



## And the winner is...

After an amazing run of the 3rd London Bengali Film Festival (LBFF), we are now pleased/excited to announce the **two special awards**.

Firstly, the '**Audience Award**' is rated directly by the audience immediately after each film screening. The award for the 3rd London Bengali Film Festival 'Audience Award' was won by the unique documentary film '**Legend of the Loom**', written and produced by Saiful Islam and directed by Purabi Matin, focusing on the rise and demise of the ancient Muslin trade.

The second award, '**Spirit of Bengal**' is given to a film which carries culture, ethos and entertainment for international audiences and this year we are pleased to announce that the winner of this award is '**Meghnadbodh Rohoshyo**', a thriller on socio-cultural-political turmoil, directed by Anik Dutta.

The festival opened with a full house at the Barbican in London, with the red carpet reception and the UK premiere of the ground-breaking documentary film '**Legend of the Loom**'.

Saiful Islam, the writer and producer of the award winning film '**Legend of the Loom**' said, "From today the audience will understand the background and heritage of this (Muslin) unique product." Other guests included the Deputy high Commissioner for Bangladesh who commented, "...this is also an opportunity for British Bangladeshis to renew their links with their roots."

The four day festival took place between the 12th-15th of April with a celebration of films from or about the Bengali Diaspora, with many UK Premieres, held in London theatres inviting audiences from all walks of life. "It's indeed a power-packed four days of eye-opening cinema from Bengal and beyond," said Smita Sarkar - *BollywwodJournalist.com*

# Press Release - May 2018 - London Bengali Film Festival Post event

Managing Director of the **Barbican** Sir Nicholas Kenyon's thoughtful observation, "...what better occasion than the London Bengali Film Festival to celebrate the diversity of London and the huge artistic achievement of this (Bengali) community."

The Civic Mayor of Tower Hamlets Council, representing the largest Bangladeshi community in the UK, commented, "I am here to support this initiative within our community, and I am really excited about this Festival."

Celebrated actress Dilruba Yasmeen Ruhee said, "Many filmmakers who have been trained abroad, go back (to Bangladesh and West Bengal) and make films that are out of the box and innovative."

Films included a mystery drama entitled 'Meghnadbodh Rohoshyo', a character based film 'Bilu: A demon Within', period drama 'Bengali Beauty' and a hard hitting documentary 'The Girls Are Not Brides, looking at child marriages and the successful role models who have challenged this practice.

*"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.

The festival showcased films and included live performances to celebrate *Boishakhi* (Bengali New Year) and paid a tribute to the legendary Bollywood actress Sridevi, by showcasing her film '*English Vinglish*.'

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## **IMAGES**

Images can be downloaded directly from the following link:

[lbff.co.uk/media.html](http://lbff.co.uk/media.html)

A full selection of film details can be seen on the festival's website [www.lbff.co.uk](http://www.lbff.co.uk)

- NOT TO EDITOR -

The London Bengali Film Festival (LBFF) offers unseen films to London audiences looking for alternative artistic cinema. 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 is the founder of the London Bengali Film Festival (LBFF) and also a Councilman at the City of London Corporation.

For more up-to-date information please visit our website [www.lbff.co.uk](http://www.lbff.co.uk)

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