THE CINEMA OF SOCIAL JUSTICE:

The Films of Tareque and Catherine Masud

All films will be screened at the Dodd Center in Konover Auditorium and will be followed by discussion with filmmaker Catherine Masud.

FREE Admission to these events.

Tuesday, September 13
3:30-5:30
Song of Freedom
(Muktir Gaan)

This historic film, completed in 1995, tells the true story of a troupe of singers traveling through the refugee camps and zones of war during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The film blends documentary and fictional genres in a musical structure to tell the story of the birth of a nation and the ideals of secularism and tolerance on which it was founded. The filmmakers combined footage of the cultural troupe and their activities, shot by American filmmaker Lear Levin in 1971, with historic footage collected from archives around the world, to create Muktir Gaan (Song of Freedom).

Wednesday, October 12
3:30-5:30
Words of Freedom
(Muktir Kotha)

Muktir Kotha (Words of Freedom) follows a group of projectionists who traveled throughout Bangladesh from 1996-1999, showing Muktir Gaan (Song of Freedom), a documentary on the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. The film screenings prompted ordinary villagers to share their own stories of wartime suffering and resistance. Often the projection space would be spontaneously transformed into a folk concert. Through these interactions with village audiences, the young projectionist came to ‘re-learn’ the wider history of the Liberation War, and the continuing struggle of ordinary people for a more just and democratic society.

Tuesday, November 15
3:30-5:30
The Clay Bird
(Matir Moina)

Set against the backdrop of the turbulent period in the late 1960s leading up to Bangladesh’s independence from Pakistan, Matir Moina (The Clay Bird) tells the story of a family torn apart by religion and war. Based on Tareque Masud’s own childhood, this acclaimed film follows a young boy, Anu, who is sent off to a strict Islamic school, or madrasa, by his deeply religious father Kazi. As the political divisions in the country intensify, an increasing split develops between the moderate and extremist forces within the madrasa, mirroring a growing divide between the stubborn but confused Kazi and his increasingly independent wife. Touching on themes of religious tolerance, cultural diversity, and the complexity of Islam, Matir Moina has universal relevance in a strife-ridden world.

2016-2017 Human Rights Film Series

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