



## THE 6TH LONDON BENGALI FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FULL PROGRAMME FOR 2023

Opening Film Muhammad Quayam's **THE GOLDEN WINGS OF WATERCOCKS (KURA POKKHIR SHUNYE URA)**

UK Premiere of Naseeruddin Shah and Soumitra Chatterjee Starrer **A HOLY CONSPIRACY**

Closing Film Kaushik Ganguly's **AN ANGEL'S KISS (LOKKHI CHELE)**

In Conversation with Naseeruddin Shah

20.04.2023

The London Bengali Film Festival today announced the full line up of films included in this year's 6th edition of Europe's largest Bengali film festival, running **April 26 - 30, 2023**. The programme includes 7 feature films and 3 shorts in Bengali and Hindi languages (with English subtitles) from Bangladesh, India and beyond.

The Festival launches at the prestigious **Barbican Cinema** with the **UK Premiere** of 64-year-old **Muhammad Quayam's** poignant debut feature, ***The Golden Wings of Watercocks (Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura)***, on the livelihoods and struggles of the peasants living in the 'Haor' (marshland) regions of Bangladesh followed by a **Q&A** with the director.

Additional **UK Premieres** include ***A Holy Conspiracy***, directed by Saibal Mitra, a powerful courtroom battle between science and religion starring India's two most renowned actors **Naseeruddin Shah** and **Soumitra Chatterjee**; Indian actress **Paoli Dam** starrer coming-of-age story of an aspiring writer, ***The Terrace (Chhaad)*** with a **Q&A** with the director **Indrani Chakrabarti**; **Amitabh Chatterji's** ethnographic docu-style Indian feature ***Into the Mist (Kuyasar Majhe)***; **Barnali Ray Shukla's** Hindi romantic drama ***Joon***; and **Raja Ghosh's** magic-realist drama ***The Keysmith (Chabiwala)***.

The short film programme includes a children's quirky adventure comedy from Bangladesh ***Kathal -The Great Jackfruit Heist***; a human narrative on mental health ***After the Threshold (Choukath Periya)*** by the US based filmmaker Tanni Choudhari; and another from Bangladesh ***The Unfinished Poem (Kobitati Oshomapto)***.

The Festival's Closing Night Presentation is ***An Angel's Kiss (Lokkhi Chele)***, award winning Indian director **Kaushik Ganguly's** moving drama following a story revolving around Lokkhi, a newborn girl with four arms. A full selection of films can be seen on the festival's website [www.lbff.co.uk](http://www.lbff.co.uk)

This year, for the first time, the Festival is expanding to **Manchester** and **Cambridge** with three film screenings alongside its flagship London Festival.

A live 'In Conversation' session (online) with the legendary actor **Naseeruddin Shah** will be held at the **Queen Mary University of London**.

**Mr Munsur Ali**, the **Founder & CEO** of the London Bengali Film Festival is a British-Bangladeshi film maker who has been working in film and media for over 15 years and is currently the **Deputy Chair, for Culture, Heritage and Libraries at the City of London Corporation**.

Founded in 2016, a non-profit organisation, LBFF is dedicated to promoting and supporting Bengali cinema as a cultural heritage in the UK. The five-day festival is an annual celebration of the work of the Bengali independent filmmakers, with many UK Premieres, held in London theatres with special guests and talks, inviting audiences from all walks of life.

***"Mainstream films have a global audience, but global stories also need to be seen by the mainstream audience. The London Bengali Film Festival does exactly that."***

**Munsur Ali - Founder and CEO, LBFF**

LBFF offers a range of new impactful films to the audience looking for alternative artistic cinema, seeking unique and untold stories or stories re-told from another point of view.

Our goal is to get the under-represented Bengali films to the mainstream audience and on to the international platform, while also to bring the rich artistic historical and modern culture of Bengal and Bengali experiences to the big screen.

We welcome press and media coverage of the event. Limited press passes are available, please email us with your interest of which film you wish to view.

**PARTNERS/SPONSORS** - For more information please visit our website [www.lbff.co.uk](http://www.lbff.co.uk)

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