

## Amal

Canada 2007

**Director**

Richie Mehta

**Screenplay**

Richie Mehta

Shaun Mehta

**Cinematography**

Mitchell Ness

**Original Music**

Dr Shiva

**Cast***Amal V Kumar*

Rupinder Nagra

*G K Jayaram*

Naseeruddin Shah

*Advocate SapnaR Agarwal*

Seema Biswas

*Pooja Seth*

Koel Purie

*Vivek G Jayaram*

Vik Sahay

101 minutes Subtitles

*Our next screening...***In Memoria di Me** (Italy)

Tues 13 April 2010

Dir: Saverio Costanzo

Psychological drama set in a strict Jesuit seminary on a Venetian island.

We're delighted tonight to welcome Rupinder Nagra to this rare UK screening of *Amal*. Rupinder will briefly introduce the film and hold a Q&A immediately after. Many thanks to Rupinder for making the time to visit us in Winchester, to Patrick at Carrot Cake Cinema for organising the booking, and to Peter and all at The Screen for enabling tonight's screening to take place. We hope you enjoy this special event!

The story is so simple it feels as if I've seen the film before. The feeling was like an adaptation of a fairytale I had read as a child. There's an unabashed moral or lesson to take home at the end. Mehta never proselytizes his ethics though. *Amal* is also aided by its low budget aesthetic, which helps bury its themes in a thoroughly modern cinema-style. Mehta and his production team create a completely authentic visual design. They may have been influenced by the work of Michael Winterbottom who loves to shoot 'from the hip' on the real streets of populated places. Some fine editing work is contributed by Stuart McIntyre who creates great rhythm and a momentum which gathers steam as the film progresses – a rare quality for a first feature. With the multiple locations, rickshaw driving footage, and hustle and bustle of the real Delhi streets, every

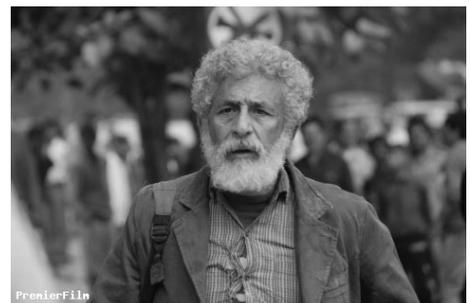
scene seems fresh and distinct. But the film succeeds because of a dramatic screenplay filled with all the essential elements of great cinematic storytelling. Mehta and his co-writer/brother Shaun are conscious of when to reveal their precious information. And everything is timed perfectly. *Amal* shows remarkable cinematic maturity for a first feature – a technically assured little gem which will help you reconcile your own anxieties and concerns about life.

*Canadian Film Dose*

Filmed in English and Hindi, *Amal* was inspired by a real-life experience and story idea by the director's brother, Shaun Mehta. Together they turned it into a short and then expanded it into a full-length feature for the 2007 Toronto Film Festival. While its theme of happiness trumping wealth has been done many times, *Amal* feels original, and an impressive performance from Toronto actor Nagra holds the film together.

*Howard Schumann, CineScene*

**PS – Don't forget our mini-season starting at the University of Winchester next week. First up is *Afghan Star* at 6:50pm on Thu 8 April at the Vault. Check our website for more details!**



Voting for *Goodbye Solo*: A-17 B-46 C-17 D-3 E-4 Attendance 98 Rating: 69.8%