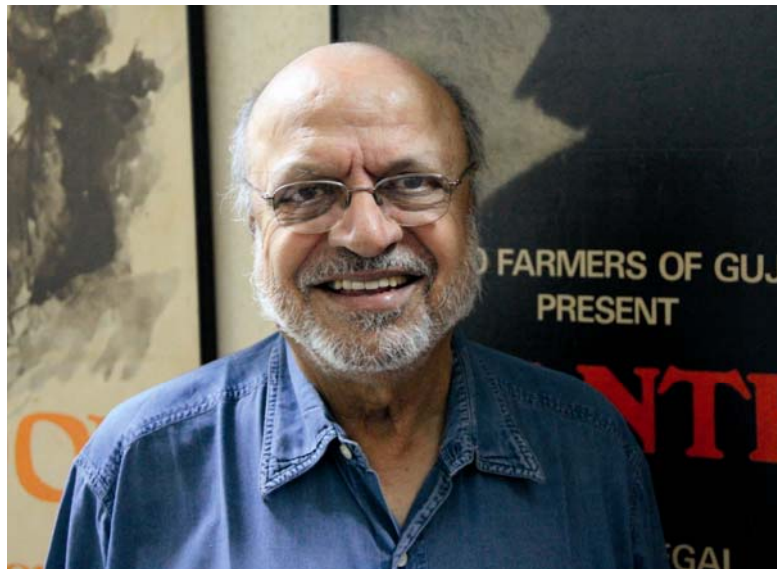


Honouring Shyam Benegal

This programme is presented in collaboration with the South Asian Cinema Foundation and with the kind support of the Nehru Centre



South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF) in association with **BFI Southbank** and **The Nehru Centre** will be honouring and showcasing the work of **Shyam Benegal**, the pioneer of 'New Indian Cinema', at **BFI Southbank** and **The Nehru Centre** between **Saturday 9 June** and **Monday 11 June 2012**.

As the father of 'New Wave' Indian Cinema, Shyam Benegal's position is arguably as significant as India's most internationally acclaimed filmmaker, Satyajit Ray. His films such as **Nishant** (*Night's End*, 1976), **Bhumika** (*The Role*, 1977), **Trikal** (*Past Present Future*, 1985), **Junoon** (*Obsession*, 1978) and **Zubeidaa** (2000) have not only cut across audiences, but have also documented social change in India after the end of the British Raj. Benegal's Cinema has impacted on 'Bollywood' in terms of creating new content. An undeniable part of his legacy is the extraordinary pool of fresh talent that he has managed to introduce to the cine world. This includes technicians and cinematographers working quietly behind the scenes, to an array of powerful and prominent actors like Shabana Azmi, Smita Patil, Om Puri, Naseeruddin Shah and Anant Nag.

With a career spanning 50 years, both his documentaries and his features are the work of a highly accomplished and deeply humanitarian filmmaker, unflinching in his critique of sexual and social inequality. Most of his films have won coveted National Awards. Shyam Benegal is the recipient of the Government of India's highest cinema honour – the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

All Benegal events at the BFI Southbank and The Nehru Centre – conferring of SACF's 'Excellence in Cinema Award' to him, screening of two of his outstanding classic films (*Bhumika* and *Junoon*), Benegal's Masterclass, his Phalke Memorial Lecture and SACF's Benegal Exhibition – will provide a rare and the first ever opportunity to British, South Asian and other communities to see some of his key works and to meet and personally interact with him.

Programme of Events:

***Bhumika* (The Role), 1977**

143 mins. Hindi & Urdu with EST. PG. Dir: Shyam Benegal. With Smita Patil and Amol Palekar

This powerful exploration of the tragic life of a Bombay studio screen actress was a crowning achievement for actress Smita Patil and a career highlight for this notable director. Screen roles of virtue and self-sacrifice conflict with the reality of domestic violence, adultery and despair as actress Usha tries to break free of the constraints of gender and class. Shot on authentic locations, and using montage as well as colour tinting and contrasting film stock, this is emotionally intense, visual storytelling and a rare insight into the history of Indian cinema itself.

Sat 9 June, 13:30, NFT 1

SACF Excellence in Cinema Award to Shyam Benegal

Benegal will discuss his life and work with film historian and SACF Director Lalit Mohan Joshi & Q&A

The South Asian Cinema Foundation, in partnership with the Nehru Centre, will present him with the SACF Excellence in Cinema Award. Benegal and film historian, filmmaker and SACF director Lalit Mohan Joshi will discuss a rich, enduring career, and the conversation will include clips and an opportunity for the director to take questions from the audience.

Sat 9 June, 16:15, NFT 1

***Bhumika* Masterclass with Shyam Benegal conducted by Rosie Thomas**

Attendees will be able to share the director's view on the making of this masterpiece. As a counterpoint to critical or academic perspectives, join this masterclass and share a film director's own insight into the making of this major work. Taking a shot-by-shot look at fragments of *Bhumika*, director Shyam Benegal will reflect on some of the key creative and practical challenges in the production process of this remarkable film. Attendees of the masterclass should be familiar with *Bhumika* (screening on Sat 9 June) so that they can fully appreciate this session.

Sun 10 June 13:00 NFT3

***Junoon* (Obsession), 1978**

134 mins. Hindi & Urdu with EST. Dir: Shyam Benegal with Shashi Kapoor, Jennifer Kendal, Shabana Azmi, Naseeruddin Shah, Ismat Chughtai, Nafisa Ali

Junoon means 'obsession' in Hindi and this theme underlies this passionate, sensual and violent story, set against the turbulent period of the so-called 'Sepoy mutiny' of 1857. Often considered as the First War of Independence, it is a period that still resonates in India today. Casting star names include Shashi and wife Jennifer

Kapoor (née Kendal). Benegal has adapted Ruskin Bond's *A Flight of Pigeons* and developed a tale in which an infatuated Pathan soldier interacts with the women of an assimilated colonial family, dividing loyalties and challenging connections between coloniser and colonised.

Sun 10 June 17:45 NFT2

Shyam Benegal to Release *Kaal*, a New Novel by Sangeeta Bahadur. (By Invitation only)

Mon 11 June 14:30 House of Lords, Committee Room 1

Phalke Memorial Lecture: "New Indian Cinema Circa 2012" by Shyam Benegal

Mon 11 June 18:30 Nehru Centre

Benegal to open SACF's **Shyam Benegal Exhibition** curated by Dr Kusum Pant Joshi with Uttara S. Joshi

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £10.00, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank