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Announcing Toronto Nepali Film Festival 2012 Programme

Toronto, ON: The Third Toronto Nepali Film Festival (TNFF) is happy to announce its festival program. The one-day film festival will be held on Saturday March 17 (St. Patrick's Day), 2012 in Toronto, Canada at Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Ave (at St. George Street). TNFF showcases films that pertain to Nepal and is open to filmmakers from all over the world. The festival is organized with the goal of promoting Nepal's rapidly emerging and vibrant independent filmmaking and adding a distinctive voice to Toronto's film and cultural landscape.

This year TNFF received forty-six submissions from Canada, Germany, Nepal, Russia and the US. The TNFF curatorial committee has selected nine extraordinary films, and they are ***Buried in Tears, Buwega Maanatuna (The Spinner of Flights), Hanuman Airlines, Identity, Journey to Yarsa, Khusi Bhaneko (A Thing Called Happiness), Ma Khusi Chu (I am Happy), Saving Dolma*** and ***Team Nepal***. The filmmakers of the selected films are respectively Ashok Thapa; Loonibha Tuladhar; Pevec Hamilton; Lakshya Dhungana and Paula Mateo; Dipendra Bhandari; Anya Vaverko; Abinash Birkram Shah; Kesang Tseten and Girish Giri. The programme includes shorts, documentary and fiction films. The films are in Korean, Nepali, Newari (language spoken by Newars who are indigenous to Kathmandu Valley) and Tagalog. All the films have subtitles in English. The narratives of the selected films go beyond the borders of Nepal. *Buried in Tears* focuses on a rock band called *Stop Crackdown* in South Korea consisting of band members from Burma, Nepal, Indonesia and Korea. *Saving Dolma* follows the case of Dolma, a Nepali woman sentenced to death in Kuwait, convicted of killing a fellow domestic worker. *Identity* brings forth story of migration from the voices of Nepali and Filipino immigrants in Toronto. Other selected films portray diverse narratives of thrill seekers, happiness, a soccer team and a kite spindle maker. The program while being specific to Nepali narratives, there are abundant universal themes of living dreams, human resilience, loss and environment.

The 2012 TNFF Curatorial Committee included Julie Bridgham, an award winning documentary filmmaker based in New York City, Richard Fung, a Trinidad-born Canadian filmmaker, writer and artist, and Surendra Lawoti, a Nepali photographer based in Toronto, who is also the Festival Curator of TNFF.

In addition to the film programme, there will be a food stall selling delicious Nepali cuisine and performance featuring local artists. Audience Choice Award and Jury Choice Award carrying a monetary value will be announced at end of the festival.

Please visit www.tnff.ca for further details.