



**FOR RELEASE  
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## **RIFFA welcomes International Movie Star Nandita Das as Chair of International Jury**

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - The Regina International Film Festival and Awards (RIFFA) is thrilled to announce the participation of International sensation, Nandita Das as the Chair of the International Selection Jury.

Nandita Das is an accomplished actress with over 40 feature film credits in ten different languages. She made her directorial debut with “Firaaq” in 2008 and “Between the Lines”, marks her debut as a playwright and theater director. She was the Chairperson of the Children’s Film Society between 2009 and 2012. Nandita Das was the first Indian to be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the International Women’s Forum. She has also been awarded the ‘Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters’ by the French Government. She was at Yale as a World Fellow in 2014. She is also a passionate advocate for issues of social justice and human rights. “I am delighted and honored to take on the responsibility of International Jury chair for Regina International Film Festival and Awards (RIFFA). Their mission of supporting local mental health issues and bringing a world-class film festival to the Queen City of Canada is commendable. I am happy to support this initiative” comments Ms. Das.



The 2018 Festival will take place August 14-18, 2018 and will include four days of screenings and two special events.

“I am beyond excited” says John Timothy, RIFFA President and CEO, “Each year, the festival continues to gain notoriety and to have this incredible opportunity to work with Ms. Das is a dream come true for our organization. Reaching an international jury of her caliber sets the tone and the standards for our film festival to make its mark in the world and attract a large number of exceptional film selections screened right here in Regina” concludes Timothy.

Final film selection takes place on June 15<sup>th</sup>, after which all the details of the Festival will be revealed to the public.



## **BACKGROUND RIFFA**

Regina International Film Festival & Awards (RIFFA) Foundation Inc. is a non-profit cultural art organization offering programs to enrich the community while celebrating film and diversity. The programs include The Regina International Film Festival and Awards (RIFFA), the RIFFA Classic Awards Show, and the RIFFA Academy.

## **NANDITA DAS**

Nandita Das wears many hats and her fiery passion to make a difference is evident in the choices she has made, both professionally and personally. She has acted in over 40 feature films in 10 Indian languages and in three professional plays. She directed her debut feature, Firaq, in 2008, winning much appreciation and accolades in India and abroad. After her Masters in Social Work, she has been a strong advocate of issues of social justice. She wrote a monthly column for The Week, a national magazine. She was on the jury of Cannes Film Festival twice (2005 and 2013), among others. The French Government conferred her with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), their prestigious civilian award. In 2011 Nandita Das was the first Indian to be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the International Women's Forum. She was a Yale World Fellow 2014, among 16 other emerging global leaders, chosen from around 4000 applicants.

She is currently working on her next directorial film, Manto, based on the life and works of Saadat Hasan Manto, one of the greatest short story writers of South Asia.

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