

# *Shipham Community Cinema*

*presents*

Lion - Cert PG

**Director:** Garth Davis. **Starring:** Dev Patel, Rooney Mara

Shipham Community Cinema is delighted to kick-off its new season with Garth Davis's film '*Lion*', a story that might seem stranger than fiction but is actually the true tale of a lost boy in India. The screenplay adapts the memoir entitled '*A Long Way Home*' written by Saroo Brierley who is portrayed in the first part of the film by *Sunny Pawar* and then *Dev Patel* as the story develops.



In 1986 a five-year old boy Saroo Khan is accidentally torn away from his home and family in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood of Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh in Eastern India when he finds himself locked in a train travelling overnight across the vastness of the country to the city of Kolkata in West Bengal. Saroo had been helping his older brother *Guddu* (*Abhishek Barate*) work as scavengers to support their mother with a few extra rupees from what they could find and sell. Saroo finds himself trapped in the



chaos of Kolkata speaking another language (Hindi not Bengali) and skirting around some very dangerous circumstances in the hands of adults who might not have his best interests at heart. Miraculously he survives and is taken to an overcrowded orphanage where he is eventually adopted by a kindly Tasmanian couple, the Brierley's (*Nicole Kidman* and *David Wenham*). He is then shipped out of India with his new parents without any word or contact from his mother and brother.

The second part of '*Lion*' takes us forward to Tasmania 22 years later where we find Saroo Brierley living life as a young Australian spending hours every day using newly available mapping software to try to find his original home in the hope of relocating with his birth family. Driven by thoughts of his mother and brother still grieving for him each night, he measures train speeds and uses tracing research radii that assist him in his search but which lead to the detriment of other important elements in his life, especially his relationship with his partner *Lucy* (*Rooney Mara*). This search dominates the third and concluding section of the film.



There are no real leading actors or roles in '*Lion*'. Hollywood 'A' lister's *Kidman* and *Mara* have less screen time than little unknown *Sunny Pawar*. The young amateur *Pawar* gives us a remarkable performance. The Director, in order to encourage a clear idea of the narrative for the child actor, created a children's visual story book that helped *Sunny* not only to understand his part but also

contributed greatly to his performance. *'Lion'* was shot on location in India and Australia and marks Director Garth Davis's remarkable movie debut. Cinematographer Grieg Fraser presents both locales in a way that allows them to become additional characters in the film capturing intelligently the stark contrasts between the dirty, gritty streets of Kolkata and the clean sunny home comforts of Australia. But somehow Kolkata looks breathtaking even as the film is painting it as a slum.



One of the outstanding pictures of 2016 *'Lion'* has imprisoned the hearts of audiences around the world. Perhaps you may find shortcomings but one thing is certain, the film will tug relentlessly at your emotions and you are defied to leave the cinema without having shed at least one tear.

Doors at 7.15pm, programme commencing between 7.45pm and 8pm.

## TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME:

Announcements

Trailers for:

*'The Graduate'* - our first extra show on 22<sup>nd</sup> September

*'Manchester By The Sea'* - our main feature on 13<sup>th</sup> October

Short film with an Indian theme: *'Two Dosas'*

Main feature (119 mins) with a break after 65 minutes

We welcome your feedback. Tell us what you thought of the show on our Facebook page, by email to [cinema@shiphamhall.co.uk](mailto:cinema@shiphamhall.co.uk) or by filling out a feedback form, (hand it to any committee member).

Our usual many thanks to our sponsors:

