

SAVE THE DATE

SIKH *lens*

**SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
INDIA EDITION
2021**

BROUGHT TO YOU IN INDIA BY PINAKA MEDIAWORKS LLP IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROLLING FRAMES ENTERTAINMENT FOR SIKHLENS
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2021

ABOUT **SIKHLens**



- ***SikhLens, The World's Premier Sikh Film Festival***, seeks to provide an outlet for sharing Sikh heritage and culture with the rest of the world by creating awareness for work that is “*Sikh-centric*,” showcasing our talent, and instilling pride in our community.
- **SikhLens** seeks work from artists in a variety of fields, including but not limited to movies, books, music, and art. It creates appropriate avenues for this work to be shared with the rest of the world with the aim of getting more exposure for the presenters; and at the same time creating awareness about Sikhs.
- **SikhLens**, through its ‘***Destination S***’ program, provides funding and filming scholarship programs for filmmakers both Sikh and non-Sikh, whose projects aim to bring inspiring stories about Sikh history and heritage into the world’s mainstream conversation on race, ethnic harmony, justice, and spirituality.

The India chapter of **SikhLens** in **Chandigarh** held their maiden **SikhLens: Sikh Arts & Film Festival on February 21st 2020** at **Tagore Theatre**. More than 5000 people from across the region attended the day-long film festival!

Spearheaded by SikhLens founder Bicky Singh, co-founder Gurpreet Kaur and Ojaswwee Sharma (India Head, SikhLens), the festival screened seventeen Sikh-centric films from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Italy and India.

The event also featured several performing artists--Lily Swarn, Minto and Amy Singh. There were displays of art by record holding and award winning artists--Vinod Chauhan (*Charan Chooh - Photography Exhibition*), Devinderpal Singh (*World's Smallest Kite*), Aman Gulati (*Micro-painting on Almonds - Soul Of Sikhism Vol - I*) and Hardeep Singh (*Award Winning Calligraphy and Great Grandson of Gian Singh Naqash - Fresco Artist of Golden Temple, Harmandir Sahib*).

Several personalities from the Chandigarh region graced the Red Carpet and there was widespread coverage by all major media in the region.

The festival was brought to India by SikhLens Foundation (California), Pinaka Mediaworks & Rolling Frames Entertainment in association with Chandigarh Administration and Department of Culture Affairs.

★★★★★

SIKHLens
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
2020
INDIA CHAPTER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
TAGORE THEATRE
CHANDIGARH
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
11AM - 8PM **FREE ENTRY**

PRESENTED BY
pinaka mediaworks RFE

SUPPORTED BY
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AFFAIRS the SNOBB cafe & bar

FOR DETAILS AND INQUIRY
OJASWWE SHARMA (INDIA) BICKY SINGH (CALIFORNIA)
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MEDIA COVERAGE

The Press Conference was held at The Press Club, Chandigarh, on 20th February 2020, which was attended and written about in the major daily newspapers, television, digital and radio platforms

All Leading Newspapers (Print & Digital) covered the event:

The Tribune, The Times Of India, Hindustan Times, Indian Express, Dainik Bhasker, Dainik Jagran, Amar Ujala



[WATCH THE PRESS CONFERENCE](#)

PRE-EVENT PRESS COVERAGE

event of the week

FEBRUARY 21 SIKH ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL

The Indian chapter of California based SikhLens: Sikh Arts and Film Festival 2020 will be held at Tagore Theatre on Friday from 11am to 8pm. It is being organised by Ojaswhee Sharma from India and Bicky Singh from California. Sharma is an Indian filmmaker widely known for his feature documentary Admitted and short films Ungli, Rooh, Badalti Soch and Zubaan. Three film sessions will be conducted at the festival from

12pm, 3pm and 6pm onwards, respectively.

The schedule of events includes:

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Film session – I** (12pm – 2pm) will feature The Lions of London; I Run While Talking to God (Fauja Singh film); Shades of Indigo; Growing Life
- **Film session – II** (3pm – 5pm) will showcase Ride with Pride; Rooh; Red, White and Beard; The Prisoners Song; Pagg;
- The live performance segment will have Spoken Poetry By Amy Singh, poet, alternative educator and TEDx speaker and Minto Singh, standup comedian
- **Films session – III** (6pm – 8pm)



■ Feast on films.
GETTY IMAGES

will include She Who Questions; Scars: 100 Years of Jallianwala Bagh; The Singh Twins and

Chaurassi (1984)
When: 11am to 8pm
Where: Tagore Theatre

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

PRESS CONFERENCE

Celebrating Sikhism

SikhLens, the annual Sikh Arts and Film Festival California is here to educate and entertain

Majority of the films centered around Sikhism or the celebration of the community are either to do with religious sacrifices, the music and dance or the '84 genocide, or so one would think. The premiere edition of SikhLens, the annual Sikh Arts and Film Festival, California, comes to Chandigarh with as many as 17 Sikhism-centric short films and documentaries from around the world. Thereby proving to be a platform for sharing Sikh heritage and culture with the rest of the world by creating awareness of work that is 'Sikh-centric', showcasing Sikh talent, and instilling pride in the Sikh community.

Held in association with the Department of Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh Administration, the day-long festival packs in performances, exhibition and interactions. "The Sikhs currently have minimal or no representation in the global mainstream, digital media or journalism and it is their mission to change that," Bicky Singh, founder, SikhLens Foundation, fills in the initial blanks. Joining him is



(LEFT TO RIGHT) BICKY SINGH, GURPREET KAUR AND OJASWEE SHARMA

Ojaswhee Sharma, award-winning director and India head, SikhLens, "We seek work from artists in a variety of fields, including, but not limited to, films, art, music, and books. It creates appropriate avenues for this work to be shared with the rest of the world with the aim of getting more exposure for the presenters, and at the same time creating awareness about Sikhs." SikhLens has been embedded in the Dodge College

of Film and Media Arts for the last seven years.

WHAT ALL IT PACKS

The first film session features five films starting with the opening film *Benediction* (India/52minute), *The Lions of London* (UK/ 14mins), *I Run While Talking to God* (Fauja Singh)-(UK/19mins), *Shades of Indigo* (US/ 20mins), *Growing life* (Australia/11mins).

No celebration of any art form is complete, without the artists from different walks of life coming together. The Artist segment features works by the multiple award winning photographer Vinod Chauhan, whose work on the Gurdwaras of Punjab, titled *Charan Chhoh*, will take the viewers on the journey of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji in Punjab. Moving on Aman Singh Gulati, world's first Almond Artist, and a Guinness World Record Holder, for making portraits and paintings on almonds will showcase his series on Baba Nanak and his teachings titled *Soul of Sikhism Volume-1*. Hardeep Singh's handwritten Gurbani calligraphy will be a visual treat for calligraphy lovers. Other participants in the festival include acclaimed author Lily Swarn and Devinder Pal Singh, *Limca* book of world record holder for world's smallest kite that passed through a pin.

While the second film session features as many as seven films namely, *Sikh Formaggio* (Italy/22

minutes), *Ride with Pride* (Australia/15 minutes), *Rooh* (India/11 minutes), *Red, White and Beard* (US/20 minutes), *Pagg* (US/18 minutes) and *Style With Kaur* (Australia/14mins). The day long sessions are interspersed with performances by Minto Singh, a TV presenter and a stand-up comedy artist and Amy Singh, a TEDx speaker and a spoken word poet who uses poetry as her medium of storytelling, activism, protest and even philanthropy to promote a positive change in society. She runs a street poetry initiative called *Cross Connection Poetries*, to bring poems out into public spaces and everyday life.

While the last and the third film sessions features the multiple award winning film *Zaboos* (India/25 mins), *She Who Questions* (Scotland/14 minutes), *The Singh Twins* (UK/20 minutes), *Scars: After 100 years of Jallianwala Bagh* (India/32 minutes), and *Chaurassi-1984* (India/20 minutes). --TNS

To take place on February 21 at Tagore Theatre-18, Chandigarh.

US-based Sikh arts & film festival to be held at Tagore Theatre today

HT Correspondent

chandigarh@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH : A day-long Sikh arts and film festival called "SikhLens" will be held on Friday from 11.30am to 8pm at Tagore Theatre, where Sikh-centric short films from around the world will be screened. Local artistes will also showcase their art form.

The festival, previously organised in California, USA, is being debuted in India by the founder of SikhLens, Bicky Singh, with Ojaswhee Sharma, a Chitkara alumnus and an award winning filmmaker, in association with the department of cultural affairs, Chandigarh administration.

Seventeen films made by Indian and foreign directors will portray Sikh heritage and cul-



(From left) SikhLens founder Bicky Singh, filmmaker Ojaswhee Sharma and co-founder of SikhLens Gurpreet Kaur launching a poster of 'SikhLens: Sikh Arts and Film Festival' at Chandigarh Press Club in Sector 27 on Thursday.

ANIL DAYAL/HT

ture, create awareness about Sikh identity and showcase Sikh talent.

Harjeet Singh Oberoi's Bene-

diction will be the opening film of the festival.

Others shown on Friday include 'I run while talking to

God', a movie on British Sikh centenarian marathon runner Fauja Singh; 'The Lions of London', a documentary on the Sikhs soldiers of world wars; 'Pagg', an American production based on hate crimes against Sikhs; and 'Scars: After a 100 years of Jallianwala Bagh'.

PHOTO EXHIBITION TO BE SHOWCASED TOO

A photo exhibition by Vinod Chauhan on the gurdwaras of Punjab, Unfolding the journey of Guru Nanak, will also be showcased. Aman Singh Gulati, popularly known as Almond Singh for his art on almonds and Devinder Pal Singh, a kite-maker who holds a record for making the world's smallest kite, will display their art. Poets Lily Swarn and Amy Singh will also perform.

PRESS CONFERENCE

टैगोर में आज सिख आर्ट्स एंड फिल्म फेस्टिवल

सिख लेंस फाउंडेशन ने आयोजित की प्रेस कांफ्रेंस, 5 देशों की 17 फिल्मों की स्क्रीनिंग होगी

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

चंडीगढ़। टैगोर थियेटर में शुक्रवार को सिखलेंस सिख आर्ट एंड फिल्म फेस्टिवल के तहत 5 देशों की 17 फिल्मों की स्क्रीनिंग की जाएगी। वार्षिक फिल्म फेस्टिवल में सिख सेंट्रिक आर्ट, पोएट्री, एग्जीबिशन और आर्टिस्टिक परफॉर्मेंस शामिल होगी। इसका आयोजन पिनाका मीडिया वर्क्स और डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ कल्चर अफेयर्स यूटी की ओर से करवाया जा रहा है। इसके लिए दर्शकों को एंट्री फ्री होगी। यह जानकारी वीरवार को प्रेस क्लब में कांफ्रेंस के दौरान दी गई।

चंडीगढ़ के फिल्ममेकर ओजस्वी शर्मा ने बताया कि सिख लेंस अंतरराष्ट्रीय फेस्टिवल है। शुक्रवार को होने वाले फेस्टिवल में भारत, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूके, स्कॉटलैंड और अमेरिका के फिल्म मेकर्स की डॉक्यूमेंट्री और शॉर्ट फिल्म रहेगी। इसके साथ ही आर्टिस्ट परफॉर्मेंस भी होगी। इनमें कई कलाकार ऐसे आएंगे जो गिनीज बुक ऑफ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड और लिम्का बुक ऑफ रिकॉर्ड्स में अपना स्थान बनाकर अपने काम को डिस्प्ले कर चुके हैं। सिख लेंस फेस्टिवल के फाउंडर बिक्की सिंह ने बताया कि वह पिछले 18 सालों से इस फेस्टिवल को कैलिफोर्निया में आयोजित करते आ रहे हैं।



आज होने वाले कार्यक्रम

सुबह 11:00 बजे

एग्जीबिशन में 80 तस्वीरें डिस्प्ले होंगी। इनमें विनोद चौहान, आलंबंड सिंह, हरदीप सिंह, डॉ. देवेन्द्र पाल सिंह सहगल की फोटोग्राफी एग्जीबिशन लगेगी।

दोपहर 12:00 बजे

पहला स्क्रीनिंग सेशन शुरू होगा। इसमें भारतीय फिल्म 'बेनेडिक्शन', यूके की फिल्म 'द लायंस ऑफ लंदन', यूके की फिल्म 'आई रन वल्लल वॉकिंग टू गार्ड', यूएस की फिल्म 'शेड्स ऑफ शैड्स' और ऑस्ट्रेलियन फिल्म 'ब्रॉडिंग लाइफ' लाइव दिखाई जाएगी।

2:00 बजे

आर्टिस्ट परफॉर्मेंस में हरदीप सिंह आलमंड सिंह, विनोद चौहान, देवेन्द्र पाल सिंह और लिस्की स्वान का सेरान होगा।

3:00 बजे

दूसरा फिल्म सेशन होगा। इसमें इटालियन



प्रेस क्लब में जानकारी देते आयोजक।

फिल्म 'सिख फोरमाजिओ' ऑस्ट्रेलियन फिल्म 'राइड विद प्राइड', भारतीय फिल्म 'रूढ़', यूएस फिल्म 'रेड वाइट एंड बियर्ड', 'द प्रिजंस सॉन्ग', 'पय' आदि की स्क्रीनिंग होगी।

शाम 5:00 बजे

आर्टिस्ट परफॉर्मेंस में एमि सिंह और मिटू सिंह परफॉर्म करेंगे।

6 :00 बजे

फिल्म के तीसरे सेशन में 25 इंडियन फिल्म और स्कॉटलैंड की 'शी हू क्वेरेरंस' जैसे शॉर्ट फिल्म दिखाई जाएगी।



सिखलेंस सिख आर्ट एंड फिल्म फेस्टिवल शहर में आज

चंडीगढ़ 20 फरवरी (रकेश): सिखलेंस सिख आर्ट एंड फिल्म फेस्टिवल कैलिफोर्निया का डेब्यू पहली बार चंडीगढ़ में 21 फरवरी को होगा, पूरा दिन चलने वाले फिल्म फेस्टिवल को टैगोर थियेटर में सिखलेंस फाउंडेशन कैलिफोर्निया का वार्षिक फिल्म फेस्टिवल सिख सेंट्रिक आर्ट, पोएट्री, परफॉर्मेंस, करने जा रहा है। इस बार यह सिख लेंस का एक दिवसीय फेस्टिवल पिनाका मीडिया वर्क्स व डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ कल्चर अफेयर्स यूटी चंडीगढ़ के सहयोग से होगा इसमें एंट्री बिल्कुल फ्री रहेगी यहां रेड कारपेट स्ट्राइल में विश्व भर से आये कलाकारों, फिल्म मेकर्स का वेलकम होगा। चंडीगढ़ के फिल्म मेकर ओजस्वी शर्मा ने बताया कि सिख लेंस एक ऐसा अंतराष्ट्रीय



सिखलेंस सिख आर्ट एंड फिल्म फेस्टिवल के बारे में आयोजक जानकारी देते हुए। (अनिल)

फेस्टिवल है जिसे सिख कम्युनिटी व स्कॉटलैंड व अमेरिका के फिल्म मेकर्स की डॉक्यूमेंट्री शॉर्ट फिल्म चंडीगढ़ में हो रहे इस फेस्टिवल में 5 देश की 17 फिल्मों की स्क्रीनिंग की जाएगी। इसमें भारत, ऑस्ट्रेलिया यूके

स्कॉटलैंड व अमेरिका के फिल्म मेकर्स की डॉक्यूमेंट्री शॉर्ट फिल्म चंडीगढ़ में हो रहे इस फेस्टिवल में 5 देश की 17 फिल्मों की स्क्रीनिंग की जाएगी। इसमें भारत, ऑस्ट्रेलिया यूके

PRESS CONFERENCE

ह्र साल कैलिफोर्निया में आयोजित होना वाला सिखलेंस सिख आर्ट एंड फिल्म फेस्ट टैगोर में आज

फिल्म फेस्ट में 5 देशों की 17 फिल्मों की होगी स्क्रीनिंग

चंडीगढ़, 20 फरवरी (पाल) : कैलिफोर्निया का सिखलेंस सिख आर्ट एंड फिल्म फेस्टिवल पहली बार चंडीगढ़ में हो रहा है। यह फेस्टिवल टैगोर थिएटर सेक्टर-18 में 21 फरवरी को पिनाका मीडिया वर्क्स व डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ कल्चर अफेयर्स यू.टी. चंडीगढ़ के सहयोग से आयोजित किया जा रहा है। रैड कार्पेट स्टाइल में विश्व भर से आए कलाकारों, फिल्म मेकर्स का वेलकम होगा। सभी कलाकारों का सिखलेंस के भारत के हेड ओजस्वी शर्मा स्वाग करेंगे।

कैलिफोर्निया सिखलेंस फेस्टिवल के फाउंडर बिकी सिंह पिछले 18 सालों से इस फेस्टिवल को कैलिफोर्निया में आयोजित करते आ रहे हैं। ओजस्वी शर्मा ने कहा



यह रहेगा शैड्यूल

- सुबह 11 बजे से एग्जीबिशन में 80 तस्वीरें डिस्प्ले होंगी। इनमें विनोद चौहान आल्मंड सिंह, हरदीप सिंह, डॉक्टर देवेंद्र पाल सिंह सहगल की फोटोग्राफी एग्जिबिशन लगेंगी।
- साढ़े 11 बजे डायरेक्टर कल्चरल

इन फिल्मों की होगी स्क्रीनिंग

- भारतीय फिल्म 'बेनेडिक्शन'।
- यू.के. की फिल्म 'द लाइंस ऑफ लंदन'।
- यू.के. की फिल्म 'आई रन वाइल वाकिंग टू गॉड'।
- यू.एस. की फिल्म 'शेड्स ऑफ इंडिगो'।
- डिस्प्ले ऑस्ट्रेलियन फिल्म 'गोइंग' लाइव दिखाई जाएगी।

आज होगा इंटरनेशनल सिख आर्ट्स एंड फिल्म फेस्ट फेस्टिवल...



Art n Film Fest

टैगोर थिएटर में आज सिखलेंस के एक दिवसीय फेस्ट होगा। इसमें शहर के नामी लोग हिस्सा बनेंगे।

सिखी रिपोर्टर | चंडीगढ़

स्वर्ण मंदिर के अंदर कॉलेज करने वाले आर्टिस्ट भाई ग्यान सिंह नक्काश के ग्रेट ग्रेडेशन हरदीप सिंह की गुरुवाणी कैलिफोर्निया आर्ट, फोटोग्राफर विनोद चौहान की खींची तस्वीरों में गुरुद्वारा ऑफ पंजाब की शिल्प और सिख काहटमेकर देवेंद्र पाल सिंह की सबसे छोटी पत्नी। पहले सिखिज्म व सिख आर्टिस्ट को आपस में जोड़ती इन सभी चीजों की श्रृंखला। उसके बाद आगे बढ़ते हुए स्क्रीनिंग परिया में पहुंचेंगे। पंजाबी फिल्मों की स्क्रीनिंग होती मिलेगी। आज, 21 फरवरी से टैगोर थिएटर में सिखलेंस के एक दिवसीय 'सिख आर्ट्स एंड फिल्म फेस्ट' की शुरुआत होगी। इसमें शहर के नामी लोग हिस्सा बनेंगे। चौराकर को यह जानकारी संस्था सिखलेंस फाउंडेशन के बिकी सिंह ने दी। इस मौके पर

फिल्ममेकर ओजस्वी शर्मा सहित फेस्ट के अन्य आर्टिस्ट मौजूद रहे। यह फेस्ट का 18वां एडिशन है, जो इंडिया लाया गया है। साथ ही चंडीगढ़ चैप्टर की शुरुआत की गई है। बिकी ने बताया- खासतौर पर यह शोषे कि इसमें दिन भर सिखिज्म पर बात होगी। सिख फिल्ममेकर्स, सिख हिस्ट्री, सिख लिटरेचर से लेकर आर्ट पर बात होगी। फिल्म स्क्रीनिंग, आर्टिस्ट परफॉर्मंस से लेकर आर्ट डिस्प्ले होगा। ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूके, स्कॉटलैंड, अमेरिका और इंडिया के मेकर्स को बनाई 17 शॉर्ट व डॉक्यूमेंट्रीज की स्क्रीनिंग की जाएगी। इस फेस्ट को यहां लाने का मकसद दुनियाभर की सिखिज्म कहानियों को शेयर करना है। क्योंकि सभी बाहर नहीं जा सकते। वहीं सिखलेंस संस्था, जो बनाई है उसका मकसद सिखिज्म के आर्टिस्ट को मंच देना है। साथ ही आर्ट और कल्चर को प्रमोट करना है। इसके अलावा फेस्ट से आर्टिस्ट को मंच देने की कोशिश है। ताकि लोग रोलें और अपने बच्चों को आर्ट में आगे बढ़ाएं। देखा जाता है कि पेरेंट्स अपने बच्चों को इंजीनियरिंग और मेडिकल लेने के लिए जबरन डालते हैं। क्योंकि वह आर्ट को इनका जरूरी नहीं समझते।

अमर उजाला

पंचकूला

भजन संघ्या

- दोपहर बाद 3.00 बजे : चंडीगढ़ के सेक्टर 8 के प्राचीन शिव मंदिर में भजनों की अमृतवर्षा।
- शाम 6.00 बजे: चंडीगढ़ के सेक्टर 29 के श्री सिद्ध बाबा बालक नाथ मंदिर में महाशिवरात्रि के उपलक्ष्य में भजन संघ्या का आयोजन

कार्यक्रम/लंगर

- सुबह 11.00 बजे: चंडीगढ़ सेक्टर 18 स्थित टैगोर थिएटर में सिख आर्ट्स व फिल्म फेस्टिवल कैलिफोर्निया का आयोजन
- सुबह 10.00 बजे: पीयू के यूआईएलएस विभाग में वार्षिकोत्सव का आयोजन।
- दोपहर 12 बजे : मनसा देवी रोड पर स्थित श्री संतोषी माता मंदिर में लंगर

POST-EVENT PRESS COVERAGE

A tribute to Sikh heritage

17 films were screened at the day-long premiere of annual Californian Sikh Film Festival at Tagore theatre



ABHINANDAN KANWAR

TAGORE theatre was all abuzz despite a rainy day as the California-based Sikh Lens foundation unveiled the Chandigarh edition of its film festival on Friday.

The event began with an exhibition by various artists, who included Vinod Chauhan, representing 'Charan Choo' photography. Chauhan said his photos give an insight into the rich culture and heritage of Punjab and connect people with Guru Nanak Dev's ideology of 'Kirt karo, naam jappo te vand chakko' (Work, worship and share). "My photographs chronicle the different gurudwaras visited by Guru Nanak Dev. I have covered 80 gurudwaras in 70 villages." Chauhan says it took him four months to take these pictures and travelled around 10,000 kilometres.

If Chauhan was showcasing his photos, Aman Singh Gulati had come armed with his almond micro-engravings. The highlight was the painting of Guru Nanak Dev made on almond. Other exhibits in his repertoire included 40 portraits on almond of soldiers killed in the Pulwama attack and a portrait of Guru Nanak Dev on a matchstick. Aman is a Guinness world record holder of the largest drawing of Mahatma Gandhi on 410.26 square metres.

Then there was a calligraphy exhibition by Hardeep



Aman Singh Gulati came armed with his almond micro-engravings. — Express photo by Jasbir Malhi

Singh, who showcased handwritten gurbani. He said, "Some of the work presented here is created by my great grandfather and the rest is mine. This calligraphy is done on hand made sheets through stone colours and natural organic ink."

Dr. Devinderpal Sehgal floored the kids with his exhibition of kites that included the world's smallest kite.

Speaking to Newslines, Bicky Singh, founder of the festival, said, "The festival aims at providing an outlet for sharing Sikh heritage and culture with the rest of the world by creating awareness of work that is Sikh-centric."

The day-long festival saw 17 films in three sessions with five Indian productions and 12 international productions.

Bicky Singh said the foundation Sikh Lens has around 200-250 short films in its library.

Ojaswhee Sharma, an award winning film director and India head, SikhLens, said, "Sikh Lens foundation has been hosting these awards in California for the last 18 years, this is the first time we are bringing it to India. The 17 films we showcased today are the rarest of the films made in the last 15-20 years. Our opening and closing movies were both Indian as a tribute to our country."

A festival celebrating Sikh heritage in all its glory

@Jaspreet.Nijher@timegroup.com

26 years ago, a foundation was formed in the US to celebrate Sikh heritage, arts and its culture. However, in the aftermath of 9/11 attacks, the foundation shifted focus towards making films on Sikhs to sensitise the American population about Sikh identity. After many years of showcasing abroad, that film festival has now come to India and was presented in a one-day affair at Tagore theatre, Chandigarh on Friday. Undertaking the initiative of bringing the first to India was founder of the foundation, Bicky Singh and Chandigarh based filmmaker Ojaswhee Sharma, who also participated in the film festival in its US chapter last year with three of his films. On Friday the venue presented a soiree of Sikh arts as besides filmmakers, the festival also teased artists who are spearheading the campaign for protecting and highlighting Sikh tradition in all its heretofore glory.

Though the festival celebrated Sikhs,

in the many years of its running it had slim participation from the Sikh community. "The idea of this festival, after it met its purpose of spreading awareness on Sikh identity, was to encourage youth towards filmmaking since Sikh representation is negligible in the field," said Ojaswhee. "The festival goes beyond filmmaking as the purpose is to inspire Sikh participation in all formats of arts. Also, parents are too focused on pushing their kids towards conventional professions. They need to understand that filmmaking is also a career option."

The venue also presented those like nineteen-year-old Aman Singh Gulati aka Almond Singh, the world's first almond artist. Aman has drawn portraits of Punjaba martyrs and world famous personalities on almonds. His smallest artwork is a portrait of Guru Nanak Dev on a matchstick's head, a feat that fetched him a world record. "I donate a part of my earnings to underprivileged students," beamed Aman. "In this way I truly follow the Sikh path of feeding

the poor through my art."

Devinder Pal Singh, a record making kite maker and scientist from Chandigarh, showcased his talent of making the world's smallest kite crossed through the fine eye of a needle. "The heritage of kites is so richening that it makes our country stand apart from the world," said Devinder. He was accompanied by his son, actor Karwalpreet Singh who played lead in Ojaswhee's film, *Reoh*, which also became the official selection at Santiago Independent film awards in 2019. Vinod Chauhan, an ardent photographer, displayed his frames on historical Gurudwaras of Punjab. "My pictures depict the unfolding journey of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Punjab," said Vinod, who is an international research photo artist.

Another artist, Hardeep Singh, an educator and calligrapher, showcased high quality hand written Gurbani calligraphy. He also presented a set of reproduced paintings to bring them up to their best quality.



Photo: Shiv Gautam

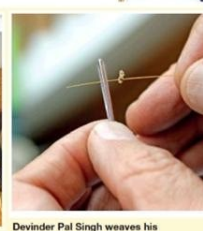
Devinder Pal Singh with his kites carrying social messages



Ojaswhee Sharma, filmmaker



Karwalpreet Singh, actor



Devinder Pal Singh weaves his smallest kite through a needle



Aman Singh Gulati with his creations on almonds



Hardeep Singh with his work on Gurbani calligraphy



Vinod Chauhan showcased his set of photographs capturing the historical Gurudwaras of Punjab



Pictures of Pulwama martyrs on almonds, by Aman Singh Gulati

POST-EVENT PRESS COVERAGE

What's Your Story

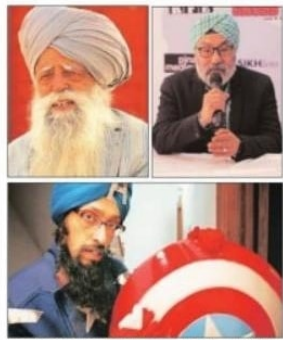


Bicky Singh, founder of SikhLens, the annual Sikh Arts and Film Festival in California, on bringing the festival to India, inspiring young filmmakers and creating awareness across the world about Sikh culture

PARUL

FOR THE first time in India, a Sikh film festival brought together diverse voices through short films and documentaries. From understanding the meaning of god through gurbani and the contribution of Sikh soldiers in World War I, to issues of farmers, the festival, which closed yesterday, hosted many a young talent. This platform was made available by Bicky Singh, who set up the SikhLens Foundation in California more than 25 years ago.

As a young man, Singh went on to study engineering, first in India and then in the US, because he didn't have the courage to tell his parents that his heart was in the arts. So his foundation today supports young filmmakers and students to follow their dreams. He began with small endeavours such as art exhibitions, heritage calendars, lectures and interfaith



nary talents. There were stories around history, politics, architecture, environment, conflict, and events that impacted the world. It has prominent segments dedicated to poetry, art exhibitions, and performances. The first edition of the festival was nearly 13 years ago. We decided to launch the festival post 9/11 to increase the awareness of Sikhs among mainstream Americans because our identity was at stake. Over the 150 years that we have been here, we have built many landmarks. But how do you get people to enter the four walls and how do we introduce them to our culture, life and philosophy. Films, we felt, were an ideal way to show our ethos and work. For me, the philosophy is simple, content is king, and so the story or the subject of the film is most important. It could come from anyone around the world. We have produced more than 200 films. While funding is always a challenge, we continue to widen

the world to make films. "We are now providing digital voice training for our youth, where they learn the basics of filmmaking. The future is digital and in a few years, they will be heading many television and film establishments. All of our programmes have met with much enthusiasm and success. Our reach stretches abroad to the UK, Italy, Spain, France, Malawi, Kenya, Malaysia, Thailand and Nepal. Through each of these experiences, we move closer to our goal of creating awareness and exposing people to our unique heritage."

The foundation is also working with Chapman Libraries to expand Sikh collections of books and artefacts. It is also sponsoring a performing arts scholarship with the Center of Performing Arts to provide students a chance to learn Sikh music. "SikhLens is a box is our travelling festival, where we showcased our films across the US, Canada, and the

MEET MEGAN THE ASTRONAUT
Actor Megan Fox is set to recast the role of an astronaut in the sci-fi film *Interstellar*. The project was announced by the banner of the ongoing Berlin International Film Festival. Lasse Hallström will direct the film.

Tribune LifeStyle

Show is on
American model and fashion designer Sofia Richie is set to appear at the Hollywood event. She will be wearing a black and white dress.

LUDHIANA, SATURDAY | 22 FEBRUARY 2020

Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler, Diane Keaton reunite for comedy, *Family Jewels*

Let's have fun

Veteran actors Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler are set to reunite after 24 years for comedy *Family Jewels*. The trio last worked together in HBO's *The First Wives Club*.

New Republic Pictures is planning to start the production on the project. The chemistry between the three actresses is undeniable, and I'm thrilled to have them back on screen for generations of fans," said Fichter.

"This movie fits perfectly in our plan to feature and produce four to six major studio theatricals a year and puts movie stars back where they belong on the big screen," added Oliver.



GOLDIE HAWN

DIANE KEATON

BETTE MIDLER

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Moving beyond religion

Short films and documentaries, an exhibition of historical gurdwaras in Punjab, art, craft and calligraphy—The Sikh Arts and Film Festival, California makes it a wholesome experience for anyone interested in Sikhism

MAXPAINA SINGH

WHAT could be more inclusive than a festival dedicated to celebrating the Sikh community, culture and heritage being brought together by people from the regions into the Diaspora in the United States. With the aim to celebrate art, the intention to give a platform to underrepresented Sikhs, the annual Sikh Arts and Film Festival, California, will open its Chandigarh chapter. "It's



MAXPAINA SINGH



DEVINDER PAO, CHANDIGARH

MANDEEP SINGH



ALMIANO PAINTO

MANDEEP SINGH

can't imagine not doing this kind of thing," he says pointing to the exhibition at the Chandigarh chapter. There are as many as 17 Sikh-centric short films and documentaries have been scheduled, including the opening film dedication to the conductor of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The foundation is also working with Chapman Libraries to expand Sikh collections of books and artefacts. It is also sponsoring a performing arts scholarship with the Center of Performing Arts to provide students a chance to learn Sikh music. "SikhLens is a box is our travelling festival, where we showcased our films across the US, Canada, and the

DEVINDER PAO

owns back story that led to his journey setting four months and \$1000 plus. However, the one that took him to 79 villages and 100 gurdwaras.

devotional, then perhaps all of the historical gurdwaras of Punjab put together. Being overwhelmed by the complexity and depth of the village and gurdwaras of Punjab.

THE MIKE GUY

It was in 2002 that Devinder Singh (Sethi) read in a newspaper about somebody from Amritsar holding the record for the world's smallest kite. Next year, he himself made it. It was a small kite made of paper, but it was the Guinness Book of World Records holder for the smallest kite in the world.

While we may have been let in on the process of what he did, we are limited to look for his own words. The one he wrote, he would be somebody who everybody developed among the world today.

MEET ALMIANO SINGH

While we may have been let in on the process of what he did, we are limited to look for his own words. The one he wrote, he would be somebody who everybody developed among the world today.

and the other on Gurbani and Singh Ji and Chaur Sahib. I searched on Google and I found painting in every medium existed. I wanted to do something unique. He said, having been nicknamed as Almianno Singh ever since the first year ago he started.

MILKANO PAINTO

Minerals, organic base of the film. An art exhibition, calligraphy and painting. The festival is a platform for the great grandfathers' older brother being married to the Italian-born artist. His previous artwork was in the form of a great artist. His previous artwork was in the form of a great artist. His previous artwork was in the form of a great artist.

one can attempt to see even more. There is a lot of art in the world. Some which are the most beautiful. Some which are the most beautiful. Some which are the most beautiful.



INVITING SPECIAL GUESTS

LIST OF DIGNITARIES WHO ATTENDED SIKHLENS: SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL 2020 (INDIA CHAPTER)

- **Navdeep Singh Virk**, ADGP/Law & Order, Haryana
- **Renuka Salwan**, Director Public Relations, Panjab University
- **Aneesh Bhanot**, President – Rotary Chandigarh Shivalik, Editor – Sector News, And Trustee – Neerja Bhanot Trust
- **Kuldeep Sharma**, Director, Tagore Theatre
- **Harbir Kaur Bhatia**, Commissioner, Cultural Commission at Santa Clara Cultural Commission, and Founder Ik Onkar Bridges
- **Khushwant Singh**, Author, Maharaja in Denims, The People's Maharaja & Sikhs Unlimited
- **Vibha Taluja**, Director, Association of Social Health in India, Haryana
- **Renee Singh**, Author, Columnist, and Renowned Stress Management Expert
- **Seema Gupta**, General Secretary, Association of Social Health in India, Haryana
- **Rajwant Singh Grewal**, Former Vice-Chancellor, Chitkara University
- **Satyapal Sehgal**, Former Chairperson, Hindi Department, Panjab University
- **Maj Gen. Inderjeet Singh Dhillon**, Former Director General, HelpAge India
- **Manjeet Kaur**, General Secretary, Rotary Chandigarh Shivalik

PERFORMANCES 2020

•VINOD CHAUHAN

We were thrilled to have the multiple award-winning photographer, Mr. Vinod Chauhan with his best work on the Gurudwaras of Punjab Titled “CHARAN CHOOH”. His photographs depict the unfolding journey of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji in Punjab. Vinod Chauhan, an international research photo artist, is currently ranked in the world’s Top 10 Travel Photographers by Photographic Society of America (PSA).

•ALMOND SINGH

Aman Singh Gulati is the world’s first Almond artist and Guinness World record holder who started making paintings and portraits on almonds. He has made paintings of many renowned persons like Prime Ministers, Presidents and other celebrities. Subsequently, he decided to make a series on Guru Nanak Dev Ji, his biography and his teachings, which was named as “Soul of Sikhism Volume-1”. It was launched by Honourable speaker of Lok Sabha “ Mr. Om Birla “ in Delhi, India.

•HARDEEP SINGH

Hardeep Singh, an educator by profession is an artist who is a multi talented person. He is a calligrapher who creates high quality, handwritten Gurbani Calligraphy. Along with that, he is highly inclined towards reproducing paintings to bring them up to their best quality.

pinaka mediaworks **SIKHlens** **RFE**
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
2020
INDIA CHAPTER
CREATIVE SIKHS DISPLAYING THEIR WORK OF ART

VINOD CHAUHAN
MULTIPLE AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER. HIS BEST WORK ON THE GURUDWARAS OF PUNJAB TITLED "CHARAN CHOOH".

DR. DEVINDER PAL SEHGAL
ACE KITE MAKER & LINGKA BOOK OF WORLD RECORD HOLDER FOR WORLD'S SMALLEST KITE THAT PASSES THROUGH A PIN.

HARDEEP SINGH
AWARD WINNING CALLIGRAPHER FOR CREATING HIGH QUALITY HANDWRITTEN GURBANI CALLIGRAPHY.

ALMOND SINGH
GUINNESS WORLD RECORD HOLDER FOR MICRO ENGRAVING ON ALMONDS.

CREATIVE SIKHS PERFORMANCES

LILY SWAIN
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED, MULTILINGUAL POET, AUTHOR, COLUMNIST, PEACE AMBASSADOR AND RADIO SHOW HOST.

KARNALPREET SINGH
FILM & TELEVISION ACTOR.

AMY SINGH
SPOKEN WORD POET.

MINTY SINGH
TELEVISION PRESENTER & RENOWNED STAND-UP COMEDY ARTIST.

HOSTED BY

BICKY SINGH
FOUNDER, SIKHLENS FOUNDATION (CALIFORNIA, USA).

GURPREET KAUR
CO-FOUNDER, SIKHLENS FOUNDATION (CALIFORNIA, USA).

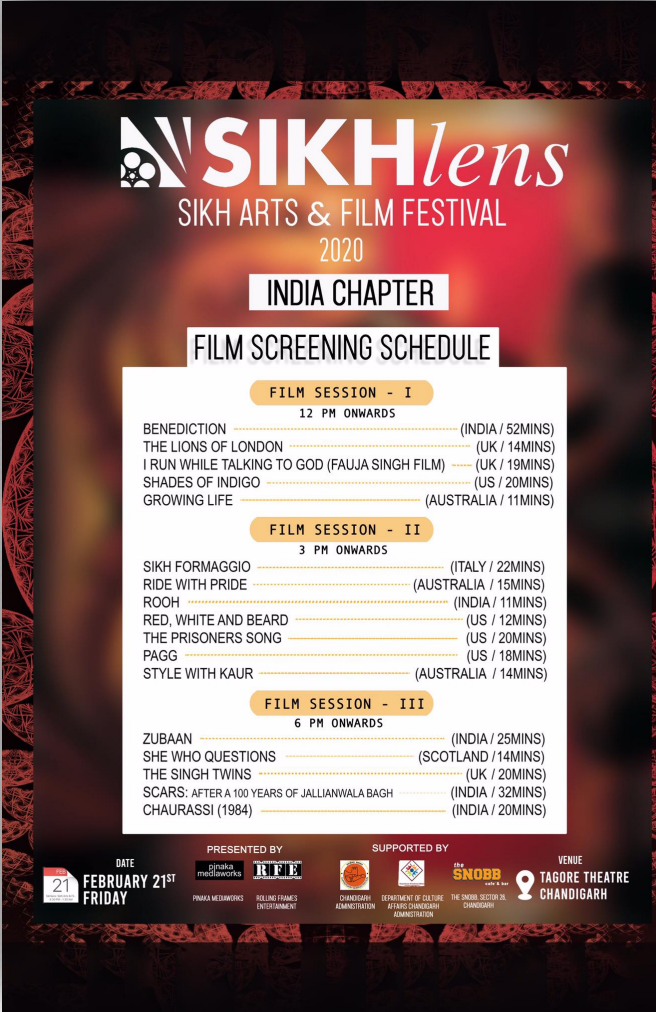
DIJASWEE SHARMA
AWARD-WINNING FILM DIRECTOR, INDIA HEAD - SIKHLENS FILM FESTIVAL.

PERFORMANCES 2020

- **DEVINDER PAL SINGH**
Ace kite maker & Limca Book of World Records holder for world smallest kite that pass through a pin.
- **LILY SWARN**
Internationally acclaimed, Multilingual poet, Author, Columnist, Peace Ambassador, Radio show host. Her book, “A Trellis Of Ecstasy” was lauded by The Journal of Commonwealth Literature, London.
- **KANWALPREET SINGH**
Renowned actor, Kanwalpreet Singh, enthralled the audience with his on-stage performance.
- **AMY SINGH KANWALPREET SINGH**
Poetess, Amy Singh, moved the audience with her exceptional poems, especially “Lahore”.



A GLIMPSE OF THE 2020 PROGRAM SCHEDULE



SIKHLens
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
2020
INDIA CHAPTER

FILM SCREENING SCHEDULE

FILM SESSION - I
12 PM ONWARDS

BENEDICTION (INDIA / 52MINS)
THE LIONS OF LONDON (UK / 14MINS)
I RUN WHILE TALKING TO GOD (FAUJA SINGH FILM) (UK / 19MINS)
SHADES OF INDIGO (US / 20MINS)
GROWING LIFE (AUSTRALIA / 11MINS)

FILM SESSION - II
3 PM ONWARDS

SIKH FORMAGGIO (ITALY / 22MINS)
RIDE WITH PRIDE (AUSTRALIA / 15MINS)
ROOH (INDIA / 11MINS)
RED, WHITE AND BEARD (US / 12MINS)
THE PRISONERS SONG (US / 20MINS)
PAGG (US / 18MINS)
STYLE WITH KAUR (AUSTRALIA / 14MINS)

FILM SESSION - III
6 PM ONWARDS

ZUBAAN (INDIA / 25MINS)
SHE WHO QUESTIONS (SCOTLAND / 14MINS)
THE SINGH TWINS (UK / 20MINS)
SCARS: AFTER A 100 YEARS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH (INDIA / 32MINS)
CHOURASSI (1984) (INDIA / 20MINS)

DATE: **FEBRUARY 21ST FRIDAY**

PRESENTED BY: **pinaka mediaworks**, **R.F.E.**

SUPPORTED BY: **CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**, **DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**, **THE SNOBB, cafe & bar**

VENUE: **TAGORE THEATRE CHANDIGARH**



SIKHLens
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
2020
INDIA CHAPTER

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

11.00 AM EXHIBITION COMMENCEMENT
11.30 AM INAUGURATION
12.00 PM FILM SESSION - I
02.00 PM ARTIST SEGMENT
03.00 PM FILM SESSION - II
05.00 PM ARTIST PERFORMANCES
06.00 PM FILM SESSION - III
08.00 PM FAREWELL

SIKH FILMS
SIKH ARTS
PERFORMANCES
ARTIST DISPLAY
MEET AND GREET

DATE: **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21ST**

VENUE: **TAGORE THEATRE CHANDIGARH**

FREE ENTRY

PRESENTED BY: **pinaka mediaworks**, **R.F.E.**

SUPPORTED BY: **CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**, **DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**, **THE SNOBB, cafe & bar**

INVITATIONS 2020

More than 200 Premium Invitations
extended to the attendees of SIKHLens, India
Chapter



SIKHlens
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
INDIA CHAPTER 2 0 2 1

DATE **SUNDAY**
FEBRUARY 21ST

VENUE **TAGORE THEATRE**
CHANDIGARH

YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT
Sikh heritage and culture through work
in movies, books, music, and art.

TO KNOW MORE CONTACT

OJASWWE SHARMA (INDIA) · BICKY SINGH (CALIFORNIA)
+91 7009554684 · +1 7145045264

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SAVE THE DATE

SIKHlens
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
INDIA EDITION
2 0 2 1

FREE ENTRY

21ST FEBRUARY 2021
SUNDAY

TAGORE THEATRE
CHANDIGARH

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FOR DETAILS AND INQUIRY

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INDIA CHAPTER



SIKHlens
SIKH ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
INDIA CHAPTER 2021

DATE **SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 21ST** VENUE **TAGORE THEATRE
CHANDIGARH**

YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT
Sikh heritage and culture through work
in movies, books, music, and art.

BECOME A TITLE SPONSOR

For SIKHLENS – Sikh Arts & Film Festival 2021 (INDIA CHAPTER)

INR ₹ 5,00,000.00*

USD \$7,000.00

*All INR Prices are inclusive of 18% GST Applicable on INR (₹)



- Product Placement -**Table Display or Kit Handover at Press Conference Venue** (for media)
- Standee **Placement at Press Conference** (for media)
- Product Placement -**Table Display or Kit Handover at Patron's Dinner** (for delegates)
- Standee **Placement at Patron's Dinner** (for delegates)
- Logo placement on **delegate invitation cards/invites**
- Logo placement on **Media Invites**
- Logo placement on **Public Invites**
- **Mention by Emcee/Host** during screening event at Tagore Theatre
- Standee **Placement on Screening Venue** at Tagore Theatre
- **Mention on Screening Slides** - in Film Hall
- Pictures and video **coverage of placement** at Press Conference & Tagore Theatre
- **Table Display for Exhibition** at Screening Venue at Tagore Theatre

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- Visibility on Delegates and Media **Seating** - On Seat "Head Rest"
- Logo **placement on Entry Gate** (Both Pillar)
- Logo placement **on Road - facing publicity boards** at Screening Venue
- Logo Placement on **Event Posters**
- **Digital Shoutouts** with individual mention with category
- Logo placement on **Red-Carpet Photo Board** (6 - Placements 1x1)
- Mention in **Event Film** (Post Event)
- **AV/Film/Video Display (In Theatre)**
- **Merchandise and Honours Handover on Stage to Guests, Artists & Performers.**
- Mention on **Certificates**

PRE-EVENT OUTDOOR PUBLICITY



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Road-facing Hoardings and Event Boards placed at the Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh – The most happening and sought after cultural and entertainment theatre, managed by Department Of Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh Administration



TIMELINE

For SIKHLENS – Sikh Arts & Film Festival 2021 (INDIA CHAPTER)



Date	Course Of Event
18th January 2021	Announcement Of Film Festival
9th February 2021	Last Date For Sponsor/Partner Signup
	All-Media Lock-in for Design
10th-19th February 2021	Pre-Event Activations (Promos, Invites & Callouts)
20th February 2021	Press Conference (Media)
	Pre-Event Dinner (For Delegates & Partners)
21st February 2021	Full-Day Film & Arts Festival
	Post-Event Dinner (For Artists, Delegates & Partners)

CONTACT US

For details:

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