'Chittagong,' 'Patang' bookend Indian fest

10th anni brings back fest faves

By SHALINI DORE

Bedabrata Pain's drama "Chittagong" will open the 10th edition of the Indian Film Festival Los Angeles, which will close with Prashant Bhargava's "Patang."

Running April 10-15 at the ArcLight Hollywood the fest will see three world preems and nine U.S. bows, according to a statement from the fest.

"Chittagong," starring Manoj Bajpayee, centers around a student-led revolt against the British in the 1930s. "Patang" (Kites), a fave on the fest circuit, revolves around a family reunion during a kite festival.

World preems include the doc "The Great Indian Marriage Bazaar" from Ruchika Muchhala and Faiza Khan. U.S. bows include "Mother India," Raffaele Brunetti's documentary of four stories about India's booming fertility industry.

IFFLA programmer Stacey Marbrey said: "From traditional to masala to neo-realism, this year IFFLA has seen an amazing breadth of submissions."

As part of fest's 10th anniversary retrospective past hits such as 2011's "Udaan," 2008's "Loins of Punjab Presents" and 2005's "Black Friday" will unspool. Also returning is the sidebar Bollywood by Night sidebar, which includes "Agent Vinod," directed by Sriram Raghavan and starring Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor plus Abhinay Deo's "Delhi Belly" produced by Aamir Khan.
"We look back on our first decade with a sense of exhilaration and pride. From the very beginning, our mission was to establish a film festival that would not only pave the way for a greater appreciation of Indian cinema and culture in the U.S., but also serve as the portal between the two largest entertainment industries in the world -- the U.S. and India," said Christina Marouda, IFFLA founder. "Today, IFFLA stands as the barometer of Indian cinema worldwide and has become the gateway to India in Hollywood."

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