americans about the realities of the lives and people in the Indian sub-continent.

NYIFF is the flagship event of the Indo-American Arts Council, a not-for-profit, service and resource arts organization with the mission of promoting and building the awareness, creation, production, exhibition, publication and performance of Indian, subcontinental and cross-cultural art forms in North America.

### Event features N.Y. premiere of 'An Insignificant Man'

which won the best film award, will be screened on May 4 and May 6 respectively. Ananth Mahadevan's "Doctor Rakhmabai," starring Tannishtha Chatterjee will be screened on May 1.

Director Abhishek Jain's feature film "Wrong Side Raju," which won the National Film Award for Best Gujarati film, will be screened on May 4, while Best Short Film category winner "Aaba," will be screened on May 1.

Other highlights of the week-long festival include "Mobile Bollywood: One-Minute Cell Phone Films" by NYU Tisch Cinema Studies students; panels with industry experts on financing a film, casting, shooting in New York, distribution and More



"Death in the Gunj"