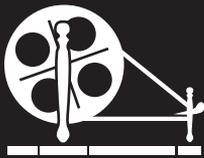


spinning wheel 2005
film festival
new york



2nd annual



Sept. 24 & 25

11am-5:30pm

Student Center Theater

Hofstra University

Hempstead, New York

**A CELEBRATION OF
SIKH FILMS**

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Sikh Organization of New York

Encouraged by the all-round success of the first Sikh Film Festival, S.O.N.Y., with the collaboration and active participation of Hofstra University, International Punjabi Society and the Sikh Coalition is now holding the second festival, with the hope that a much larger segment of the community, and students in particular, will benefit from it. Our fundamental objectives and focus remain the spread of knowledge about Sikhism and Sikh identity, and interaction with the political, social and civil leadership and the citizenry of the area. It will give further impetus to the efforts and initiatives of our film producers and artists, and strengthen their bonds and contacts with the people in this important region of our adopted country. We will feel richly rewarded if our community and particularly our younger generation and their counterparts and fellow citizens from other cultures find our presentations in the festival informative, artistically interesting, engaging, and entertaining.

Tejinder Singh Bindra, President

Hofstra University

On behalf of Hofstra University, it is my pleasure to join with the Sikh Organization of New York, the International Punjabi Society and the Sikh Coalition in sponsoring this impressive festival of Sikh films. Through the generosity of Mr. Ishar Singh Bindra and family, Hofstra University, home of the Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra Chair in Sikh Studies, has become a prominent center for the study of Sikh religion, culture and history. We have hosted a series of academic conferences, incorporated courses on Sikhism into our curriculum, and, with this festival, have helped to make Sikh culture accessible to academics and non-academics, Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike. Our chair in Sikh Studies will soon be followed by the Msgr. Thomas Hartman Chair in Catholic Studies, and, soon thereafter, chairs dedicated to the study of all the world's major religions. We are developing at Hofstra an especially strong Department of Religion, and the study of Sikhism will be an integral part of what promises to be an internationally recognized program in religious studies.

Stuart Rabinowitz, President

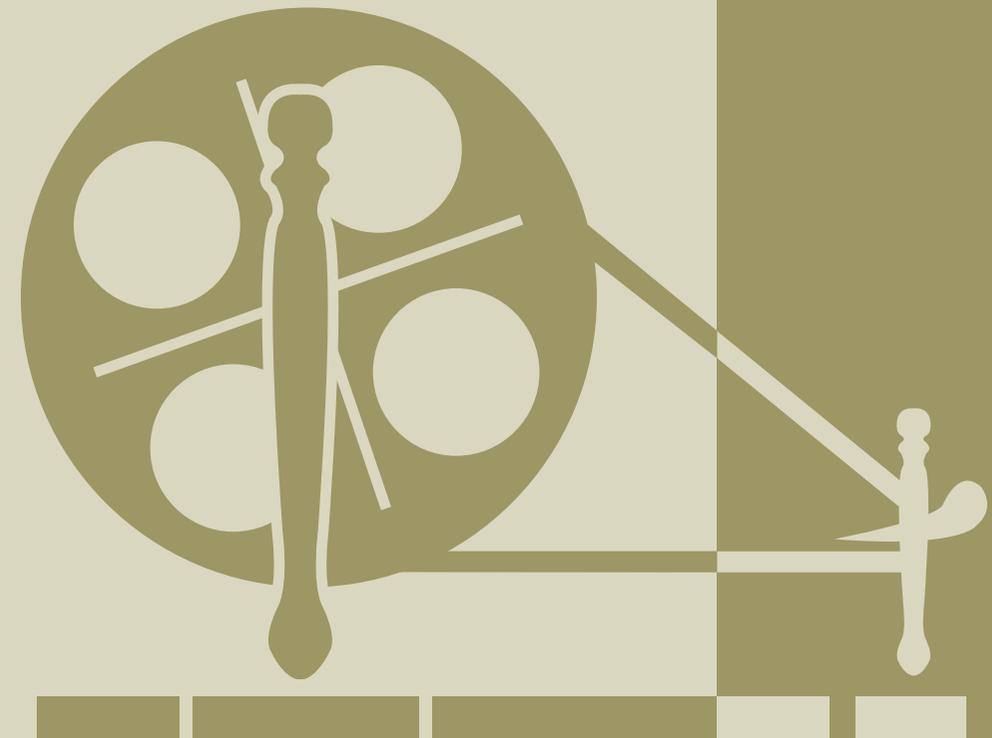
International Punjabi Society

We are very pleased to join hands with the Sikh Organization of New York. The International Punjabi Society is delighted, along with S.O.N.Y., Hofstra University and the Sikh Coalition, to sponsor for the second time in the United States a film festival celebrating movies on or about Sikhs.

Sant Singh Chatwal, President

Sikh Coalition

The Sikh Coalition is a community-based organization that defends civil rights and civil liberties in the United States, educates the broader community about Sikhs and diversity, promotes local community empowerment, and fosters civic engagement amongst Sikh Americans. The Coalition serves as a resource for all organizations and individuals as well as a point of contact for Sikh people.



banquet

Friday, September 23rd

7:30 pm–12 am

7:30–8:45 pm

Cocktail Hour

8:45–10 pm

Cultural Program and Presentations

Bhangra

by Iqbal Virk and Company
(Naachi Di Javani)

Sikh, Rattle, and Roll

(A Film by Ekta Walia)

**Lighthouse: A Film about
Harbhajan Yogi Singh Ji**

**Launch of the new
Sikh Studies Journal**

10 pm–12 am

DJ, Dinner and Dancing

Banquet to be held at the

Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center,
101 James Doolittle Boulevard,
Uniondale, New York 11553
1-800-832-6255



Sikh, Rattle and Roll

Directed by Ekta Walia

Sikh, Rattle and Roll profiles Jasbir Singh, a young British Sikh, as he prepares for his dastar bandhi ceremony. This passage into his adult life is of great concern to Jas as he is unsure if he will be able to keep his identity while adopting a new appearance and role in society. But what causes him the most concern is whether or not he'll still be able to express his love for all things Elvis.

This film will be presented during the pre-festival Banquet.

festival

Saturday, September 24th

Cluster One, 11am–1:30 pm

INTRODUCING SIKH TRADITION

Sikhs: Part One, 11am–12 pm

Meet the Filmmaker (John Das), 12–12:10 pm

Legend of Malerkotla: A Tale from the Punjab, 12:10–12:50 pm

Meet the Filmmaker (Iqbal Malhotra), 12:50–1 pm

Sewa: From Paris to Tapovan, 1–1:22 pm

Meet the Filmmaker (Reema Anand), 1:22–1:30 pm

Cluster Two, 2–5 pm

MIGRATION

Continuous Journey, 2–3:30 pm

Meet the Filmmaker (Ali Kazimi), 3:30–3:40 pm

Sikhs and the City, 3:40–4:15 pm

The Khalsa: Vision Revisited, 4:15–5 pm

day
one

Sunday, September 25th

Cluster One, 11am–1:30 pm

HEROIC EXPLOITS

Dastaar: Defending Sikh Identity, 11–11:15 am

Meet the Filmmaker (Kevin Lee), 11:15–11:25 am

Ranjit Singh, 11:25–11:40 am

Meet the Filmmaker (T. Sher Singh), 11:40–11:50 am

Sikhs in World Wars, 11:50 am–12 pm

Sahibzadey, 12 pm–12:40 pm

Meet the Filmmaker (Sukhwinder Singh), 12:40–1:30 pm

Cluster Two, 2–6 pm

MEMORY AND TRAUMA

Kaya Taran, 2–3:50 pm

Meet the Filmmaker (Shashi Kumar), 3:50–4 pm

Khamosh Pani, 4–5:36 pm

Concluding Remarks

day
two

Sikhs: Part One

Produced by John Das, BBC

Sept. 24, 11 am–12 pm

This is the first of a two-part documentary marking the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa. It paints a vivid and compelling portrait of the Sikh community worldwide. The film looks at the emergence of the Sikhs in the 15th century, with the teaching of justice, social harmony, peace and equality of all people. It traces how Sikhism further developed in the face of persecution, culminating in the founding of the Khalsa.



Legend of Malerkotla: A Tale from the Punjab

*Directed by Iqbal and
Anu Malhotra*

Sept. 24, 12:10–12:50 pm

Waves of violence washed over India in the days that followed independence in 1947.

Hundreds of thousands of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs were uprooted from their homes and forced to relocate as the country underwent partition on the basis of religious affiliation.

In spite of the violence all around, no one was killed in the tiny village of Malerkotla. Legend has it that for centuries, the town has been peaceful because of the special boon bestowed upon it by the last of the Sikh Gurus.

The film features interviews with some of the residents of Malerkotla, who reminisce about their experiences.

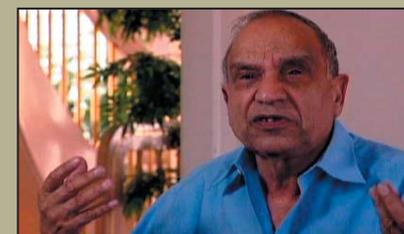
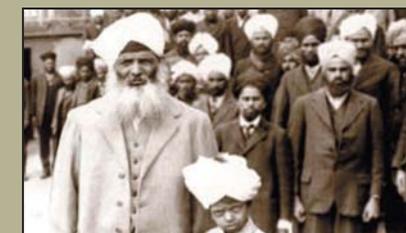


**Sewa:
From Paris to Tapovan**

Directed by Reema Anand

Sept. 24, 1–1:22 pm

Filmmaker Reema Anand tells the inspiring story of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Dalawari, a former Indian Foreign Diplomat serving across Europe and Africa who has spent the last 25 years caring for leprosy patients in a small Indian village called Tapovan.



Continuous Journey

Directed by Ali Kazimi

Sept. 24, 2–2:30 pm

A beautiful essay by Canadian filmmaker Ali Kazimi that unravels the complex and neglected story of the Komagata Maru, a ship with 376 mostly Sikh immigrants from India that was turned away by Canada in 1914. This is a story of the dark days of Canadian immigration, but it is also one of community and hope.

Sikhs and the City

Directed by Roger Childs, BBC

Sept. 24, 3:40–4 pm

Sikhs and the City offers a rare and entertaining portrait of one of Britain's biggest, but least understood, faith minorities. It's actually a day-in-the-life snapshot of Britain's Sikhs as they celebrate the 400th anniversary of their holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib.

Among the Sikhs profiled are such notables as BBC personality Sonia Deol, artists Amrit and Rabindra Kaur Singh and marathoner Fauja Singh.

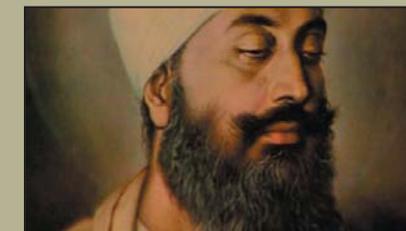


The Khalsa: Vision Revisited

Produced by the Nagaara Trust

Sept. 24, 4:15–5 pm

Produced in 1999 in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Khalsa, this audio visual presents the evolution of the Sikh ethos and that dramatic moment in history: the birth of the Khalsa on March 30, 1699 at Anandpur. This Baisakhi, 300 years ago, was the fruition of Guru Nanak's mission "as radiant as the Sun so dazzling... that it transformed the world for all times."



Dastaar: Defending Sikh Identity

Directed by Kevin Lee

Sept. 25, 11:25–11:40 am

Dastaar: Defending Sikh Identity presents the struggle of the Sikh American community to overcome the hatred, fear and intolerance they face from fellow Americans due to an essential symbol of the Sikh faith: the dastaar, or turban. Though Sikhs have no relationship with the terrorist networks of the Middle East, they are often mistaken as terrorists due to their wearing turbans. The film explores how media imagery fuels the association of the turban with terrorism, leading to widespread discrimination against Sikhs, and also shows the efforts made by the Sikh community through activism, legal action, legislation and education.

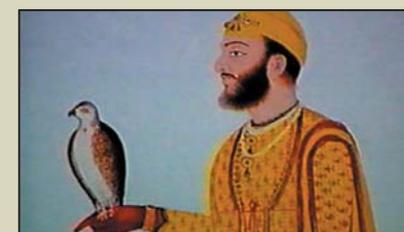
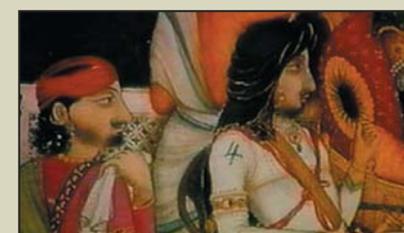
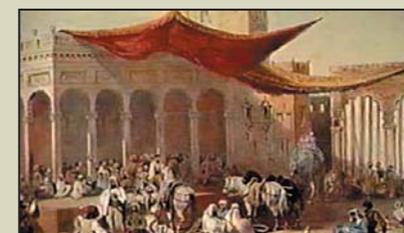


Ranjit Singh

Produced by T. Sher Singh

Sept. 25, 11:25–11:40 am

T. Sher Singh illustrates the life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the first Sikh emperor of the Kingdom of Punjab. This film was produced in 2001, which marks the bicentennial of the founding of the Kingdom. Two centuries later, the Maharaja is still revered as the “Lion of the Punjab” who wielded absolute power but did so with benevolence, compassion and humility.





Sikhs in World Wars

Produced by Vicky Singh

Sept. 25, 11:50 am–12 pm

This film looks at the role of the Sikhs who fought in the two World Wars. Sikh units served with distinction on the German and Turkish fronts in the 1914-18 war, and in Europe, Africa and Burma between 1939 and 1945. Thousands won awards, five of them the Victoria Cross (Britain's highest award for gallantry).



During the First World War Sikhs made up nearly 20% of the British Indian Army, despite being only 2% of the population. At the end of the Second World War the British Indian Army had a total strength of 2.5 million, and again the Sikhs made up a disproportionately large part of it. They were regarded as the mainstay of the Army.



Sahibzadey

Produced by Sukhwinder Singh

Sept. 25, 12–12:40 pm

This animated film relives the great sacrifice of the two youngest sons and the mother of the tenth spiritual master of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh. The movie shows how the saga of their martyrdom at Sirhind continues to inspire future generations of Sikh children.

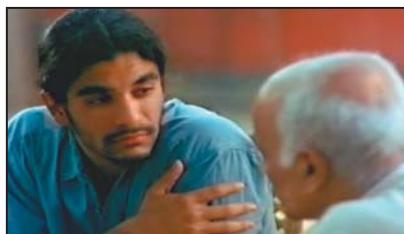
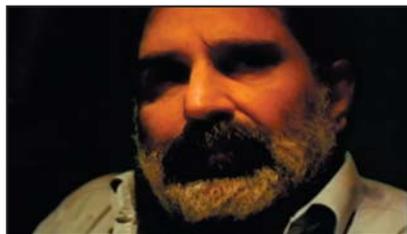


Kaya Taran (Chrysalis)

Directed by Shashi Kumar

Sept. 25, 2–3:50 pm

Journalist-turned-filmmaker Shashi Kumar uses the national ghosts of the 1984 massacre of Sikhs to reflect on the Gujarat riots of 2002. This film is an adaptation of 'When Big Trees Fall', a Malayalam short story by N. S. Madhavan.



Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)

Directed by Sabiha Sumar

Sept. 25, 4–5:36 pm

Khamosh Pani is a sensitive and courageous film examining the events of 1947, when the Indian sub-continent was partitioned into India and Pakistan. It tells the story of a Sikh woman left behind in Pakistan who becomes a Muslim and is renamed Ayesha. By 1979, she is a middle-aged widow living with her teenage son in a village near the Indian border. When Pakistan's rule is taken over by Islamic law, she watches her son being swept away by militant religious fervor. Tensions escalate when Sikh Pilgrims from India visit the village, forcing Ayesha to confront her tragic past.



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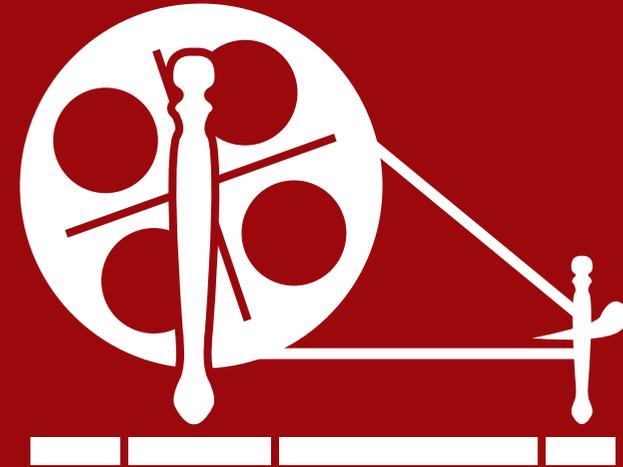
Dr. P. Singh Sabharwal

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In Memory of S. Daljit Singh Gambhir

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**Sikh Organization of New York,
Hofstra University,
International Punjabi Society**

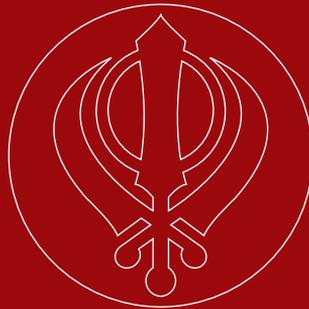
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