

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS presents**

**Milange Babay Ratan De Mele Te/ Let's Meet at Baba Ratan's Fair**

A film by Ajay Bhardwaj

*Duration: 95 minutes*

Film screening will be followed by a discussion with Ajay Bhardwaj moderated by Prof. Salil Misra.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at 5 pm

Venue: Media Centre Auditorium, IGNC, 3, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi 110 001

### **Synopsis**

It is a film about local cultural continuities and a most imaginative transgression of rigid religious identities in post-partition east Punjab.

On the eve of the British leaving the subcontinent in 1947, Punjab was partitioned along religious lines. Thus was created a Muslim majority state of Punjab (west) in Pakistan and a Hindu /Sikh majority state of Punjab (east) in India. The universe of a shared way of life – Punjabiyaat — was marginalised.

However, the idea of Punjabiyaat has not been totally erased. In ways seen and unseen, it continues to inhabit the universe of the average Punjabi's everyday life. This is the universe that the film stumbles upon in the countryside of east Punjab. Following the patters of lived life, it moves fluidly and eclectically across time, mapping organic cultural continuities at the local levels.

This is a universe marked by a rich tradition of cultural co-existence and exchange created by people's spiritual practices that subvert the rigid religious identities in the most imaginative ways.

### **About Ajay Bhardwaj**

Ajay Bhardwaj is a documentary filmmaker based in Delhi. He has worked in media for over two decades. He has made documentaries on political, cultural and development themes that have won critical acclaim. Since 2002, beside other themes, he has been engaging with the north-western state of Punjab that has resulted in a Punjab trilogy: *Kitte Mil Ve Mahi* (2005), a pioneering work which explores the deep bonding between Sufism and Dalits in Punjab; *Rabba Hun Kee Kariye* (2007) gives a deeply humanistic insight into Partition memories, capturing for the first time feelings of guilt and remorse about the genocidal violence on the Indian side of Punjab; and *Milange Babey Ratan De Mele Te* (*Lets Meet at Baba Ratan's Fair*, 2012).

### **About Prof. Salil Misra**

Prof. Salil Misra is a historian based in Delhi. He acquired his master's degree in Modern Indian History from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, from where he went on to do a PhD on *Communal Politics in UP, 1937-39* under the supervision of Prof. Bipan Chandra. His publications include a monograph on *A Narrative of Communal Politics: Uttar Pradesh, 1937-39* and a small booklet in Hindi on Swaraj Party brought out by the National Book Trust. In 2009 he was a visiting researcher at the Centre for History of Emotions, Max-Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin. Presently he is professor in history and the Dean, School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi.