

The Honorands of The 2011 Commencement

Mira Nair **Doctor of Fine Arts**

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker and producer Mira Nair was born in India and studied sociology and theater at Delhi University and at Harvard University. She began her career as an actor, then turned to producing documentary film. Her first documentary, *India Cabaret*, won awards at the Global Village Film Festival, the Athens International Film Festival, and the American Film Festival. Her first feature film, *Salaam Bombay!* (1988), received more than twenty-five international awards, including the Caméra D'Or and Prix du Publique awards at the Cannes Film Festival, and an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film. With proceeds from the film, Nair established the Salaam Baalak Trust to meet the safety, nutritional, health, social, and educational needs of street children in Mumbai. Subsequent features have included *Monsoon Wedding* - which became one of the highest grossing foreign films of all time and is now headed to Broadway - *Mississippi Masala*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Namesake*, and *Amelia*. Through her production company, Mirabai Films, she founded Maisha, a nonprofit training initiative in screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography, editing, sound recording, and acting for emerging East African filmmakers.