

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## INDIAN COMPOSER A.R. RAHMAN IN PERSON WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF 'JAI HO,' NEW DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HIS REMARKABLE CAREER

**Screening followed by conversation with Rahman and Scott Foundas**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**

Astoria, New York, February 13, 2015—Indian super-star musician and composer **A. R. Rahman**, best known in the United States for his Academy Award-, Golden Globe-, and Grammy-winning score for Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire*, will appear in person for the world premiere of ***Jai Ho***, a new documentary about his career, at Museum of the Moving Image on Wednesday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. The film, directed by **Umesh Aggarwal**, traces milestones in Rahman's personal and professional life and features spectacular concert footage and interviews with Rahman, Danny Boyle, Shekhar Kapur, Mani Ratnam, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and other collaborators. After the screening, Rahman will participate in a discussion moderated by **Scott Foundas**, Chief Film Critic, *Variety*.

Free tickets for **An Evening with A.R. Rahman and screening of *Jai Ho*** are included with Museum admission (\$12 adults / \$9 seniors and students / \$6 children 3–12 / free for Museum members). Advance reservations are available online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

This program is presented in partnership with the Public Service Broadcasting Trust, based in New Delhi, India, and with the assistance of the Museum's advisor in India, Uma Da Cunha.

"We are honored to be hosting A. R. Rahman, an icon of Indian music, and the world premiere of *Jai Ho*," said David Schwartz, the Museum's Chief Curator. "While *Slumdog Millionaire* brought him to the attention of many Americans, Rahman has had a long and accomplished career in India and abroad for nearly two decades. This intimate and exciting documentary shows why he is widely regarded as one of the world's great film composers."

*Jai Ho* (2014, 60 mins.) was produced by the Public Service Broadcasting Trust of India, and with support from the External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of India's Ministry of External Affairs, and directed by the Indian national award-winning Umesh Aggarwal. The film explores the evolution of A.R. Rahman's style of music—a fusion of Eastern sensibilities and Western technology. Through various turning points in his life

and significant milestones, *Jai Ho* celebrates an Indian icon who is no less than a global phenomenon. Spanning across Los Angeles, London, Chennai and Bombay, the film reveals a hitherto unseen and unheard narrative of one of the greatest musicians the world has ever known.

#### **About A.R. Rahman:**

Two-time Academy Award-winner A. R. Rahman is a composer, singer-songwriter, music producer, musician, multi-instrumentalist, and philanthropist. Rahman has the honor of single-handedly catapulting Indian film music on to the world stage. Considered one of the world's most influential people by *Time* magazine, his prolific body of work, more than 120 film scores worldwide—including *Roja* (1992), *Fire* (1996), *Earth* (1998), *Elizabeth* (1998), *Lagaan* (2001), *The Hundred Foot Journey* (2014), and *Million Dollar Arm* (2014)—in a career spanning two decades, makes him one of the world's all-time top selling recording artists.

#### **About Museum of the Moving Image:**

Museum of the Moving Image ([movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

#### **About PSBT**

The Public Service Broadcasting Trust is a unique and pioneering initiative, based in New Delhi, India. It was founded in 2000 as an embryonic initiative to empower independent documentary filmmakers and to create a space for free, pluralistic, and democratic public service broadcasting in India. What started with the production of a handful of films has today emerged as the largest producer of documentaries in the country, having supported, mentored and nurtured over 425 independent voices and created over 600 documentary films on myriad themes and subjects. In the process, PSBT's films have travelled to over 780 film festivals worldwide and won close to 200 awards.

#### **About External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of India's Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**

The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of India's Ministry of External Affairs strives to foster a greater understanding of India amongst overseas audiences. Its documentary films showcase India's diversity and attempt to bring out the rich textures of a vast and complex nation.

**Press contact:** Tomoko Kawamoto, [tkawamoto@movingimage.us](mailto:tkawamoto@movingimage.us) / 718 777 6830

#### **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mon. and Tues., Feb. 16 and 17 (Presidents Week).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. As of March 1, tickets for screenings (unless otherwise noted, \$12 adults / \$9 students and seniors / free for Museum members) will be available for advance purchase online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us). Screening tickets include same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3–12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).