

SIFF'09 – Turbanology New York Style!

Sikhs, identifiable by their colorful **turbans** can be seen in every borough of the world's capital – **NYC!**

Celebrate the rich Heritage, Traditions and Culture of Sikhs and the Asian immigrant experience through a diverse mix of independent Documentaries and Short Films at the [Sikh International Film Festival 2009](#) on **September 18-19**, at the **Asia Society**.

[1984 and the Via Dolorosa Project](#) and [My Mother India](#) start the Feature Session on Friday marking the 25th anniversary of the genocide in India when thousands of innocent Sikhs were killed in the aftermath of then prime minister Indira Gandhi's assassination. This emotionally charged Session ends on an upbeat note with the *World Premiere* of [Flying Sikhs: A History of Sikh Fighter Pilots](#) which showcases the valiant contributions of Sikhs towards the Allies victories in **WW I & II**.

The Documentary Session on Saturday examines topics such as urban gang violence in [A Warrior's Religion](#), to the fascinating history of the turban – from ancient Christianity to modern day Sikhs in the *US Premiere* of [Turbanology](#). This powerful documentary explores the impact of the war on terror and western society's reaction to a simple article of faith – the turban.

The [Sikh Heritage Gala](#), a formal black-tie event at **Cipriani Wall Street** concludes the festival. Acclaimed film-director and producer [Mira Nair](#) is the Guest of Honor for this evening of dance performance, art auction, and live entertainment headlined by Bhangra pioneers [RDB](#) from the UK.

Dr. Paul Johar, Film Festival Chair explained, *"The primary goal of the films we show is to hold a mirror not only for Sikhs but to an audience worldwide. We have a diverse set of films, and encourage film makers with our support every year by awarding \$15,000 in prize money!"*

The winners in the Documentary and Short Films will be selected by a [distinguished jury](#), including Dr. Sarab Singh Neelam – Director of [Ocean of Pearls](#), [Aseem Chhabra](#) – Film Critic & SAJA Board Member, and [Vicki Mabrey](#) – Correspondent for ABC News *Nightline*.

In 2008, **Governor – David A. Paterson** issued a proclamation declaring the Festival dates as **Sikh Heritage Week**, in recognition of the [Sikh Art & Film Foundation's](#) efforts to promote cultural diversity in **New York**.

Complete Schedule, Film Details, Images and Tickets at www.sikharts.com.

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