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Best of South Asian cinema comes to MOSAIC

Selections from Cannes, the Toronto International, Young Cuts and Hot Docs film festivals will be screened at this year's MOSAIC International Film Festival, part of the four-day South Asian extravaganza running Aug. 16-19 at Celebration Square.

The lineup includes award-winning films such as Ian Harnarine's *Doubles with Slight Pepper* and Zaheed Mawani's *Three Walls* and the Oscar winner for best short documentary this year, *Saving Face*, by Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and Daniel Junge.



Film festival. Ian Harnarine's *Doubles with Slight Pepper*, with Sanjui Boodhu, is among films that will be shown at the MOSAIC International Film Festival Aug. 16-19 at Celebration Square. *Supplied photo*

The films will be shown in the Central Library's Noel Ryan Auditorium.

"This year we will be recognizing South Asian talent and awarding prizes in the categories of best film, director, sound, editing, documentary, production design, performer and music. We will also be awarding a prize to the best social justice and human rights film," said programmer Arshad Khan.

Mississauga filmmaker Richie Mehta will sit on the jury along with former Hot Docs programmer Karina Rotenstein and Concordia University professor Dr. David Douglas.

Mehta will also give a director's talk on Aug. 19 at 1 p.m.

A University of Toronto Mississauga alumnus, Mehta's *Amal* was ranked as one of the top 10 films of 2007 by the Toronto International Film Festival Group.

This year's featured star is theatre and film actor Anita Majumdar. She'll speak about her success from stage to screen on Aug. 19 at 2 p.m. She stars as Emerald in Deepa Mehta's upcoming feature film, *Midnight's Children*.

Doubles with Slight Pepper won the award for the best live action short drama at the 32nd Genie Awards earlier this year. It also walked away with the jury prize for best Canadian short film at last year's TIFF.

The film revolves around Dhani (Sanjui Boodhu), a young Trinidadian who is struggling to support himself and his mother, Sumintra (Susan Abraham-Hannays), by selling doubles.

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The pressure he is under as the sole provider in his family is intensified when his estranged father, Ragbir (Errol Sitahal), returns from Canada unexpectedly.

Three Walls captures the absurdity of the modern day office. It traces the development of the office cubicle from its inception in the late 1960s to its current status as the dominant form of office furniture in North America.

Saving Face, winner of this year's Oscar for documentary short subject, highlights the issue of acid attacks against women in Pakistan. Donations will be accepted to help the victims of acid violence.

Visit www.cre8iv80studio.com/filmfest.asp for the film schedule.

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