



18th | MUMBAI
FILM FESTIVAL



Jio MAMI 18th Mumbai Film Festival with Star opens with Indian film - *A Death in the Gunj*

The film marks the directorial debut of Indian actress, Konkona Sensharma

Mumbai, September 10, 2016: The Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star gears up to open its 18th edition with Konkona Sensharma's directorial debut film, *A Death in the Gunj*. The opening film will be screened on 21st October, 2016. The film has garnered critical acclaim internationally and has recently been screened at the 41st Toronto Film Festival.

A Death in the Gunj marks a double debut for Konkona Sensharma - as director and screenplay writer. Shot at various locations in McCluskiegunj, Jharkhand, the film is a coming-of-age story, set in the 1970s. The film revolves around a family vacation and is based on true events which are meticulously captured by Sensharma. The film is said to have been wrapped up in six weeks in March 2016.

Konkona Sensharma said, "I'm truly excited and honored that *ADITG* will be the opening film at MAMI! It is the city of my work and where the film was conceived and prepped and I'm really looking forward to the people of my city watching it!"

Anupama Chopra, Festival Director, Jio MAMI with Star said, "Last year, we opened with Hansal Mehta's powerful *Aligarh* and we are delighted that *A Death in the Gunj*, another Indian film will be opening for the festival this year. It is a perfect film to unfold the incredible line-up we've assembled for our delegates."

The film sees prominent actor Vikrant Massey in the lead alongside eminent actors like Kalki Koechlin, Tillotama Shome, Gulshan Devaiah, Ranvir Shorey and yesteryear legends, Om Puri and Tanuja. Director Abhishek Chaubey who has given us cutting-edge films like *Udta Punjab* debuts as a producer in partnership with Honey Trehan under the banner of MacGuffin Pictures.

Abhishek Chaubey, Producer (MacGuffin Pictures) said, “We had barely started celebrating the calls from Toronto and Busan when we received the best news of all! To be the opening film at MAMI is a singular honour. Nothing beats playing for a home crowd!”

A Death in the Gunj revolves around Shutu (Massey) and his conflicted ideas of masculinity. He finds himself navigating the blurred lines of what is accepted in society and questions his own space within the world. The everyday callousness of the adults around him contributes to his intense feelings of isolation despite being surrounded by his family. The emotional violence that we as a society inflict upon others unwittingly is what cumulatively leads to a kind of destruction that is irrevocable.

Ashish Bhatnagar, Producer (Studioz iDream) said, “I am over the moon that this new film, produced nearly after a 7-year break, has a fabulous start at Toronto with its world premiere on September 9th and now with this special honor at MAMI. I along with my partners Vijay Kumar Swami and creative partner Raagii feels humbled and satisfied that all the years of hard work to return to cinema has finally paid off with a bang.”

Jio MAMI with Star VISION 2016

The Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star is an inclusive movie feast. We showcase the latest cutting-edge, independent cinema - art house fare alongside genre movies from Bollywood and Hollywood and cult international movies. We offer the best of world cinema to the people of Mumbai and we offer the best of Indian cinema to the world. The festival is run by the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image popularly known as MAMI. This is a space where we revel in the sheer pleasure of cinema, the joy it gives us and how much it enhances our lives. The goal is to nurture and ignite a passion for movies. We want Jio MAMI with Star to be shorthand for excellence in cinema.

About Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star

Mumbai - the financial capital of India is also the epicenter of the Indian film industry. The city plays such a major role in production and dissemination of Indian films and television programs that it is widely known by its acronym 'Bollywood'. In 1997, a group of film industry stalwarts headed by late Hrishikesh Mukherjee founded the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) as a not-for-profit Trust. Their main objective was to organise an annual International Film Festival which the film industry and the country could be proud of. MAMI has been organising the festival for the last 16 years and aims to foster a climate of good

cinema. MAMI engages people from all walks of life across the city and country that enjoy and love good cinema. It is Mumbai's only film festival that is entirely created and run by film professionals and a group of members from corporate India. Appreciation of good cinema, stripped off all the limiting labels of art and commercial, can only come about through exposure to the best of films the world has to offer. The Festival is the first step in that direction.

In their Mission Statement in 1997, the MAMI Board of Trustees said, "We feel it is the need of the hour to disseminate and inculcate good cinema among Indian audiences. The only way to achieve this is to celebrate cinema by hosting an International Film Festival in Mumbai, India's film and entertainment capital. MAMI (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) is committed to start Mumbai's first independent international film festival organized by practicing film makers."

For more information on Jio MAMI 18th Mumbai Film Festival with Star scheduled to be held from 20th October- 27th October 2016, do visit the official website, Twitter handle, Facebook Page, Instagram and YouTube as follows:

Website: www.mumbaifilmfestival.com/filmclub

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