



PRESENTS

A talk on

CHANGING POLITICS OF DESIRE, GENDER AND CASTE: WOMEN IN INDIAN AND SOUTH ASIAN CINEMA

2.30 pm

Monday, 1 April, 2019

Conference Hall,

New Academic Building, GU

How has the image of women in Indian and South Asian Cinema changed since V Shantaram's *Duniya Na Mane* (1937)? Film curator and film critic Meenakshi Shedde gives a lecture-demonstration, examining women's roles, their burdens, challenges, joys and liberation, through the decades. She examines gender stereotypes and changing equations with men. She discusses women's roles with trailers/clips from all-Indian cinema, including Bollywood and other regional cinemas including Tamil, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi and Assamese cinema, as well as South Asian cinema from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. The new Malayalam film *Kumbalangi Nights* (2019), for instance, is a frontal attack on the Indian family stereotype, as a balding guy in a lungi becomes the compassionate mother to an amorphous modern Indian family that includes a live-in relationship, an African woman, a friend's widow, and more.

Meenakshi Shedde is an independent film curator and critic, based in Mumbai. She has been South Asia Consultant to the Berlin International Film Festival, pre-selecting Indian and South Asian films, since 21 years. Winner of India's National Award for Best Film Critic, she has been on the jury of 20 international film festivals, including Cannes, Berlin and Venice. She has been Curator/Consultant to top festivals worldwide, including the Toronto, Locarno, Busan, Dubai, IFFI-Goa, Kerala, Mumbai and Colombo Film Festivals, British Film Institute (BFI), London, and Kochi Muziris Biennale. As a journalist, she freelances for media worldwide, including *Variety*, *Screen International*, *Sight & Sound*, www.bfi.org.uk, *Film Comment*, *Cahiers du Cinema*, *Forbes* and *Midday*, and has written for 17 books, mainly on cinema. Her most recent contribution is *Haobam Paban Kumar and the Cinemas of North East India for Indian Cinema Beyond Bollywood* (Routledge UK, 2019).