

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2025

South Asian Filmmakers Shine at the 2025 Sundar Prize Film Festival

Surrey, BC - The Sundar Prize Film Festival proudly celebrates a dynamic and diverse slate of South Asian filmmakers whose stories reflect resilience, cultural depth, and bold artistic vision. From heartfelt dramas and powerful documentaries to genre-bending shorts, these selections represent voices from across the South Asian diaspora. With multiple **BC, Canadian, and World Premieres**, this year's lineup showcases both emerging and established talent in impactful ways.

Alex Sangha, Festival Co-Founder:

"Our mission has always been to uplift underrepresented voices, and this year's showcase of South Asian filmmakers is truly a milestone. These stories go beyond borders—they challenge norms, celebrate identity, and offer a powerful lens into the human condition."

Vinay Giridhar, Festival Co-Founder and Finalist Juror:

"As a juror, I was deeply moved by the emotional honesty and creative risk-taking in so many of these films. It's inspiring to see South Asian filmmakers fearlessly share stories that are personal, political, and profoundly universal."

Sidhartha Murjani, Executive Director and Senior Programmer:

"This year's lineup is a testament to the incredible storytelling emerging from the South Asian diaspora. From bold visual styles to compelling narratives, these films are pushing boundaries and redefining what South Asian cinema can be."

SOUTH ASIAN LINE-UP

Paper Flowers (United States, 2024, 101 min, Dir. Mahesh Pailoor) – BC Premiere

A USC grad's quest for change in Peru is cut short by cancer. Back home, he finds strength in his family and his college love. Shalin's viral manifesto urges cherishing every moment — a true tale of love, legacy, and now. [Assets](#).

Mannequin (British Columbia, 2024, 12 min, Dir. Ramgopal Rajagopalan) – BC Premiere

Tunde, a Nigerian craftsman at a mannequin shop, finds solace in creating mannequin art but faces discrimination from his boss, Jane, who steals his designs. [Assets](#)

Female & Furious (British Columbia, 2024, 5 min, Dirs. Siddharth Sanjay & Logan Ferino) – Surrey Premiere. After escaping from Winnipeg, Rager Rip struggles to overcome her anger issues in order to join Storm's skate gang. [Assets](#)

Lifers (British Columbia, 2024, 12 min, Dir. Ranjit Samra). A sudden rise in drug overdoses leads to an overcrowded hospital, where a rookie cop sits guard over a career criminal. Their bond with a dying Indigenous man forces them to confront their own morality. Inspired by true events. [Assets](#).

Lullaby for Guli (British Columbia, 2024, 8 min, Dir. Dallas Sauer). A tender musical tribute to a mother's legacy, exploring the profound impact of lullabies across generations. [Assets](#).

Mareya Shot Keetha Goal: Make the Shot (British Columbia, 2023, 72 min, Dirs. Baljit Sangra & Nilesch Patel) – Surrey Premiere. This uplifting documentary profiles South Asian hockey hopefuls on their path to the NHL, addressing racism, perseverance, and community spirit. Featuring Vancouver Canucks player Arshdeep Bains and the late Ronin Sharma. [Assets](#)

Jumpstart (British Columbia, 2024, 10 min, Dirs. Gur-Inder Singh & Harnoor Gill) – Surrey Premiere. In a future where death is curable, one woman waits 300 years to reunite with her imprisoned lover. [Assets](#).

Velvet Secrets (British Columbia, 2024, 10 min, Dir. Shanthini Balasubramanian) – Surrey Premiere. Asha's life shifts when she finds a velvet dress in her daughter's room. Curiosity leads to a journey of empathy and self-reclamation. [Assets](#)

Designed by Preeti (United States, 2024, 93 min, Dir. Gayatri Everitt Bajpai) – Canadian Premiere. A romantic drama chronicling a 50-something woman's journey to reclaim her voice after leaving an oppressive marriage, told with grace and depth. [Assets](#).

Mirage (United States, 2024, 18 min, Dir. Jhanvi Motla). Nitya, newly widowed, arrives at her cousin's desert motel. What starts as a fresh beginning becomes a dangerous unraveling of secrets. [Assets](#).

A Simple Ask (United States, 2024, 9 min, Dir. Nadya Naumaan) Nida, a young Muslim with a secret crush, seeks divine help in the forest and summons a wise—but fearsome—ancestor. [Assets](#)

FLIGHT 182 (United States, 2024, 17 min, Dir. Rippin Sindher). Based on the 1985 Air India bombing, a devoted son must choose between his family duty and warnings of political violence. [Assets](#).

Leilani's Fortune (Canada, 2023, 80 min, Dir. Loveleen Kaur) – Surrey Premiere

An intimate look at queer Ethiopian-Eritrean artist Witch Prophet as she finds musical success and personal empowerment. [Assets](#)

HA NII TOKXW: Our Food Table (British Columbia, 2023, 40 min, Dir. Farhan Umedaly)

An intimate portrayal of the Gitanyow First Nation's struggle to preserve their traditional food systems in the face of climate change and industrialization. [Assets](#).

Join us in celebrating these remarkable films and their talented filmmakers at the Sundar Prize Film Festival 2025, from April 9-13 in Vancouver and Surrey, BC.

Festival Schedule

Festival Pre-Launch – *We Will Be Brave* Screening

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

VIFF Centre – VIFF Cinema | 6:30 PM

[Get Tickets Here](#)

Opening Night & Networking Reception with Open Mic Pitch Session

Thursday, April 10, 2025

SFU Surrey Campus | 5:30 PM onwards

Film Screenings & Panels

Friday, April 11 – Sunday, April 13, 2025

Landmark Cinemas Surrey, Guildford | 12:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Awards Ceremony & Closing Night

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Landmark Cinemas Surrey, Guildford | 12:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Official Programme and Tickets: <https://sundarprize.com/2025-programme/>

Sponsorship Inquiries: Contact Alex Sangha at info@shervancouver.com

Media Inquiries: Contact Sidartha Murjani at programming@sundarprize.com

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The Sundar Prize Film Festival 2025 promises to be a powerful, thought-provoking, and inspiring celebration of storytelling. Don't miss out on this extraordinary cinematic experience!

Follow us on social media: @SundarPrize

About the Sundar Prize Film Festival

The Sundar Prize Film Festival is where cinema meets social change, showcasing films that raise awareness, spark conversation, and inspire action on critical issues. With a commitment to diversity, equity, and representation, the festival celebrates filmmakers who push boundaries and tell impactful stories.

#SundarPrize2025 #FilmFestival #RepresentationMatters