

# Commonwealth film days

FEBRUARY 9TH, 2018  MARIA GREGORIOU ENTERTAINMENT, WHAT'S ON0 COMMENTS



The Royal Commonwealth Society Cyprus Branch is organising the screening of three films from Commonwealth countries at the Cine Studio in Nicosia on the next two Tuesdays of the month.

The first screening during Commonwealth Films Days will be the Indian biographical sports film *Mary Kom* on Tuesday. The 2014 film follows Mary Kom, the spirited daughter of a Manipur rice farmer, and her involvement in the world of amateur women's boxing. Kom (played by Priyanka Chopra) went through several hardships before accomplishing her ultimate dream of becoming a World Amateur Boxing Champion, not once but five times. Nicknamed Magnificent Mary, Kom is the only Indian woman boxer to have qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics and she is the first Indian woman boxer to get a Gold Medal in the Asian Games in 2014 in Incheon, South Korea.

The film, which premiered at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival, was the first Hindi film to be screened on the opening night of the festival. The screening on Tuesday is courtesy of the High Commission of India and will be shown in Hindi with English subtitles.

The next two films will be screened on February 20. The first is the English short comedy *Southgate to Brighton*. It centres around three unlikely Greek Cypriot men who attempt to go to Brighton, but fail miserably. It is by Athena Mandis and Dino Jacovides and stars Stevie Georgiou (well known for his satirical video blogs – *Georgiou's World* – about growing up Cypriot), Kyriakos Georgiou, Alexander Theo, Kostas Georgiou, Lorna V and Nina Mandis.

Mario escorts his childhood friend Chris to a wedding in Brighton. A task that seems impossible when long-time unwanted acquaintance Nick invites himself along for a ride with other plans in mind and a car full of Greek food, blaring Greek music and freshly caught game.

The short, that won Best Pitch at the LOCO film Festival 2016, takes a humorous look at how at times it can be difficult to break the habits of tradition. It shows how where we come from determines where we are going while dealing with issues that many second-generation immigrants have to cope with.

*Southgate to Brighton* is in English and Greek and it will be accompanied by English subtitles.

The last film to be screened is the documentary *Beloved Days* directed by Constantinos Patsalides and written by George Avraam. The 2016 documentary looks back to 1970 when locals in the now Turkish-occupied village of Karmi participated in the shooting of the film *Beloved*, alongside a Hollywood cast and crew, including Raquel Welch. The documentary goes back and forth in time to transmit the magical times of shooting and the traumatic changes in the lives of these same people after the Turkish invasion in 1974.

Patsalides explains that the documentary “functions as the kaleidoscope, introducing images of that magical time, and of the island’s promising future as a filming destination: a future that was terminated abruptly by the Turkish invasion of 1974.

“Naturally, the memories and emotions of whoever experienced these two important events of the seventies, along with the changes that the invasion has brought into the lives and their psyche, are weaved into the documentary.”

*Beloved Days* took seven years to make. After being screened at the ArtHouse Crouch End in London, the documentary has come back to its home country, where it has received great reviews.

After the screening, the filmmakers will be available for a Q&A session.

### **Commonwealth Film Days**

Screening of films from commonwealth countries. February 13 and 20. Cine Studio, University of Nicosia. 9pm. Free. With English subtitles. Tel: 22-670806