

Light of Asia

With a newly created live score by Pandit Vishwa Prakash on August 6 / 14:00

On **August 6** at **14:00**, the spectacular and rarely shown epic *Light of Asia* (1925) screens in **NFT1** for a special one off performance that will include a new live score from **Pandit Vishwa Prakash** and his team of musicians. The **SACF** will offer an illustrated introduction to the work of **Niranjan Pal**, and welcome special guests to this screening.

Light of Asia follows the story of Prince Siddhartha who rejects his privileged position to search for Truth and becomes Buddha, or the Enlightened One. Shot on location in Rajasthan with the co-operation of the Maharajah of Jaipur who provided priceless settings, costumes, retinues of retainers and troops of elephants, camels and horses, it also includes a cast of thousands.

A highlight of the **South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF)** programme of events funded by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**, the project illustrates the considerable contribution of Indian scenarist and filmmaker **Niranjan Pal** to film culture. Pal worked within the early British film industry before returning to India to write and direct films for the Bombay Talkies company, a founding force in Indian cinema.

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ABOUT LIGHT OF ASIA

Germany-India 1925. Dir Franz Osten & Himansu Rai. With Seeta Devi, Himansu Rai, Sarada Ukil, Rani Bala. C101min. Live musical accompaniment

ABOUT LIFTING THE CURTAIN: NIRANJAN PAL & INDO-BRITISH COLLABORATION IN CINEMA

Lifting the Curtain: Niranjan Pal & Indo-British Collaboration in Cinema, events will take place from July 23 – 14 August at various venues around London highlighting the contribution made by this Indian film pioneer who was based in the UK from 1908-1929.

South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF), London celebrates the work

of a forgotten legend of Indian cinema, Niranjan Pal (1889-1959) so far ignored both in India and the west. Pal was the prime mover in the making of classic silent films like **Light of Asia**, **Shiraz** and **A Throw of Dice**.

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- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

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