



YEAR
ROUND
PROGRAMME

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Nasir
Arun Karthick

Nasir

They Love The Film. So Will You :)

“The uneasy and steady ‘otherisation’ is a reality that we can’t deny and it hits harder because of a matter-of-fact portrayal in *Nasir*.”

- Namrata Joshi

“*Nasir*, the Tamil-language film speaks to the times in its depiction of the creeping threat of religious intolerance. Through a combination of long takes, tight frames, scenes that unfold without being hurried along, and the inclusion of minute details, a miniaturised portrait is created, in which are hidden clues to the larger macro-tragedy that is inexorably unfolding.”

- Nandini Ramnath

“Arun Karthick has taken up a highly charged premise and is questioning the ‘hierarchy of film images’. Why should a story about communal violence be filled with blood and weapons?”

- Baradwaj Rangan

“This film is lovely, romantic, and deeply sad. Please watch and support MAMI YRP Home Theatre.”

- Aseem Chhabra

“*Nasir* is a dispassionate look at the most mundane details of a day in a man’s life, complete with a soundscape that assumes the weight of the narrative. *Nasir* begins with light play as the yellows of the streetlights give way to hues of dawn and our protagonist, played by Koumarane Valavane, continues his foetal slumber. But dig into the mundane, a portrait of quiet struggle emerges, a struggle that’s not easy to grasp for the ‘outsider’.”

- Aditya Shrikrishna



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“For a filmmaker, to centre a man who is in the margins of society, poetically showing his everyday rituals, obligation and concerns and in turn allowing us to inhabit his mind and share his feelings is a gift that very films have been able to achieve. The film, to me, speaks of the freedom inside our minds and the tyranny of the external world whether it is religious, or existential or just the mundane. To see this film first thing in the morning is a sure sign the rest of the day will be in a daze. A big thank you to the director, team of *Nasir* and MAMI team for bringing this film home.”

- Manoj Lobo

“It has been an extremely moving experience to watch this film especially in the times we live in. *Nasir* is a film that opens a window into the life of a somewhat ordinary character and his existence as a religious minority in an environment which is fraught with rising communal hatred. The film lulls you into a sense of understanding and familiarity into the life of a character who leads a simple yet poetic and at times romantic life through the intimate framing of the camera, the reflective pace of the film and the development of an extremely personal and at times profound mindscape. This observational nature of the film when juxtaposed with the larger divisive socio-political condition of *Nasir*’s immediate surroundings and our nation at large build the parallel narrative of a looming sense of dread in the viewer. The fact that *Nasir* himself seems indifferent to this noise and sense of hostility is also a reflection of the normalisation of hate and hate speech in the society we live in.

The burden of experiencing the futility of hate and the devastation of violence is solely upon the viewer and not expressly portrayed by any of the characters. The film and its experience are one that will stay with me for a long time to come. I’d like to thank the MAMI YRP team for your curation and bringing forth the opportunity to view an important film like this in the time of lockdown. Looking forward to watching more films.”

- Rhea Mathews



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“Just saw the powerful and poignant *Nasir* on MAMI Year Round Programme Home Theatre. Tremendously significant film for the times we live in. A must watch! Kudos to Mathivanan Rajendran, Arun Karthick and Mumbai Film Festival for taking the YRP online.”

- Rishi Chandna

“I liked the way religion is almost like a character in the film, while the protagonist largely carries on with his daily routine. Pleasure to see MAMI Year Round Programme showcase a film like this online, a much needed initiative in these times.”

- Sethumadhavan Napan

“*Nasir* is a much-needed story in the current situation. Saumyananda Sahi’s cinematography, Arghya Basu’s editing and Gautam Nair’s sound are in perfect sync with Arun Karthick’s narrative. Not one beat more, not one beat less. It’s like a symphony of emotions. Thank you MAMI for this initiative.”

- Raghuveer Nandam

“Fantastic selection. *Nasir* is a great film which I doubt I would ever get to see on the big screen in this country.”

- Devang Pathak

“*Maine macro lens ka itna khubsurat prayog abhi tak kisi cinema me nahi dekha tha, Arun Karthick ke paas kahani kehne ka bohot anokha aur alag andaz hai. Main apne aapko subhagyasheel maanta hu ki main is lockdown me Nasir dekh paaya. Nasir is saal dekhi gai meri sabse pasandida film ho gai hai aur iske liye me MAMI YRP Home Theatre aur Smriti Kiran ka dhanyawad karta hu.*”

- Mayank Bokolia



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“With the template of *Ghawre Bairey Aaj* mixed with *Bicycle Thieves*, the story is able to bring nuance to Indian cinema. *Nasir* is a beautifully focalised story with the true touch of natural realism.”

- Udyant P. Singh

“*Nasir* is really a great movie. It was so moving, yet scathing. The pace of the movie was soothing and contemporary. It narrates the happenings of the present times. Wonderful direction and acting. Thanks for this precious gift.”

- Deepak P.

“*Nasir* is a beautiful movie, with inspiration from Satyajit Ray and Andrei Tarkovsky. Arun Karthick succeeds in building empathy with the audience about the lead character, his life, and struggles.”

- Sanket Jadhav

“Arun Karthick’s *Nasir* is a sharp mirror of the times we are in. This little gem attains its genius in speaking less but saying more in its cry for humanity that questions faith, fate, prejudice, divide and more.”

- Vishal Verma

“Thank you so much to MAMI YRP Home Theatre and the *Nasir* film team for this initiative and sharing the film. It was indeed a pleasure to watch. I would call *Nasir* a film which shows purity in its real form and hatred in a casual manner.”

- Siddesh Iyer

“It’s truly touching and brave. A very commendable effort to showcase where we as a society are being misled.”

- Vipin Kumar



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“*Nasir* is an amazing and a very well-made film. I really feel for the main character Nasir, a loving husband, son and uncle of a special child, who is not only a hard-working employee but is trying to make ends meet as well as gather extra for his ailing mother. Truly brilliant.”

- Yash Thakur

“In 78 minutes of very strong frames, you live the life of a sari salesman, Nasir. I never, for a moment, felt that I was watching a Tamil film.”

- Manish

“Nothing much happens in Arun Karthick’s stunning film *Nasir*, and yet it perfectly shows how violence perpetrated by off-hand remarks about minorities and about who deserves to live in India, is more dangerous. Thank you, Smriti Kiran and Mumbai Film Festival.”

- Rony Patra

“Arun Karthick’s *Nasir* is a movie about a relevant and thoughtful inspection into the life of a Muslim. But beyond that, a normal, affectionate man. The narrative is effortless and while it builds the characters, it also builds situations in hindsight. The effortlessness of the cinematography is largely attributable to the framing which makes this story feel as much personal as it is confined and mundane. A movie about deplorable conditions which is made even more difficult to digest with the presence of a sweet, charismatic protagonist such as Nasir. It’s a subtle, shocking and sickening commentary which is undoubtedly going to persist as a topic of discussion for all the right reasons.”

- Hardik Agrawal



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“*Nasir* is about how communal violence affects individual lives. Awesome movie. Thanks Mumbai Film Festival. Good effort to spread meaningful cinema.”

- Sachin Sharma

“Sometimes I just feel proud to have watched a film. *Nasir* belongs to that list. Thank you Mumbai Film Festival and Arun Karthick.”

- Sameer Ayyagari

“One of those few films where there’s really no plot and yet you’re somehow invested in *Nasir*’s journey. In the midst of the scarily polarising times that we live in (reflective right throughout the film), if there’s anything to lighten my mood up after watching the tragic end, it’s probably remembering the character of the old uncle asking *Nasir* to get him a copy of *Playboy*.”

- Lakshman R.

“What a beautiful film! A treat for the senses. So meditative and pure cinema. Thank you MAMI.”

- Siddharth Khurana

“The simplicity of this film really strikes me and the horrible, heart-breaking climax left me speechless. And sadly, it’s not all fiction.”

- Ibrahim Bohra

“Saw *Nasir* and really want to thank MAMI for your effort for providing such good cinema during these times.”

- Avijit Batra



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“*Nasir* has a simple message which cuts to the heart of the question and yet is lost in the madness of polarised emotion. The shot setups and the sound design are exceptional. So is the attention to detail—the *bindis* on the mannequins and the far-removed ethos of college life with little accountability.”

- Rahul Roy

“Arun Karthick consolidates his mark as a filmmaker with solid substance in *Nasir* after the astonishing debut with *The Strange Case of Shiva* (2015). He brilliantly uses dialogues and sounds to depict prevailing hatred. *Nasir* is a superb example of what can be done on a tiny budget when the vision is strong, the script is low key, and the performers privilege rapport and naturalism over dramatic flourishes, beautifully shot in 43 ratio with a super 16mm lens to get a notable depth of saturated colour. Thank you MAMI for the invitation to the Asia Premiere of this beautiful film *Nasir*.”

- Shahrukh Sayyed

“*Nasir* worked for me on multiple layers. Its documentary kind of approach to the story, slowly but firmly setting the characters, especially the principal character of Nasir, while building the slow burn communal tensions in the background and ultimately the catastrophe it brings on the protagonist. Everything had been done precisely, without making anything exaggerated but keeping it real. The movie makes subtle yet sharp socio-political commentary through its neatly woven screenplay and makes us think about how normal Islamophobia, communal riots and mob lynchings have become in contemporary India and how it destroys people. I congratulate the director Arun Karthick and the film team for such a really good film. Also thank you MAMI for giving this unique opportunity of watching rare films from our homes.”

- Vijeth Balila



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“I watched *Nasir* and it was a new type of storytelling. Realistic and capturing. I loved the way every scene is shown, the long scenes take your mind to another dimension. Thanks for sharing this movie with me.”

- Toshan Lal Sahu

“I liked *Nasir* a lot for its content and deep and thoughtful message. From the beginning when the chants are on the first frame of the film and the slow pace, the story, screenplay and direction were all very brilliant. In such tough times, movies like award winning *Nasir* are truly commendable and I look forward to more of such movies.”

- Divya Jain

“Thank you so much for sending me the link of the film *Nasir*. What a brilliant film! The last scene left my heart aching. Such an important film in the times we live in.”

- Pranil Waikar

“Wow! I have watched Arun Karthick’s first film, *The Strange Case of Shiva*. So I was excited and *Nasir* satisfied my expectations. Thanks MAMI for taking such amazing steps to improve film culture.”

- Mani Kandan

“This film covers various aspects of society, politics, institutions of religions, regional and religious biases/prejudices, frenzy mobs lynching people, indifferent public (at large), problems faced by so called lower classes/castes/outcaste/religious minorities, etc. The politics of Tamil deities vs Hindu deities is also very skilfully revealed. Use of background voice/sound is very effective even without visuals associated to it. I would like to thank MAMI for taking such an initiative.”

- Jay Patel



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“A beautifully portrayed film on the harsh reality of India. It makes one ponder about the importance of a human life and his existence in front of his religion. Loved the stills in between the scenes. Thanks Mumbai Film Festival for showcasing this film and a big thanks to the entire team of *Nasir*.”

- Vyoma Sheth

“It truly is every cinephile’s dream to watch a film like *Nasir* at the comfort of their home during lockdown. Great initiative by the MAMI team.”

- Kirti Pabalkar

“One of the best films I have seen in a while. Thank you Mumbai Film Festival.”

- Akarsh Hooda

“I was able to watch the beautiful and heart-wrenching film *Nasir* by Arun Karthick. Thanks Mumbai Film Festival and Smriti Kiran.”

- Soleil Nathwani

“*Nasir* by Arun Karthick is a simple and moving portrait of a Muslim salesman at Coimbatore. Loved it for its simplicity (like Abbas Kiarostami’s films).”

- Mukesh Ishwar

“I just completed watching *Nasir*. What an amazing storyline and cinematography. Thank you so much Arun Karthick, Mathivanan Rajendran and Mumbai Film Festival.”

- Rishil Patel



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“Thank you for starting the MAMI YRP Home Theatre initiative and sharing this gem, *Nasir* with us. This film is more than beautiful and real. This is one of those stories which we need these days. My heartiest congratulations to the director, Arun Karthick, the cinematographer, Saumyananda Sahi, and the team for their superb work.”

- Gaurav Aggarwal

“Thanks a lot for sharing *Nasir*! I loved what I saw! Beautifully captured and told.”

- Neha Sharma

“Thank you MAMI for the home theatre experience. *Nasir* is an honest attempt on portraying a Tamil Islam family. Images were stitched in a way that the audience can easily indulge into the life of Nasir. The film is a heart wrenching reality.”

- Gridaran MKP

“The actor who played Nasir was excellent; such a sensitive, expressive face! The relationship of Nasir with people at home as well as at work was etched out really well. Thank you MAMI.”

- Chitra Palekar

“Thank you MAMI for the Asia Premiere of Arun Karthick’s *Nasir*. The film has a profoundly subtle build-up to an absolutely heart-breaking end. We come across so many Nasirs in the news who are the victims of cultural hegemony. What a tragedy!”

- Prakhar Khare
