

# 7th Annual International Sikh Film Festival on Oct. 22

Toronto: The Sikh Art and Film Foundation proudly announce its Seventh Annual Film Festival on October 22nd, 2010. Faithful to its mission of creating awareness and pride in the diversity, culture and history of the Sikhs, the Festival will showcase exemplary masterpieces in film-making, art and direction. The two-day event will offer a range of 12 films, dealing with heart-rending Sikh stories across the globe, from both established and emerging filmmakers.

The Premiere will be held at Asia Society and Museum, in New York on October 22nd from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The festival will bring the immigrant experience of the Sikhs to the forefront with a diverse mix of short films. The glamour of the event will be heightened with glitterati walking the red carpet, a champagne reception and an informational Q&A. It will also provide an excellent forum to network with dignitaries, ambassadors, celebrities and corporate leaders. The exclusive films that will be unveiled at this event were selected to elevate one's experience of Sikhism; to teach and to inspire. The two-day event will conclude with the Foundations annual Heritage Gala where awards will be presented to winners of the films.

Announcing the 2010 Festival and Gala, Mr. Tejinder S. Bindra, President of the Sikh Art and Film Foundation, said, "I am humbled with the encouragement and overwhelming response we are getting for our festival year after year. At only the seventh year of



its inception the Sikh Film Festival has grown phenomenally. I feel much pride in witnessing the interest of young Sikhs in our culture and their enthusiasm in participating in this event." He went on to add, "I hope they are inspired by our tradition and culture, and continue to make us proud Sikhs in society."

Vikas Khanna's, 'Holy Kitchens: A True Business', directed by Dalit Singh, produced by Andrew Blackmore and Dobbyn Webberz, is about the religious tenet of providing free food ('Langar') through its kitchen temples, to all regardless of their belief. The film provides a historical perspective of the origin of Sikhism.

'HARVEST OF GRIEF,' directed

by Anwar Jamal and produced by Rasil Singh Basu, is a documentary that deals with a farmer's suicide in Sangrur in south Punjab. A chain of disruptive historical events and myopic government policies has caused the alarming agricultural scenario in Punjab.

'THE REBEL QUEEN,' directed by Michael Singh deals with how the daughter of an Indian dog kennel owner, Maharani Jindan, wife of one Maharajah and mother of another, almost brought the British Empire to its knees and the ensuing ruthless propaganda to scramble back and fight her.

Following the film showcase on October 22nd, an After Party will take place from 10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. at the Garden Court, Asia Society.

The second day of the Film Festival will be held at the Asia Society and Museum on October 23rd, 2010. Short Films will be showcased from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and documentaries from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Among the movies that will be showcased at this time are heart rending stories such as 'Nothing is Impossible,' 'Cancer Express', 'Riding the Tiger' and 'Why? We are killing our daughters.'. Present among the panel of distinguished judges will be personalities such as Dr. Narinder S. Kapany (Indian born American physicist, widely acknowledged as the father of optical fiber), Robert Lupone (renowned American actor and artistic director both on stage, film and television) and Vicki Mabrey

(correspondent for ABC News' "Nightline"). Winners of the films will receive cash prizes totaling \$15,000 by venerated Raj Babbar at the Heritage Gala.

Concluding the Film Festival will be a glittering Sikh Heritage Gala at the prestigious The New York Public Library at Bryant Park at 7.00 p.m on October 23rd. The evening will celebrate the rich heritage, traditions and culture of the Sikhs with a star studded evening of live performances, dance, art exhibition and auction. Live performance by none other than the bhangra sensation Sukhbir and Oscar performing choreographer Rujata along with DJ music will ensure the black tie event is fun packed and brimming with excitement.

The Sikh Arts and Film Foundation also recognize individuals for their contributions toward enriching the Sikh experience. Awards will be presented to individuals who have contributed towards this experience during the Heritage Gala. The honorees for 2010 Heritage Awards are Raj Babbar (for Vision), Padmashree Vikramjit S. Sahney (for Leadership), Arpana Caur (for Art).

For tickets (at discounted prices before September 30th), itinerary, and schedule of films please visit <http://www.sikharts.com>

The Sikh Art and Film Foundation is a non-profit cultural organization dedicated to creating awareness and pride in the diversity, culture and history of the Sikhs, as well as the contributions of Sikhs in American society.

## Mehfil Group Celebrates Ramadan Eid

Nearly 300 people gathered at the Golden banquet hall in Brampton to celebrate Ramadan Eid under the banner of Mehfil Group, the eminent social, cultural and literary organisation. Clad in their traditional attires they came from Ajax, Pickering, Markham, Scarborough, Richmond Hill, St. Catherin and even Niagara. People were hugging each other and wishing and greeting by saying "Eid Mubarak." Present among attendees were men, women, youth, elders and children. The joy and happiness was visible everywhere in the hall.

Dr. Kristie Duncan, MP and Ms. Susan Hall, Councillor from Etobicoke and Mr. Bruce Haines, Mayoral candidate from Brampton were present to meet and greet the participants. Dun-

can and Hall came dressed in Punjabi suits with dupattas.

Firoz Khan, president of Mehfil Group welcomed all guests and participants by greeting them with Eid Mubarak. He said the Group was formed in 2003 and since then every year it organises annual Eid Milan. "This year it is our Sixth eid milan. Due to some reasons we couldn't organise it last year. This is the event people are very curious to join. We started getting enquiries from fifteenth roza as to when the event will be held."

He further said the Group has more than 300 members in Toronto and GTA. "In Canada unlike in India and Pakistan we can't celebrate our festivals in open. Here we have a Banquet

culture. Eid Milan is an opportunity for everyone to come together at one place and exchange pleasantries. People hardly get time to talk to each other. Such events are good opportunities for them to meet and talk to each other. We also try to provide some entertainment for all."

Duncan, the chief guest greeted people by saying, "Salam aalikum and Eid Mubarak." She said, "I know how hard your fasting is. Many of my students at University of Toronto, where I teach, keep fasting for the whole month. Many times I sat with them to break it in the evening. Frankly speaking, I can't keep it for a day. I am glad that during Ramadan every Muslim lives a spiritual life and gives maximum charity and donations. I am also happy to know that Mehfil Group is in my area of Etobicoke. I am delighted to be here for which I thank this Group. I wish you all celebrate many eids."

Hall, as a guest of honour said "I know this Group and Firoz for many years. To be very frank I never miss any opportunity to attend any of their functions. By organising such events Firoz and his colleagues are truly promoting multiculturalism, the core value of Canada."

Haines, the candidate for mayor of Brampton said "I am happy to be part of such a big crowd. I can understand the hard work put forward by organisers to organise such a successful event." He greeted the participants by saying "Eid Mubarak."

He further said "Brampton is popularly known in some quarters as 'Browntown' as there lives a majority of South Asians. There are not



many facilities available for them. If elected as Mayor, apart from other tasks, he will work to promote the games of Cricket and Kabaddi. He will try to build a stadium for cricket.

Every year Mehfil Group recognises the services of a few individuals and organisations by giving them 'Jewel of the Community' awards. This year too Iqbal Malek of Iqbal Foods and Peace Services were recognised for community services. Tasleem Elahi Zulf, Jay Gajjar and Mohammed Ali Bhaidu 'Wafa' were recognised for literature.

The function started with Tilawat-e-Qur'an by Abdul Gaffar Shaikh. Zameer Patil, vice president of the group proposed a vote of thanks. Yaad-e-Rafi, a Bollywood songs programme was presented by Mehboob Shaikh, Priti Acharya, Geeta Chora, Chanda Sthankiya, Saeed Siddiqui and Bharat Vyas.

The greeting message received from Ms. Preeti Saran, Consul General of India was read at the function.

Mohammed Rashid Shaikh and Ashfaq Khan conducted the whole show in English and Urdu respectively.

### 'Mom, I Don't Want To Speak My Mother Tongue'

Canadian documentary produced by Chandra Bambah



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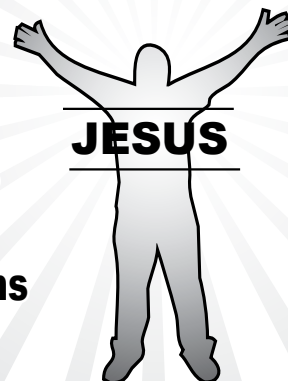
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