

Press Release - June 2022 - London Bengali Film Festival launch

The 5th London Bengali Film Festival (LBFF) launches on the 21st of June at the prestigious Barbican centre with a red carpet reception and the opening film 'Innocence' (Amra Ekta Cinema Banabo), which was shot in stunning black-and-white, made waves as the longest non-experimental narrative film ever produced – nine years in the making. In this shorter version, a mosaic of characters of different ages and walks of life orbit a single central figure – a man known locally as the 'lunatic', who is also an ardent cinephile, and, potentially, a visionary filmmaker. In the words of the director, the film is dedicated to "all who have dreamt of cinema their whole lives but have gained nothing in the end."

The six- day festival, taking place 21st – 26th June is an annual celebration of films from or about the Bengali Diaspora, with many UK Premieres, held in London theatres with special guests and talks, inviting audiences from all walks of life, with other films such as 'Raickshaw Girl' being screened at the Genesis Cinema to a British flick called 'Bluff' directed by a British Bangladeshi.

"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.

A full selection of films can be seen on the festival's website www.lbff.co.uk

LBFF offers unseen film to audiences looking for alternative artistic cinema, seeking unique and untold stories or stories re-told from another point of view. Our goal is to get these 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.

Munsur Ali, the founder of the London Bengali Film Festival (LBFF) 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.

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.

For more up to date information please visit our website www.lbff.co.uk

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