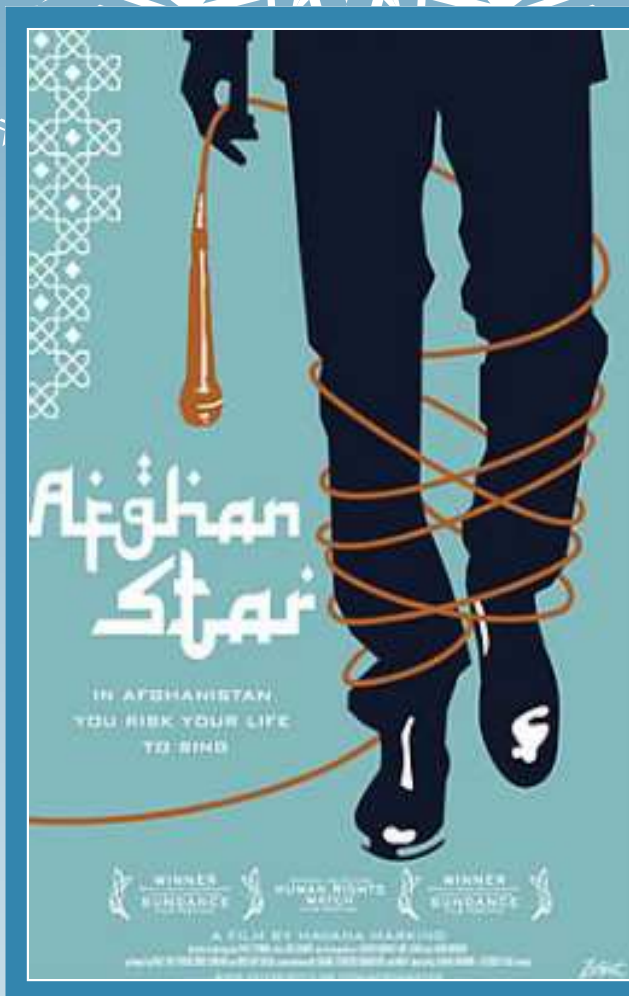


Afghanistan Studies Centre
Academy of International Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia

Cordially invites you to the screening of

AFGHAN STAR



This documentary film follows four contestants in the Afghan reality show, *Afghan Star*. After 30 years of war and Taliban rule, pop idol has come to Afghanistan. For many this is their first encounter with democracy. The show's director and host explains that it provides an opportunity for Afghans to enjoy music again after the Taliban's ban. The show becomes popular among ordinary Afghan people. The contestants become national celebrities as fans vote for their favourite contestants via SMS even across ethnic lines. The film follows the dramatic journey of the contestants as they risk their lives to become the country's favourite singer. But will they attain the freedom they hope for in this vulnerable and traditional country? Behind the scenes, the audience gains unprecedented access to the lives of the contestants, fans and producers alike. Characters like Rafi Naabzada – a 19 year old local boy from Mazar-e-Sharif and a classic wannabe pop star, who has no interest in politics – just wants his people to wake up and for their souls to come alive again. While one-third of Afghanistan watches, Rafi wins the final round to become the Afghan Star.

Date : 31 January 2014 (Friday)

Time : 2:30 to 5:00 pm

Venue: Mir Anis Conference Room, Dayar-i Mir Taqi Mir

The film will be followed by a discussion.

Next movie to be screened: *Charlie Wilson's War*.