

# NYWIFT || New York Women in Film & Television

For Immediate Release:

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## MEDIA ALERT

**New York Women in Film & Television Special Event:  
Theatrical Premiere of Award-Winning Filmmaker Kavery Kaul's *The Bengali*  
Co-Presented by NYWIFT and the Indo-American Arts Council at The Quad Cinema in NYC**

**WHAT:** New York Women in Film & Television presents the theatrical premiere of Kavery Kaul's *The Bengali* as the season opener of its NYWIFT Member Screening series, co-presented by the Indo-American Arts Council.

An unlikely quest takes an African American woman from New Orleans to India in search of her family's past. Her journey sparks an intriguing encounter between East and West. It reclaims the story of the first Indians who came to the U.S. in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and married African American women here. It reflects the universal legacy of migration today.

In this new feature documentary, award-winning director Kavery Kaul and her team travel to the big city of Kolkata, the countryside of Bengal and through the streets of New Orleans, with unique access to people and places in both countries. With lively animation, seamless editing, and borderless music, *The Bengali* blends form and content to forge a dynamic work of creative nonfiction. It sets the stage for creating trust between very different communities.

Dada Films is releasing *The Bengali* September 9 in New York and September 16 in Los Angeles, with select cities to follow.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
6:30 PM – Doors open  
7 PM – Screening and Q&A  
9 PM – Reception

**WHERE:** Quad Cinema, 34 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011

**WHO:** Q&A with award-winning filmmaker Kavery Kaul

**TICKETS:** \$16 on sale starting Sept 5 at <https://quadcinema.com/film/the-bengali/>

**IMAGES:** Download images at <https://bit.ly/3Qkwh2G>

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### **About *The Bengali*:**

Fatima Shaik embarks upon an unlikely quest when she travels from New Orleans, the city of her birth, to India, home of her grandfather Shaik Mohamed Musa. An African-American writer whose family has lived in Louisiana for four generations, she travels with Kolkata-born American filmmaker Kavery Kaul to a part of India where no African-American (or American) has ever gone. Her search for the past is fraught with uncertainty, as she looks for her grandfather's descendants, the land he claimed to own, and the truth about this legendary figure in her family.

Tempered with hope, fear, and unexpected encounters between strangers, *The Bengali* reaches across seemingly insurmountable cultural divides to reclaim timeless themes of family.

In this new feature documentary, award-winning director Kavery Kaul and her team travel to the big city of Kolkata, the countryside of Bengal and through the streets of New Orleans, with unique access to people and places in both countries. Nuance and intimacy mark the filmmaking style. With lively animation, seamless editing, and borderless music, *The Bengali* blends form and content to forge a dynamic work of creative nonfiction. It sets the stage for creating trust between very different communities.

### **About Kavery Kaul:**

Kavery Kaul is an award-winning director, producer, and writer, who uses an intimate lens to craft stories which boundlessly straddle different worlds. The founder of riverfilms, her work has been featured at DOC NYC, Telluride, London, Rotterdam, and Sydney Festivals, among other major festivals. It has reached wide audiences in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Her credits include *Cuban Canvas*, an Imagen Award Nominee which premiered at the Kennedy Center; *Long Way from Home*, a *Film Threat* and *Time Out* Critic's Pick; and *First Look*, presented on PBS-TV by the National Latino Broadcasting Consortium (LPB). The Academy Film Archive and the Women's Film Preservation Fund are collaborating on the restoration of her film *One Hand Don't Clap* with plans for re-release of this earlier work. Kavery has garnered Fulbright and Logan Fellowships and a New York City Proclamation of Excellence. Her TEDx talk speaks to the power of storytelling across divides. As Fulbright's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary arts speaker, she reminded listeners that "Stories Matter". An India-born American, she serves on the Board of Manhattan Neighborhood Network, and is a member of New York Women in Film & Television, Brown Girls Doc Mafia, Film Fatales, and Women Independent Producers.

Learn more at [www.kaverykaul.com](http://www.kaverykaul.com)

### **About New York Women in Film & Television:**

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) connects, educates, and advocates for women to accelerate diversity in media. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive community of peers. NYWIFT brings together more than 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 60 women in film organizations worldwide, representing more than 15,000 members. NYWIFT is a nonprofit 501c3 public charity.

More information can be found online at: [www.NYWIFT.org](http://www.NYWIFT.org).

Follow on all social media platforms @NYWIFT.

**About Indo-American Arts Council:**

The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. We work cooperatively with colleagues around the U.S. to broaden our collective audiences and to create a network for shared information, resources and funding. Our focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work here. The IAAC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law

For information, please visit [www.iaac.us](http://www.iaac.us).