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Screening of *Dukhtar (Daughter)* by Afia Nathaniel

Filmmaker and current Fellow at Princeton screens her award-winning film followed by an audience discussion, opens spring edition of Cinema Today series



Photo caption: A scene from Afia Nathaniel's film *Dukhtar (Daughter)*

What/Who: A screening of Afia Nathaniel's award-winning film *Dukhtar (Daughter)*, Pakistan's official submission for Foreign Language Film for the 2015 Academy Awards, followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker, opening the spring edition of the Cinema Today series, presented by the Lewis Center for the Arts and Princeton Garden Theatre. The powerful thriller follows a mother and daughter as they flee their village in Pakistan on the day of the girl's marriage to a tribal leader.

When: Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Princeton Garden Theatre at 160 Nassau Street, Princeton

Tickets: \$6-11 available through the Garden Theatre princetongardentheatre.org; free to Princeton University students, faculty and staff with ID at the Garden Theatre box office

(Princeton, NJ) The Visual Arts Program in the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University and the Princeton Garden Theatre will present a special screening of Afia Nathaniel's award-winning film *Dukhtar (Daughter)*, opening the spring edition of the collaborative film series Cinema Today. Followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, the screening will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 9 at the Garden Theatre, 160 Nassau Street. Tickets ranging from \$6 to \$11 are available to the public at princetongardentheatre.org; tickets are free to Princeton University students, faculty and staff with ID at the Garden Theatre box office.

Dukhtar, Nathaniel's debut feature film, follows a mother and her ten-year-old daughter as they flee from their village in Pakistan on the day of the girl's marriage to a tribal leader. A deadly hunt ensues for them in a surreal landscape, which the *Huffington Post* calls "a road journey to end all road journeys". The film premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2014 and was Pakistan's Official Submission for Foreign Language Film for the 2015 Academy Awards®. The film has played to critical acclaim in over 20 countries and became a *Village Voice* Critics' Pick for 2015 and a *People Magazine*'s Pick of the Week, winning several other awards as well.

The current Cinema Today series has been organized by Director of the Program in Visual Arts Joe Scanlan and Mike Kamison, programming director of the Garden Theatre. The series tackles issues within the film industry today through conversations with four contemporary filmmakers – all of whom have a connection to Princeton. A fall edition of the series included screenings and discussions with filmmakers Charlie Kaufman, Terrence Malick, and Kelly Reichardt, among others.

Afia Nathaniel, a computer-scientist-turned-filmmaker, is currently the Peter B. Lewis Arts Fellow (2016-18) at Princeton and is teaching film courses. She has been featured in *Variety*, *The New York Times*, *Indiewire*, *NPR*, *Huffington Post* and *Screen Daily*. She is the recipient of the Adrienne Shelly Award for Directors and was nominated for a 2013 Gotham Award. She has been a fellow of the New York Foundation for the Arts, World Studio Foundation, American Association of University Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund, a recipient of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Grant, and Ezra Litwak for Distinction in Screenwriting Award. She has taught screenwriting at Columbia University's School of the Arts and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Born and raised in Pakistan, she has been living in the U.S. since 2001.

Future screenings in the Cinema Today series include Su Friedrich's documentary *I Cannot Tell You How I Feel* and her autobiographical film *Seeing Red* on March 16 and Princeton alumni Todd and Jedd Wider's *God Knows Where I Am*, a documentary that questions societal norms for dealing with the mentally ill and homeless.

The Cinema Today series is supported through the John Sacret Young '69 Lecture Series fund. Sacret Young is a 1969 graduate of Princeton and an author, producer, director, and screenwriter. He has been nominated for seven Emmy Awards and seven Writers Guild of America (WGA) Awards, winning two WGA Awards. He is perhaps best known for co-creating, along with William F. Broyles Jr., *China Beach*, the critically acclaimed ABC-TV drama series about medics and nurses during the Vietnam War, and for his work on the television drama *The West Wing*. Young has also received a Golden Globe and a Peabody Award, and his original mini-series about the Gulf War, *Thanks of a Grateful Nation*, was honored with his fifth Humanitas Prize nomination.

To learn more about these screenings, the Program in Visual Arts, or the more than 100 performances, exhibitions, readings, screenings, concerts and lectures offered annually by the Lewis Center for the Arts, most of them free, visit arts.princeton.edu.

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