

**The prestigious Indian actress Shabana Azmi will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from Imagineindia International Film Festival Madrid.**

**- The award to Azmi will be the aperitif to this year's edition to be held from September 23 to October 9.**

**- The Festival will feature outstanding presences of leading figures in the industry film from the asian country.**

It will be on July 1 when Shabana Azmi receives the Award for a Lifetime Achievement that the Festival gave her in its 2021 edition and that the actress could not come to pick it up due to the travel restrictions imposed by COVID. For Abdur Rahim Qazi, director of ImagineIndia, Azmi's award is a must as "her figure marks a before and after in Indian independent cinema. Her appearance, between fragile and rocky, gave sense to a cinema more attached to neorealism, to the social problems of women facing to the patriarchy and the arrogance of the landowners... She is, without a doubt, the Great Lady of the contemporary Indian cinema.

The award ceremony for Shabana Azmi will also serve for ImagineIndia to present a preview of what we can see in the twenty-first edition of the Festival that, this year, will take place from September 23 to October 9.

"We are working in a balanced program where, in addition to the classic sections, such as the Official, Documentaries or Short films, we open ourselves to the cinema of other latitudes with retrospectives such as those of Mark Donskoy, or new sections such as Spanish Short Films.

Year after year we select films of great quality, that are moving, that do not leave indifferent to the spectator, that they leave a residue in him. Our audience know that any ImagineIndia film is worth watching."

After two editions marked by the pandemic, this year's Festival will once again bring to Madrid a large representation of Indian filmmakers. Among the confirmed presences stand out directors like Rohit Khaitan, Anuraag Pati or Bijukumar Damodaran, producers like Sanat Panda or the Spanish editor Teresa Font who has been in charge of "Funny Boy", last feature film by the Oscar-nominated director Deepa Mehta that, without a doubt, is one of the jewels in this year's schedule.

In addition, those responsible for ImagineIndia confirmed that this year the Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to the Spanish actress Ángela Molina:

“Ángela has a great love for India. As a teenager she traveled there and the country left her very marked. Later she won the Best Actress Award at the New Delhi festival,” says Abdur Rahim Qazi, director of the festival, who adds: “One day she told me that she was so excited about that award that she always carried the trophy with her, and then she took it out of her bag and showed it to me. Have all the sense that if in 2021 we awarded Shabana Azmi, the Great Lady of Indian cinema, be the Great Lady of Spanish cinema the one who takes over”.