



EMBARGOED UNTIL: 00:00 Friday 12 December 2008

Bhaji at the BFI – Gurinder Chadha speaks out on her career in film and race equality

40 years of campaigning for race equality is to be marked by a celebratory event at the BFI Southbank next week. One of Britain's most successful film makers, Gurinder Chadha, will look back over her career in film in conversation with firebrand human rights campaigner, Shami Chakrabarti.

Runnymede, the race equality think-tank, is marking 40 years of campaigning with its anniversary event in conjunction with BFI Southbank. Gurinder Chadha, writer and director of *Bhaji on the Beach* (1993), *Bend it Like Beckham* (2002), *Bride and Prejudice* (2004) and this year's *Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging*, will reflect on her film career and what it tells us about race and racism in a multi-ethnic Britain.

Gurinder will show extracts of her films to illustrate her interview by Shami Chakrabarti, who as Director of Liberty since 2003 has been a leading light in promoting human rights in the UK. Shami is a barrister and a Governor of the British Film Institute.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The event will be held at 18.30 on Monday 15 December, NFT1 at BFI Southbank
2. Press are invited to attend the event. Contact Rob Berkeley, Deputy Director of Runnymede 020 7377 9222 during office hours. Outside of office hours, contact Rob Berkeley on 07764 935 770.
3. The Runnymede Trust is an independent policy research organisation focusing on equality and justice through the promotion of a successful multi-ethnic society. Founded as a Charitable Educational Trust, Runnymede has a long track record in policy research, working in close collaboration with eminent thinkers and policymakers in the public, private and voluntary sectors. We believe that the way ahead lies in building effective partnerships, and we are continually developing these with the voluntary sector, the government, local authorities and companies in the UK and Europe. We stimulate debate and suggest forward-looking strategies in areas of public policy such as education, the criminal justice system, employment and citizenship. Since 1968, the date of Runnymede's foundation, we have worked to establish and maintain a positive image of what it means to live affirmatively within a society that is both multi-ethnic and culturally diverse. Runnymede continues to speak with a thoughtful and independent public voice on these issues today.
4. The BFI promotes understanding and appreciation of Britain's rich film and television heritage and culture. Established in 1933, the BFI runs a range of activities and services including BFI Southbank which screens over 1,000 films a year, from rare silent comedies to cult movies and archive television screenings. The venue hosts previews and gala screenings as well as events and on-stage interviews with film-makers, actors, producers, critics and writers. The BFI National Archive is the largest archive of moving image material in the world. Started in 1935, the collection includes over 275,000 films, 210,000 TV programmes, seven million photographs and 15,000 posters. Archived material is accessible via curated exhibitions and screenings in cinemas. The BFI Library offers access to the world's largest collection of information on film and television. Its holdings include over 46,000 books, 5,000 periodical titles and over two million newspaper cuttings.