

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 9, 2011

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### **Announcing Toronto Nepali Film Festival 2011 Programme**

Toronto, ON: The Second Toronto Nepali Film Festival (TNFF) is happy to announce its festival program. The one-day film festival will be held on Saturday March 12, 2011 in Toronto, Canada at Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Ave (at St. George Street). TNFF showcases films that pertain to Nepal and is open to filmmakers from all over the world. The festival is organized with the goal of promoting Nepal's rapidly emerging and vibrant independent filmmaking sector and adding a distinctive voice to Toronto's arts and cultural landscape.

This year TNFF received fifty-nine submissions from Canada, Nepal, Serbia, Switzerland, UK and the US. Another six films were forwarded from the 2010 submissions to the jury pool. The TNFF curatorial committee has selected nine extraordinary films, and they are **Forgive! Forget Not!, In Search of the Riyal, In Three Years, Pooja, The Last Race, The Rat Hunters, Sherpas The True Heroes of Mount Everest, The Struggle Within** and **Vhando**. The filmmakers of the selected films are respectively Pranay Limbu; Kesang Tseten; Govinda Siwakoti; Deepak Rauniyar; Alex Gabbay and Subina Shrestha; Pradeep Kumar Sharma; Otto C. Honegger, Frank Senn and Hari Thapa; Manoj Raj Pandey and Dipa Basnet. The programme includes documentary, fiction, shorts and experimental films. The films represent diverse geographic region of Nepal including Tibet bordering Manang Valley and India bordering Terai region of the central Nepali plains. The programme also reflects the diverse indigenous population in Nepal and the selected films incorporate Maithali, Manangi, and Sherpa languages. The selected films present extraordinary narratives that are based around issues of women, human rights, press freedom, impunity, migration, labour, bonded labour, tourism, environment, caste and issues of lesbian, gay, bi and transgender. The festival will highlight the stories of beauty and of complexity of contemporary Nepal.

The 2011 TNFF Curatorial Committee included Sapana Sakya, a Nepali filmmaker based in San Francisco; John Sharkey, a film programmer based in Toronto and Surendra Lawoti, the Executive Director of TNFF.

The films will be screened in two sessions. Session A will begin at 11:30 am and will feature The Last Race, In Three Years, Vhando, The Rat Hunters and In Search of the Riyal. Session B will begin at 4:45 pm and will screen Pooja, The Struggle Within, Forgive! Forget Not! and Sherpas The True Heroes of Mount Everest. Filmmakers will be present for Q&A. Tickets for session A is \$10, Session B is \$20, Full Day Pass is \$25 and the TNFF Gold Pass is \$50. In addition to the film programme, there will be a food stall with delicious Nepali cuisine and an entertainment program featuring local Canadian-Nepali artists. Two Audience Choice Awards and one Jury Choice Award will be announced at end of the festival.

Please visit [www.tnff.ca](http://www.tnff.ca) for further details.