

19th-22nd June, 2008.

Festival of Kabir in Film & Song

at SIDH, Kempton, Mussoorie

"Koi sunta hai!" sang Kabir, 600 years ago.
"Someone is listening! A guru, a wise one!"
This festival is an opportunity to listen.
To make the connect between Kabir's words
and our day-to-day acts,
the social, spiritual and political choices
in which we're all enmeshed.

This festival is an opportunity
for immersion, provocation,
reflection and perhaps, revelation.

An opportunity to meet one of the finest
folk voices of Kabir,
listen to his songs,
chat and interact with him.



An opportunity to journey through
4 documentary films
into spaces touched by Kabir's poetry –
meeting a diverse array of people,
an urban folklorist, a street fruit seller,
a social activist, a Dalit folk singer,
a Zen Buddhist scholar,
a neo-fascist mahant, a Muslim qawwal –
each encounter offering a moment of
surprising insight into the poetry
and its contemporary meanings.

An opportunity to glimpse many Kabirs,
and in all of them the quintessential Kabir
– who beckons, who baffles,
who pushes us to self-interrogate,
to question the boundaries of our identity,
making these filmic journeys unrelentingly
inward even as they venture outward.

Schedule

	10:30 am – 1:30 pm (Film & discussion)	4:30 – 7:30 pm (Concert & discussion)
Day 1 Thursday 19 June	Chalo Hamara Des Journeys with Kabir & Friends	Malwi folk songs of Kabir by Prahlad Tipanya
Day 2 Friday 20 June	Had-Anhad Journeys with Ram & Kabir Film Screening	Malwi folk songs of Kabir by Prahlad Tipanya
Day 3 Saturday 21 June	Koi Sunta Hai Journeys with Kumar & Kabir	Malwi folk songs of Kabir by Prahlad Tipanya
Day 4 Sunday 22 June	Kabira Khada Bazar Mein Journeys with Sacred & Secular Kabir	Malwi folk songs of Kabir by Prahlad Tipanya

Entry by prior registration only:
0135-6455203, +91.9756931811,
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About the Films and the Director:

Chalo Hamara Des: Journeys with Kabir and Friends (Dur: 98 min) This film is a journey in search of Kabir's "des" or country and unfolds through the interwoven narratives of two people from two very different countries – Dalit folk singer Prahlad Tipaniya and North American scholar Linda Hess. We enter the world of Kabir through song interwoven in the personal and public lives of these two individuals, brought together in an unlikely friendship by the amazing universality and cross-cultural resonance of Kabir.



Had-Anhad: Journeys with Ram and Kabir (Dur: 102 min) This film is an attempt to understand Kabir's Ram through poetry, song and encounters in India and Pakistan. It delves into the heart of divisive Hindu-Muslim politics of religion and nationalism in contemporary society, probing the forces of history that have created disputatiously diverse Rams, while also spawning many Kabirs.



Koi Sunta Hai: Journeys with Kumar and Kabir (Dur: 96 min) This film interweaves the oral folk traditions of Kabir in central India with the intensely personal narrative of the late classical singer Kumar Gandharva. Journeying between folk and classical music, between rural and urban expressions of Kabir, the film finds moments of both continuity and rupture between these disparate worlds.



Photo Credit: Avinash Pasricha

Kabira Khada Bazar Mein: Journeys with Sacred and Secular

Kabir (Dur: 94 min) This film investigates the ironies and tensions between secular and sacred Kabir, interweaving the sacralization of Kabir by the Kabir Panth with the secular appropriation of the same poet by the activist group Eklavya. The story unfolds through the life of Prahlad Tipaniya, a Dalit singer whose participation in the Panth and Eklavya begins to raise difficult questions for him about ritual and organized religion.

Shabnam Virmani is a documentary filmmaker and community media person, and has directed several award-winning documentaries in close partnership with grassroot women's groups in the country. She co-directed an award-winning community radio program with a rural women's group in Kutch, Gujarat, in 2002. For the last 5 years she has been immersed in the Kabir project, producing these 4 films along with 2 folk music videos, 10 audio CDs of artists singing Kabir along with books of the poetry in translation. She will be available for discussions after each screening.

About the Singer:

Prahlad Tipanya is one of the most compelling folk voices of Kabir in India today who combines singing and explanation of Kabir in the Malwi folk style from Madhya Pradesh. He has toured the US, and in Feb 2008 was felicitated with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.



This is a self-financed event, funded entirely out of participant fees. The fee for this 4-day workshop/festival is Rs.5000 (inclusive of boarding and lodging). For registration please contact Vinish (0135-6455203) or Mridu (+91.9756931811) or send mail to gapyearcollege@gmail.com. Places in the workshop are limited, so please register early.

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