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Annual celebration of alternative Indian cinema
***Not Just Bollywood* returns to HOME next week – highlighting the work of marginal and independent South Asian filmmakers.**



Image: *The Golder Wings of Water Cocks*, showing as part of *Not Just Bollywood* 2023 on Sun 1 Oct 15:30

Additional images are available on request.

We are delighted to announce that a new season of ***Not Just Bollywood*** is returning to HOME next week, with a focus on regional rural identity including award-winning Indian filmmaker Gurvinder Singh's Punjab Trilogy. Presented as a trilogy for the first time, this series of loosely connected films explores the histories, politics, and narratives of contemporary rural Punjab.

First in the trilogy is ***Alms for a Blind Horse***, based on the 1976 novel of the same name by celebrated Punjabi novelist Gurdial Singh this award-winning film focuses on the plight of farmers in rural Punjab. This is followed by ***The Fourth Direction*** – a beautifully minimalist film that seamlessly blends two rural tales unfolding in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star. This screening will be preceded by an introduction from award-winning director Gurvinder Singh. Third in the trilogy is ***Crescent Night*** – an accomplished rural noir and arguably the high point of the trilogy, untangling complex threads of masculinity, tradition and honour which bears down on a convict who has returned from prison. We are thrilled that we will be joined by Gurvinder Singh for an in-person Q&A after the screening on Wed 27 Sep, further details on the event can be found in the editor's notes. Gurvinder is making

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the trip from India to Manchester specially to present both the introduction to *The Fourth Direction* and the post-screening Q&A of *Crescent Night*. This is a brilliant and unique opportunity to hear from this esteemed Indian film maker.

Additionally, we will be screening Muhammad Quayum's debut film ***The Golden Wings of Watercocks*** which portrays the impact of climate change on landless farmers in Bangladesh. This screening will be preceded by a recorded introduction by director Muhammad Quayum.

Not Just Bollywood is curated by Dr Omar Ahmed, UK-based film scholar and Rachel Hayward, HOME's Head of Film Strategy.

Dr Omar Ahmed had this to say about the presentation of Gurvinder's trilogy as part of this year's season:

*"We are very excited about the new season of **Not Just Bollywood** and its line-up of films and events, in particular the trilogy which is presented for the first time. Gurvinder is one of Indian cinema's finest contemporary filmmakers working today and trained at the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India under the mentorship of Mani Kaul - one of Indian cinema's most influential avant-garde Parallel Cinema filmmakers. The Punjabi trilogy which was made over a period of ten years has never been shown as a trilogy before so we are very honoured it will be screening at HOME as part of Not Just Bollywood. The three films represent some of the best filmmaking that Indian cinema has seen over the last ten years and are very excited that film audiences will be able to watch and engage with these films in Manchester."*

Co-curator Rachel Hayward, HOME's Head of Film Strategy adds:

"This year's Not Just Bollywood presents a selection of captivating films that will immerse audiences in the cultures and landscapes of rural India. It's a great pleasure to be welcoming director Gurvinder Singh to HOME for events that will provide Manchester audiences with the opportunity to talk with a visionary Indian filmmaker"

Full details of the season can be [found online here](#).

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For interviews and additional information, please contact Julia White, Press and Communications Manager at HOME, on 0161 212 3463 or email julia.white@homemcr.org

Season event listings

Alms for a Blind Horse

Thu 21 Sep

18:00

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The first part in the loosely connected Punjab Trilogy focuses on the plight of farmers in rural Punjab. Gurvinder Singh brings a mesmerising formalist approach to framing and composition that recalls the work of influential avant-garde filmmaker Mani Kaul who acted as creative producer on the project. An astounding debut film that signalled the arrival of one of India's finest contemporary filmmakers.

Fourth Direction + Intro

Tue 26 Sep

18:10

Fourth Direction, the second instalment of the Punjab Trilogy, refined the minimalist pictorial style that Singh initially crafted in *Alms for a Blind Horse*. The elliptical narrative seamlessly blends two rural tales unfolding in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star. Brutal military action, initiated by Indira Gandhi in 1984, aimed to suppress the Sikh separatist movement, would leave a lasting impact on the region's socio-political landscape.

Event/ This screening will be preceded by an introduction from director Gurvinder Singh

Crescent Night + Q&A

Wed 27 Sep

18:00

Modan returns home after 15 years in prison for murder. He comes to realise the past is impossible to escape, expressly one that is intertwined with a fragile masculinity and the sense of honour that pervades daily life in the village.

Singh extends the formal interests with spatial and temporal dimensions, conjuring a quasi-noir that is both allusive and tender.

The final part in Singh's Punjab Trilogy is an accomplished rural noir and arguably the high point of the trilogy, untangling complex threads of masculinity, tradition and honour which bears down on a convict who has returned from prison. A masterpiece of contemporary Indian cinema.

Event/ This screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Gurvinder Singh.

The Golden Wings of Water Cocks + recorded Intro

Sun 1 Oct

15:30

Bangladeshi Cinema has undergone a revival of sorts in the past few years and there is arguably a new wave emerging.

Taking over twenty years to bring his vision to the screen, Muhammad Quayum's debut is an audacious work, documenting with detail and intimacy the lives of rice farmers who are at the mercy of overwhelming historical, environmental and economic forces.

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Event/ This screening will be preceded by a recorded introduction by director Muhammad Quayum.

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in 2015, HOME has welcomed over four million visitors to its five cinemas, two theatres, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME's five screens showcase the best new independent film releases alongside a unique programme of film seasons, festivals, and special events.

HOME's bold and diverse programming has screened over 600 films from nearly 60 countries in the past year, and its robust audience numbers consistently make HOME one of the UK's top performing independent cinemas for new releases. A popular choice for established and emerging filmmakers keen to participate in Q&A events with engaged audiences, HOME has welcomed the following filmmakers and more since opening: Clio Barnard, Gurinder Chadha, Felix Chong, Paddy Considine, Armando Iannucci, Ken Loach, Alice Lowe, Rungano Nyoni, Lynne Ramsay, Nicolas Winding Refn, Whit Stillman, and Ben Wheatley.

Overseen by Interim Head of Film Strategy Rachel Hayward, HOME also produces a specially curated, original programme of film seasons and special events and is committed to supporting UK film talent and introducing emerging filmmakers to a wide audience. The patrons of HOME are filmmakers Danny Boyle and Asif Kapadia, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. www.homemcr.org | @HOME_mcr | Facebook HOME_mcr

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