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Media Web site: www.apa.si.edu/programs_upcoming.html

Media Advisory

WHAT: South Asian Literary Theater Arts Festival 2008

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 15
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Museum doors open at 10 a.m.
Program begins promptly at 10:15 a.m.

WHERE: Baird Auditorium in the National Museum of Natural History
10th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Metro stations: Smithsonian or Federal Triangle

The South Asian Literary Theater Arts Festival 2008 marks the fifth year that the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Network of South Asian Professionals is partnering with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program. SALTAF began in 2000 as a forum for discussion about the literature and films emerging from the South Asian diaspora.

Two new novelists and two established writers will read from and discuss their work. Books will be available for sale and authors will be signing their titles.

SALTAF's literary guests include **Tahmima Anam**, whose luminous debut, "A Golden Age," about one woman's remarkable experiences in the 1971 Bangladesh War, won the 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Overall Best First Book; **V. V. Ganeshanathan**, is another new fiction writer with a critically acclaimed debut, "Love Marriage," about a globe-scattered Sri Lankan family; **Naeem Murr**, whose latest novel, "The Perfect Man," a coming-of-age story about an Indian-born, London-raised young man, won last year's Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Europe and South Asia for Best Book and was a 2006 Man Booker long-lister; and **Manil Suri**, whose highly anticipated follow-up, "The Age of Shiva," to his critically acclaimed award-winning debut, "The Death of Vishnu," appeared earlier this year to much praise.

Two filmmakers will screen their debut efforts this year: **Richie Mehta** arrives with his award-winning feature, "**Amal**," and **Sooni Taraporevala**, already world-renowned for her scripts for Mira Nair's Oscar-nominated "Salaam Bombay!," "Mississippi Masala," "The Namesake," and more, will screen her debut film, "**Little Zizou**."

SALTAF is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

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