

HOTEL SALVATION

Directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani

India / 2016 / 99 mins / Cert TBC

A BFI release

Adil Hussain, Lalit Behl, Geetanjali Kulkarni



Opening at BFI Southbank and cinemas UK-wide on 25 August 2017

"An arthouse take on The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"

Wendy Ide, Screen International

7 June 2017 – **Hotel Salvation**, the award-winning first feature from up-and-coming young director **Shubhashish Bhutiani**, is a charming, life-affirming drama set in contemporary India that tackles some of life's most serious matters with a light and often joyous touch. Released in cinemas UK-wide by the BFI on **25 August 2017**, it is one of the highlights of the BFI's current *India on Film* season (running April to December). The film will have its UK premiere screening on 27 June at BFI Southbank, followed by a Q&A with the director, during the Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival (LIFF) (22 – 29 June).

This gently humorous film follows the ordeal of Rajiv, an over-worked, middle-aged son, forced to accompany his 77 year old father, Daya, who is seeking salvation in the holy city of Varanasi. Renowned actors Adil Hussain (*Life of Pi*), Lalit Behl (*Titli*) and Geetanjali Kulkarni (*Court*) lead the well-chosen cast with outstanding performances. While rooted in Indian values and culture, *Hotel Salvation* transcends borders with its themes of family ties and intergenerational relationships, revelations and finding peace and contentment during the later stages of life.

Aged just 25, director Shubhashish Bhutiani is part of a new wave of exciting young Indian directors and is tipped as a talent to watch. This, his first full-length feature, creatively made and beautifully shot on a low-budget, follows his short film, *Kush*, a Venice Film Festival prize winner in 2013.

Shubhashish said: "After such warm responses from all around the world and in India, I can't wait to see how the audience in the UK reacts to the film."

Hotel Salvation has already won ten Indian and international film awards including *Best Film* at the 2017 New York Indian Film Festival, and the Prix Enrico Fulchignoni at last year's Venice Film Festival (an award given by the International Council of Film and Television at UNESCO to the Venice film that best represents the values of peace and human rights.) It is now a strong contender to be India's Academy Award entry in 2018.

Warmly regarded by critics who have caught it at festivals (and likened by some to *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*), *Hotel Salvation* is an uplifting film about life, family love and freedom that cannot fail to resonate deeply with its audience.

Shubhashish Bhutiani is in London from 26 June and available for interview.

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