



Office of Public Affairs  
Division of University Advancement

## News Release

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### **BOLLYWOOD STAR AND HUMANITARIAN SHABANA AZMI TO DISCUSS “FILMS, POLITICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE” AT CAL POLY POMONA**

POMONA, Calif. — Shabana Azmi is an award-winning movie star with more than 140 movies in her native India. However, to her fans, Azmi has another significant role: as an activist addressing human rights, communal harmony and social justice.

The acclaimed Bollywood star and humanitarian will discuss “Films, Politics and Social Justice” on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in the Cal Poly Pomona Bronco Student Center’s Ursa Major.

“People will walk away from the program inspired by Shabana Azmi’s activism,” said Tara Sethia, director of the Ahimsa Center, which is hosting the dialogue. “In spite of the fact she is such a big celebrity, she has shown exemplary compassion and humility to work toward the causes of the underserved, deprived and the poor.”



Azmi has won an unrivaled five National Film Awards for Best Actress for roles in *Ankur*, *Arth*, *Khandhar*, *Paar*, and *Godmother*. She took home the Filmfare Best Actress award four times, and in 2005 earned the distinguished Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award.

Aside from her work in film, Azmi has dedicated herself to assisting slum dwellers in Mumbai, marching for communal harmony, fundraising for victims of the Latur earthquake, as well as fighting AIDS. Her activism has also garnered accolades including the 2006 International

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Gandhi Peace Prize in the United Kingdom, the 2006 Crystal Award at the Davos World Economic Forum, and the 2000 Martin Luther King Award from the state of Michigan.

The event will start with the short documentary *Shabana*, which provides background on Azmi's work in films and politics. A discussion and question and answer session will follow.

The Ahimsa Center dialogues feature scholars and practitioners of *ahimsa*, an eastern philosophy of nonviolence rooted in courage and compassion, fearlessness and forgiveness.

Tickets are \$20, and available online at [www.csupomona.edu/ahimsacenter](http://www.csupomona.edu/ahimsacenter). However, early birds who purchase their tickets before Nov. 10 receive \$5 off. For more information, contact Ahimsa Center director Tara Sethia at (909) 869-3868 or [tsethia@csupomona.edu](mailto:tsethia@csupomona.edu).

Cal Poly Pomona is located at 3801 W. Temple Ave. in Pomona. Parking permits are required and can be purchased for \$5 at the Visitor Information Booth along Kellogg Drive.

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