Festival Information:

Indian Film Festival of Cincinnati is our city’s and community’s diversity initiative using the power of film to engage communities, share our stories and build bridges with mainstream America. It aims to enhance the immigrant and diversity experience of our city.

The festival (the only one in Ohio) premieres films and short films on socio-cultural and economic issues in independent, art-house, alternate and diaspora genres. Last year, we showcased 11 feature films and 26 short films in 13 languages of the Indian and South Asian diaspora. This made us the second largest festival in the state. Included in the 460 submissions we received this year are award winning films and films recognized at Cannes, New York, LA and other significant International and Indian film festivals. Our all-volunteer organization, aspires to create a home for independent film makers, cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit of filmmaking & enhance the diversity experience of our community. The films are made in the US, Canada, India Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

The festival, as a Sister City Event is the most impactful city-wide event that we do each year since our launch in 2016. The festival is supported by the Ohio Arts Council and several community partners such as the Cincinnati Art Museum, University of Cincinnati, Asian Alliance, The Chinese Chamber and the Freedom Center.

Profits from the sale of tickets to this event, finance scholarships for a select number of economically under-privileged students from Cincinnati Public Schools to learn more about India and the Indian economy through the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program (YAEP) to India. Students are paired with corporate and University mentors with the goal of furthering their opportunities to attend University.

A unique feature of this festival is the post-screening discussion with the directors giving the audience an opportunity to reflect upon and discuss the issues presented in the films.

The festival will be held on September 5th to 10th this year. This year’s festival has an exciting agenda to offer that will include a tribute to veteran actors of the Indian Cinema at the Cincinnati Art Museum on Wednesday Sept 5. Industry panels on Thursday and Friday 9:30-12PM at the Main Street Theater, Tangeman Center, University of Cincinnati. The Opening Film and Gala will be held at the Tangeman Center, University of Cincinnati. The Centerpiece film is on Saturday at 7PM at the Envision Theater (Blue Ash) and the Closing Film at Envision A full line up of films is scheduled on Saturday and Sunday at Esquire, Mariemont and Kenwood Theaters. After parties will be held at Ludlow area restaurants and at the Quarter Bistro in Mariemont ad Envision in Blue Ash.

More information on the film festival is at www.IFFCincy.com, and on YAEP and other India Sister City programs is at www.Indiacincinnatisistercity.org.

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