CHUTNEY POPCORN
Screening and Conversation with
NISHA GANATRA and MARYAM KESHAVARZ

Friday, March 11, 2022
ONE Archives at the USC Libraries
University of Southern California

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Chutney Popcorn, which premiered at Outfest L.A. in 1999, was one of the first films to explore queer South Asian experiences in the U.S.
- The screening will be followed by a conversation with the filmmaker, Nisha Ganatra; writer and director Maryam Keshavarz; and curator Aziz Sohail.
- This event is presented in conjunction with the exhibition Satrang at 25: Queer South Asian Diaspora(s) in Context at ONE Archives and the USC Pacific Asia Museum.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND SPEAKERS

**NISHA GANATRA** is a Golden Globe–winning and Emmy-nominated director and writer. *Chutney Popcorn* (1999) was her debut feature film. She has also directed films including *Cosmopolitan*, *Late Night*, and *The High Note*, as well as episodes of *Girls*, *Mr. Robot*, *Transparent*, *Dear White People*, and other TV series. She was recently named the number-one director working in advertising by the Cannes Lions film festival, which recognized her work on the short film series #wombstories for the brand Bodyform.

**MARYAM KESHAVARZ** is an Iranian American writer and director whose first narrative feature, *Circumstance*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011. Her production company, MaraKesh Films, which focuses on amplifying women’s and BIPOC voices, recently produced the award-winning film *Rosa*. Keshavarz has taught at NYU’s graduate film program, led the Writing Lab for the Black List and Women in Film, been a mentor for Film Independent’s Project Involve, and conducted filmmaking workshops at universities across the United States.

**AZIZ SOHAIL** (moderator) is an art curator, writer, and researcher. Since 2020, with The Many Headed Hydra collective, he has been co-leading kal, a language where yesterday and tomorrow are the same word and a trans*oceanic platform supporting practices enacting queer pasts/futures and decolonial ecologies. His current research is a meditation on the longue-durée intersections of sexuality and colonialism with migration, law, and identity.

VOCABULARY CORNER

**DIASPORA**

People settled far from their ancestral homelands; the movement or migration of people away from their homelands; or the places where these people live. While historically the term was used in relation to the forced displacement of certain peoples, specifically Jews, it is now used generally and by many peoples to describe those living geographically far from traditional, ancestral, and/or historic homelands.

**QUEER TEMPORALITY**

“[M]any queer communities experience and spend time in ways that are very different from their heterosexual counterparts,” wrote the queer theorist Jack Halberstam in a 2003 essay that anticipated the 2005 book *In a Queer Time and Place*. Queer temporality refers to how experiences not based on or contained within heteronormative structures or timelines might create or reflect different relationships to time.

**SATRANG**

Satrang is a Southern California–based organization that creates social, educational, and advocacy-related events to promote awareness, acceptance, and empowerment of the South Asian LGBTQ community.
ONE ARCHIVES AT THE USC LIBRARIES

ONE Archives at the USC Libraries is the largest repository of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer materials in the world. Founded in 1952, ONE Archives currently houses over two million archival items, including periodicals, books, films, video and audio recordings, photographs, artworks, organizational records, and personal papers. ONE Archives has been a part of the USC Libraries since 2010.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

○ How does Chutney Popcorn represent the complexities of familial and romantic relationships? What layers come into play or shape these relationships?
○ What was the role of humor in the film?
○ Did you notice examples of queer temporality in Chutney Popcorn? What about diasporic temporality?
○ What connections or resonances did you find between the film and the exhibition?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

○ ONE Archives at the USC Libraries | one.usc.edu
○ Satrang | satrang.org
○ South Asian Network | southasiannetwork.org
○ API Equality-LA | apiequalityla.org
○ Outfest and the Outfest Fusion QTBIPOC Film Festival | outfest.org
○ Queer and Trans API Initiative at USC
  Email: qtapi@usc.edu for information
○ USC LGBTQ+ Student Center | lgbtqplus.usc.edu
○ Upcoming Visions and Voices events:
  3/31: Tracing Our Creative Origins: A Workshop with Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik
  4/1: Belonging as Survival: Creativity, Activism, and Community
  4/21: Ku’er Worlds: Queering Chinese American Identities in Art and Film
  4/22: Ku’er Worlds: Art and Filmmaking Workshop

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

CHRISTINA SNIDER of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS


**ARTICLES**


**DATABASES**

- LGBT Thought and Culture
- LGBT Life
- East & South Asia Database
- Archives of Sexuality & Gender: LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940

**MASTER’S THESIS**


**JOURNALS**

- *South Asian Diaspora*
- *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*