



That's right – it's the 15th edition of the **Bangalore Queer Film Festiva**!

This year, we're turning our queer gaze a little closer to home – with a special focus on films from India, and an extra-special spotlight on the chaotic, charming, ever-changing city we call home: Namma Bengaluru.

But wait - it gets better.

As part of our 15-year love affair with cinema, we're also hitting rewind and bringing back some absolute gems from our past editions – films that stole hearts and provoked thoughts when they first screened at BQFF. In this current moment – heavy with uncertainty, but also resistance and renewal – we felt these films needed to be seen again.

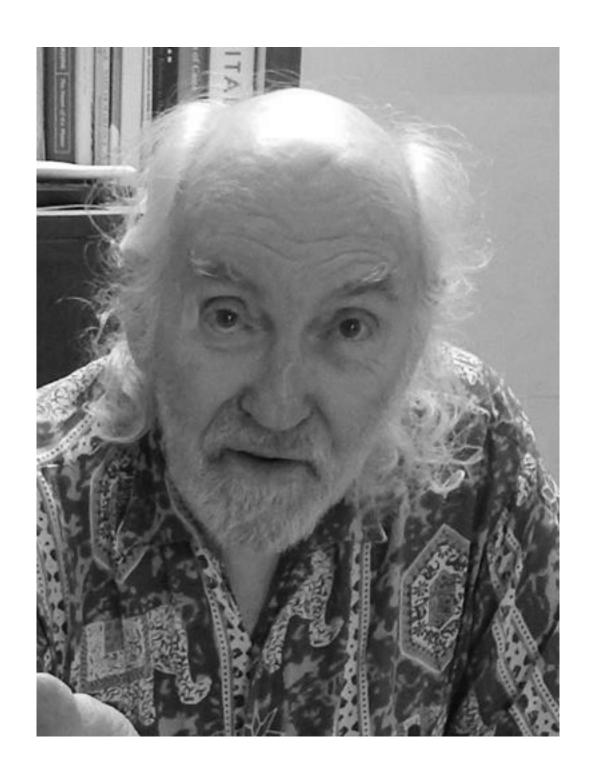
So whether you're here for the new-new, the old-but-gold, or just for the vibes and gossip – welcome!

With all our love,
The BQFF Organising Committee





IN MEMORIAM: LYLE PEARSON (1937 - 2025)



Lyle Pearson was a filmmaker, critic and historian. In the late 1960s, he followed his Flamenco dancing boyfriend to Spain from San Francisco but it didn't work out. But it stirred in him a love for travel and cinema. In 1975, he travelled to India from Tunisia for the first time to visit the Film and Television Institute of India and the National Film Archive of India in Pune, overstayed his visa and spent ten days in Tihar Jail. And since then, he has been coming to India every single year to attend film festivals, spending over nine months with Bangalore as his base. From the beginning of our film festival, he has always been the first audience member to arrive at the venue — in his baby pink shirts — with more energy and enthusiasm than any one else. And for the rest of the festival, he perfumed its air with a real warmth and charm. He was encouraging to young filmmakers and audiences, diving into his vast knowledge of cinema to always gift them with a pearl. Lyle, you will be greatly missed at the Bangalore Queer Film Festival! We know you'll continue to watch with us from the best seat in the house — you did always have an eye for spotting it.

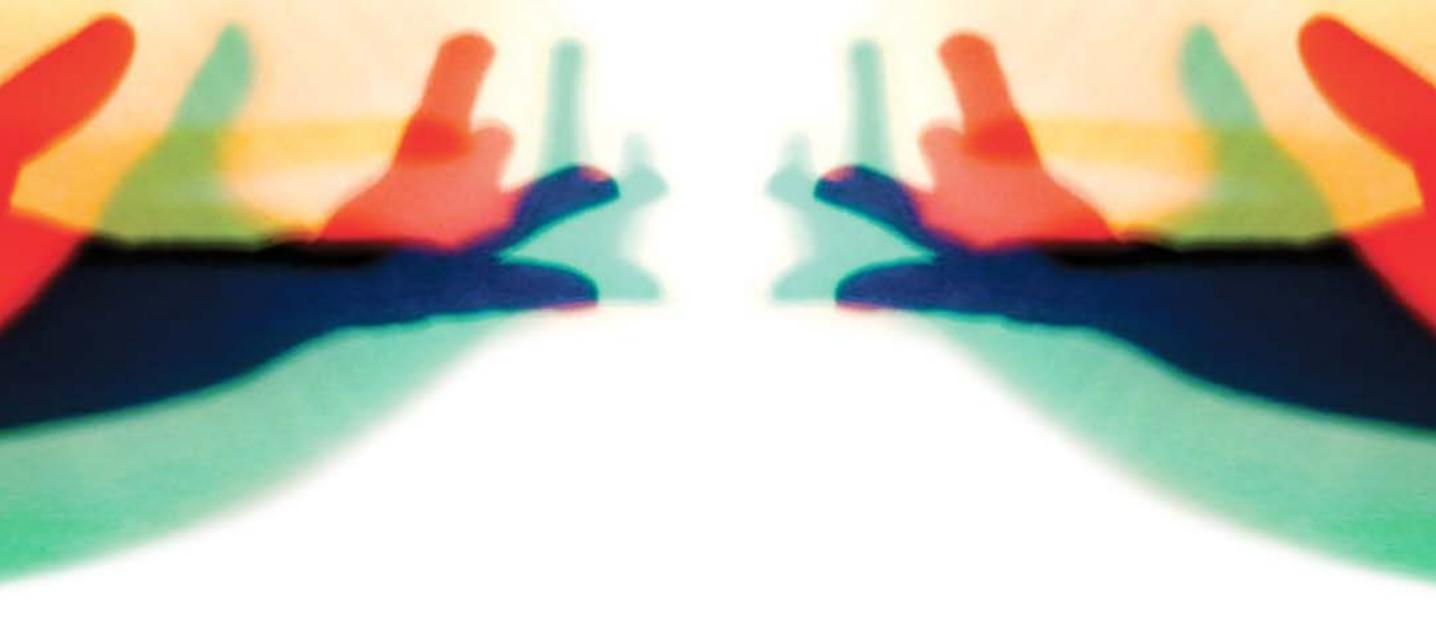




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FRI, OCT 3

10.45 am <u>sab changa si</u>

/ all was good

12.00 pm <u>Beyond the Blues</u>

01.00 pm LUNCH

02.00 pm Girl Friends

03.55 pm BREAK

04.15 pm <u>Zari</u>

04.35 pm Ricard Dance

05.45 pm <u>End of 14 Days</u>

06.00 pm My Comrade

06.25 pm <u>Kattumaram</u>

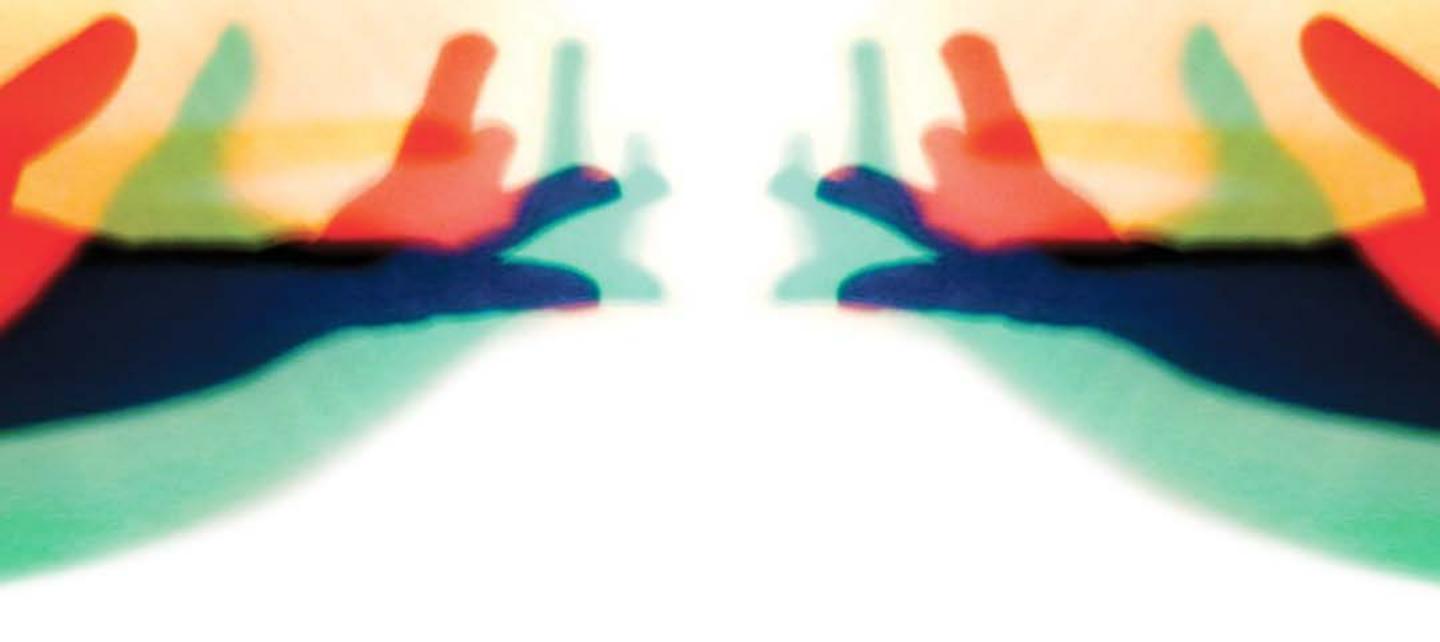
07.40 pm BREAK

07.50 pm <u>masturbation is easy,</u>

finding the video

<u>is hard</u>





SAT, OCT 4

12:00 pm <u>Bhram</u>

12:20 pm <u>All About Our Famila</u>

01:30 pm LUNCH

02:45 pm <u>"A Miniscule Minority"</u>

04:00 pm BREAK

04:30 pm Knock Knock

05:00 pm <u>Secret Minds</u>

05:05 pm <u>Sakhi</u>

05:15 pm <u>Forget Me Not</u>

05:40 pm <u>Nisha</u>

06:20 pm <u>If You Know You Know</u>

06:45 pm BREAK

07:00 pm <u>Aan Poovu</u>

07:20 pm <u>Palama: Do You See?</u>

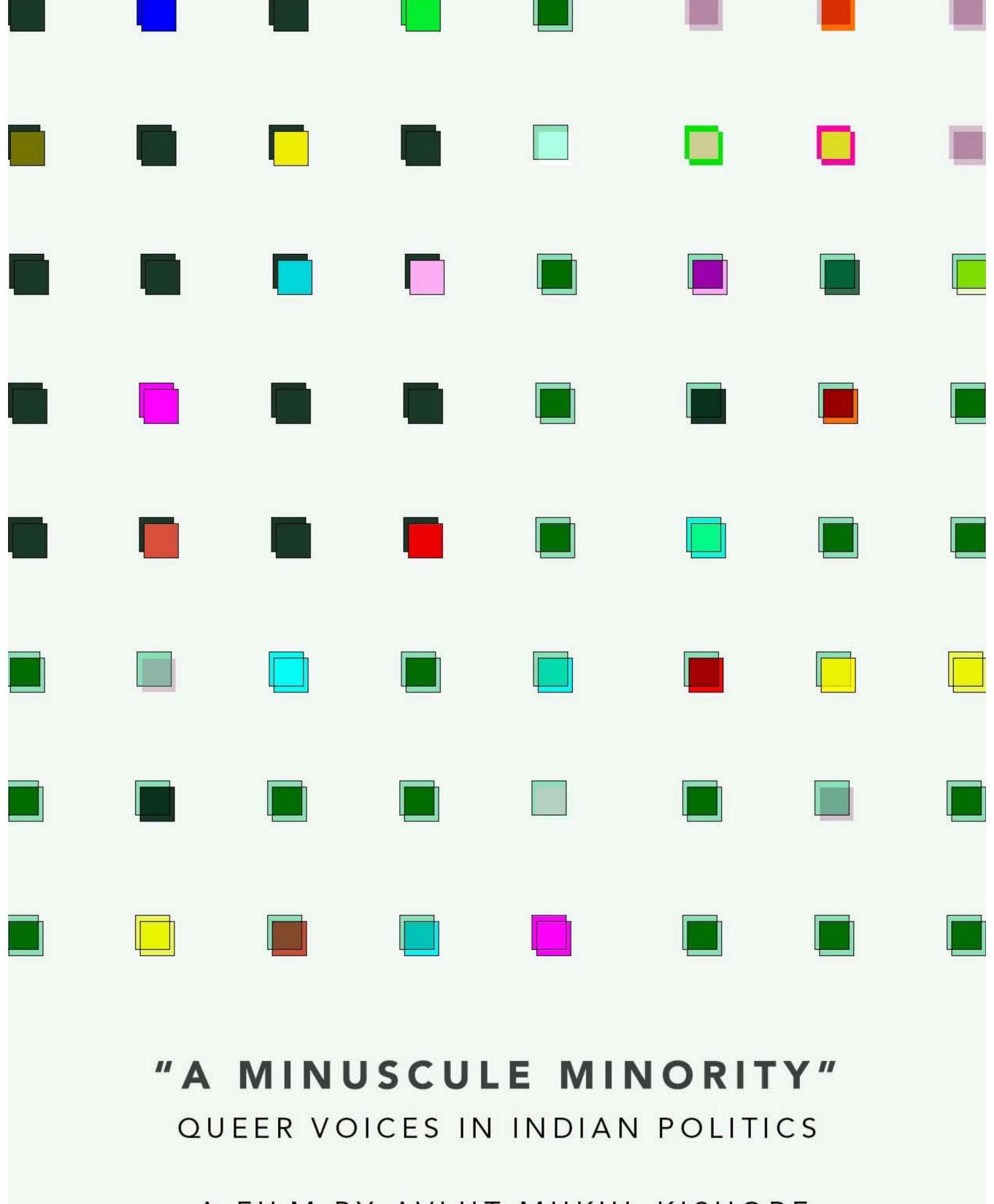






IFITH THE S





A FILM BY AVIJIT MUKUL KISHORE

PRODUCED BY CeMIS

"A Miniscule Minority"

India | 2025 | 74 min | English, Kannada, Hindi, Marathi



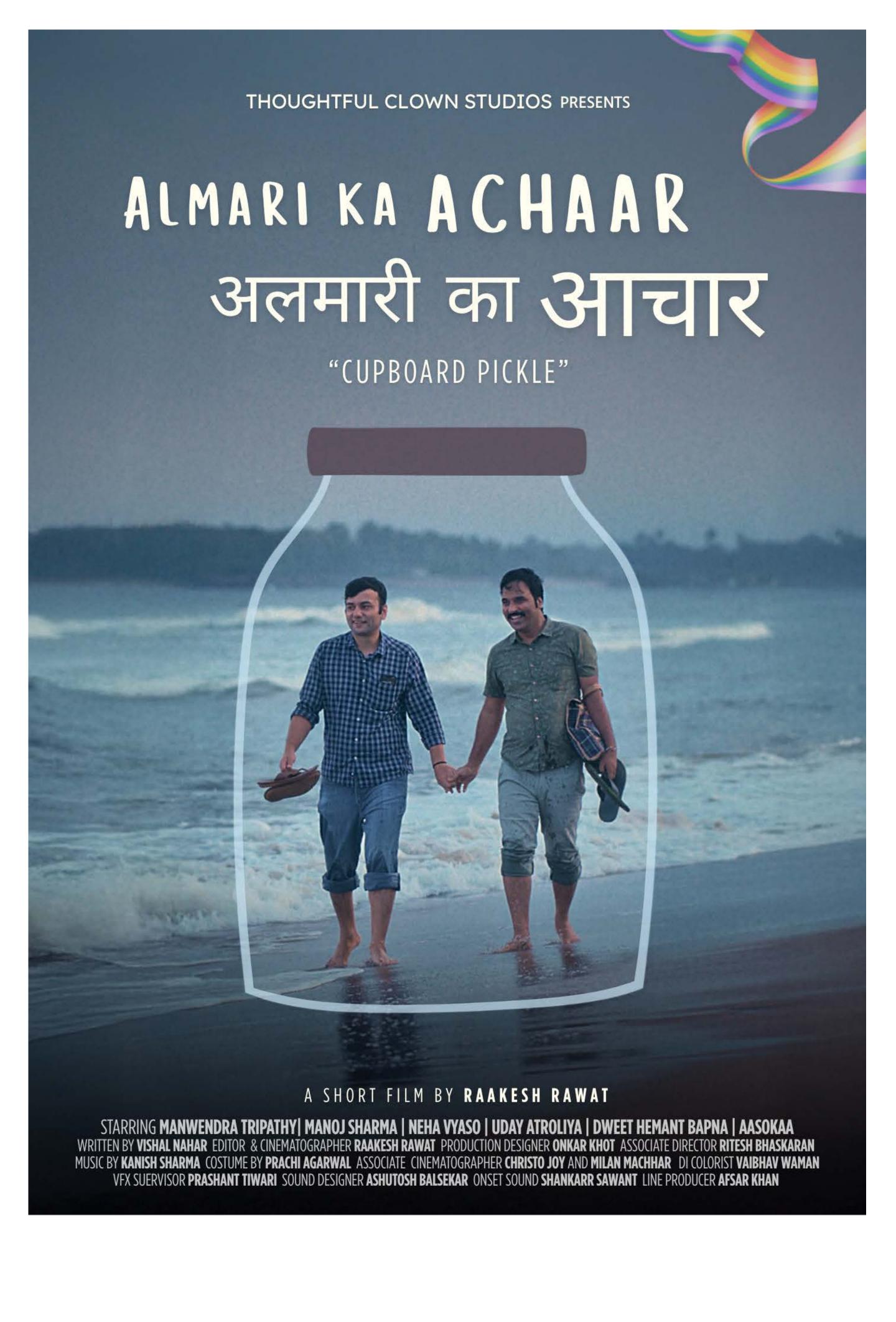
2024 was the 77th year of India's independence. The General Elections for the 18th Lok Sabha, the lower house of the parliament, were held from April to June, 2024. Queer rights were not on any political party's agenda. A handful of parties made a token mention of queer rights on their manifestos, but none campaigned for them. "A Minuscule Minority" documents a crucial evolution in India's queer rights movement. It features conversations with second and third-generation activists and looks at the shift from petitioning the judiciary, to engaging directly with political parties in the fight for equal rights for queer people. The film is part of the Election Diaries 2024 research project of the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen, Germany.

Avijit Mukul Kishore



Avijit Mukul Kishore is a filmmaker, cinematographer and educator. He works in documentary and inter-disciplinary moving-image practices, often in collaboration with artists, architects and social work professionals. He was part of two theatre groups in Delhi from 1984-93 and worked as a broadcaster from 1987-93. He studied History at Hindu College, University of Delhi and Cinematography at the Film and Television Institute of India. He is a visiting lecturer at film, media and design schools and works as a curator of film programmes.

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Almari Ka Achaar

India | 2025 | 20 min | Hindi



In the heart of Mumbai's bustling lanes and corner shops, Almaari Ka Achaar (Cupboard Pickle) tells the tender story of Prakash and Mohan, two middle-aged Rajasthani migrants who've quietly built a life together while working at a modest grocery store. Prakash, reserved and soft-spoken, and Mohan, his warm and witty companion, share more than just a flat — they share a love that's been carefully nurtured in silence, preserved like the homemade pickle tucked away in the backroom cupboard. But when family obligations, cultural expectations, and the looming fear of exposure begin to close in, that fragile space is put to the test.

Raakesh Rawat



Raakesh Rawat is an award-winning Indian filmmaker, director, producer, writer, editor, and cinematographer. His debut feature film *Midnight Delhi* had its world premiere at the Singapore South Asian International Film Festival, where it won the Best Editor award, and was officially selected at the 19th New York Indian Film Festival and the South Asian International Film Festival. Raakesh founded Thoughtful Clown Studios and produced and directed Midnight Delhi under this banner. His work is driven by a passion for socially resonant narratives that aim to spark reflection and bring overlooked voices into the spotlight.

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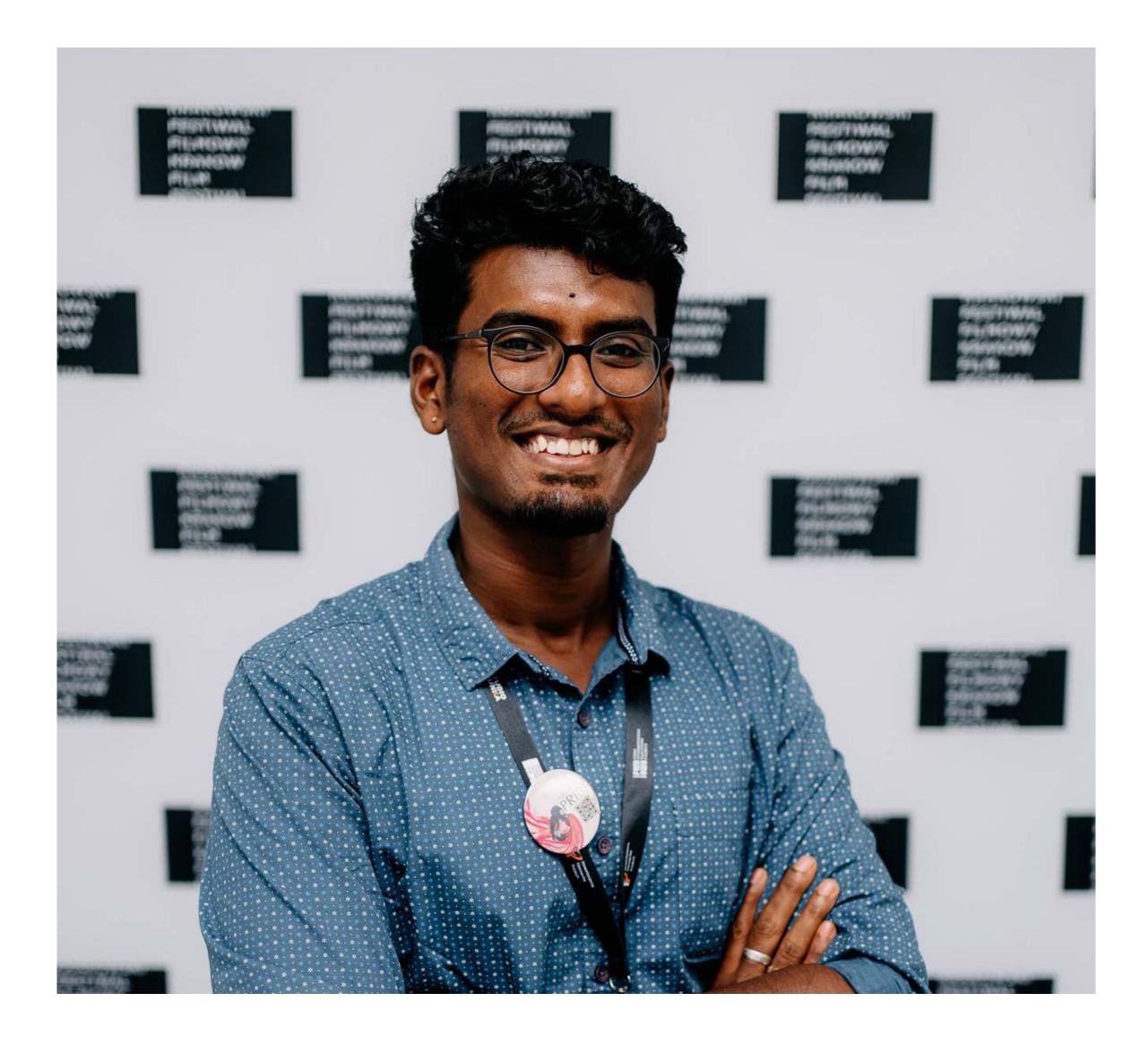
Amma's Pride

India | 2025 | 21 min | Tamil



Amma's Pride chronicles Valli's trials and tribulations as she watches her trans daughter Srija fall in love, marry, and fight for state and societal recognition of her marriage in a traditional small town in Tamil Nadu. When societal pressures push Srija's marriage to the edge, Valli clings to the hope of a miracle.

Shiva Krish



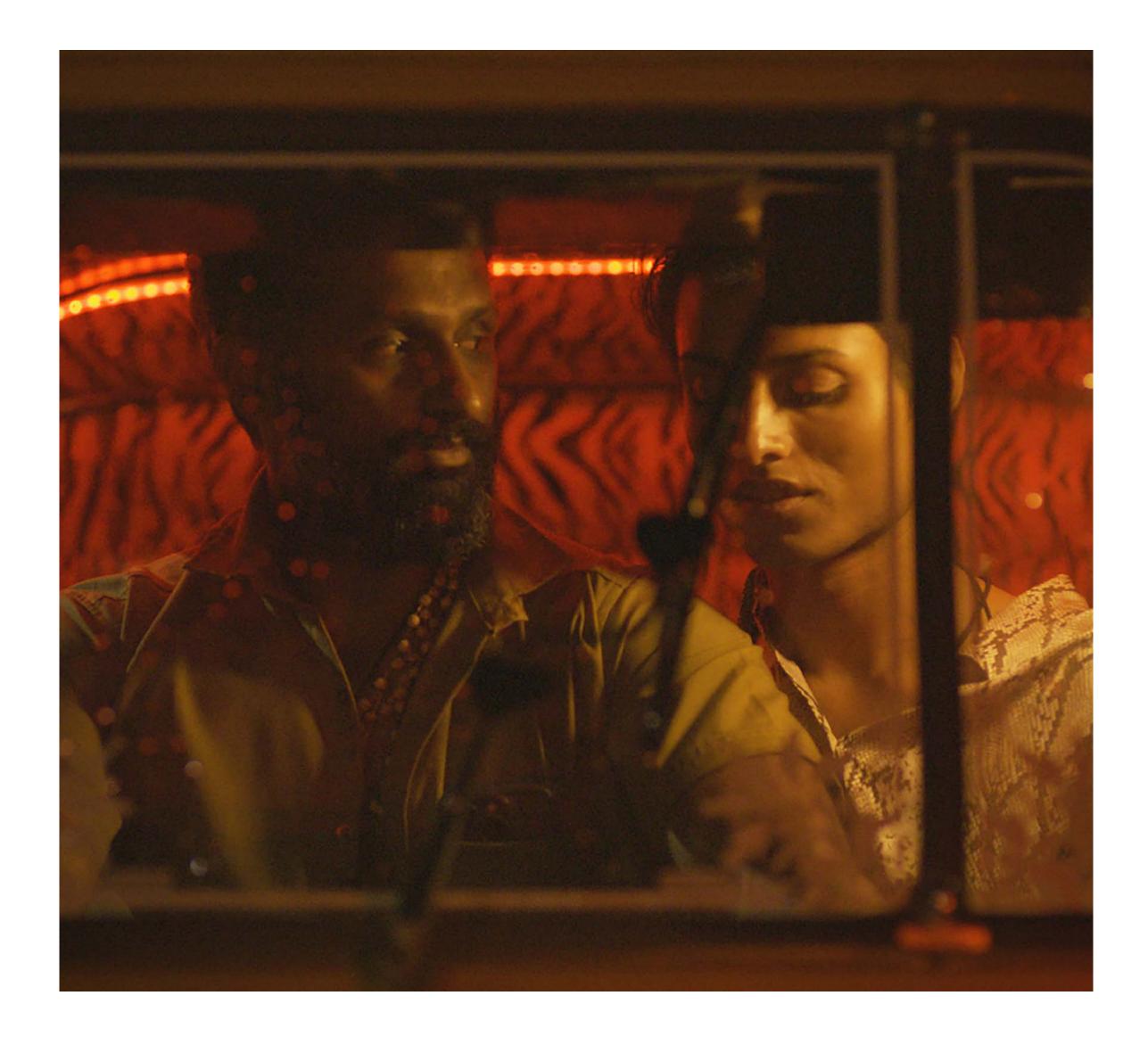
Shiva Krish began his career as an assistant director on the Tamil feature film *Oru Naal Iravil*. Volunteering during the Chennai floods of 2015 connected him with several local nonprofit organisations, which in turn sparked his interest in documentaries. After that, he made short documentaries on demonetization in India, and schizophrenia, in collaboration with nonprofit organisations. He was the first assistant director in the acclaimed Amazon Prime documentary series *Harmony with A.R. Rahman. Amma's Pride* is his first independent documentary short.

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Automagic

India | 2025 | 13 min | Kannada



Madhu, a young androgynous artist, is femme-presenting as he hails a rickshaw to return home after a night of clubbing. Ratnakar, the rickshaw driver, is middle aged and a man of God. Over the course of their trip, Madhu engages with Ratnaka in an attempt to seduce him only to find out that he is practicing celibacy for a month in preparation for the Sabrimala pilgrimage.

Ashok Vish



Ashok Vish was one of eight filmmakers selected for the 'Director's factory: Philippines' through the Director's Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival, produced and curated by Dominique Welinski of DW Productions. *Nightbirds* premiered at the Quinzaine Des Cinéastes, Cannes Film Festival 2024. Ashok's film *Automagic*, co-produced with Claire Chassagne of Dolce Vita films, premiered at the Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival in February, 2025. Ashok is also in development for his first feature length film, *To Kill The One You Love*, which was part of the Co-Production market at the NFDC Film Bazaar, Goa. Additionally, Ashok works as a film programmer at the New York Indian Film festival, and Arthshila, a private art institution in India.

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BACK TO SCHEDULE



Beyond the Blues

India | 2023 | 64 min | Bengali



Beyond the Blues is a journey undertaken with Neel whose metamorphosis from an Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB) person to a feminist non-masculinist transman is not just a story of gender affirmative transition. The film explores notions of identity and selfhood tied to questions of normativity, masculinity and citizenship. It touches upon two generations of socialized gender-sexual identities marked by patriarchal norms that, at best, deny and deprive, and at worst, subjugate and persecute. The film brings together Neel and Shamu in their quest for new reference points, in their hand holding, in their feline kinships and in their march against structures of oppressive homogenizations of all differences.

Debalina Majumder



Debalina Majumder is a Kolkata-based filmmaker, cinematographer, and media producer. As a Berlinale Talent and Global Media Makers fellow, her diverse filmography spans documentaries, fiction, and video art. Her films explore themes of queer identity, feminist narratives, and marginalized histories. Notable works include ...and the unclaimed, If You Dare Desire..., and Gay India Matrimony. Recent projects like Tale of a Migrant City and City of Transit focus on refugees and migrants. Debalina's cinematography, photography and films have gained global recognition, with her works being featured in university courses worldwide. She also founded Tamarind Tunes, a community platform for music and discussions on history, politics and contemporary issues.

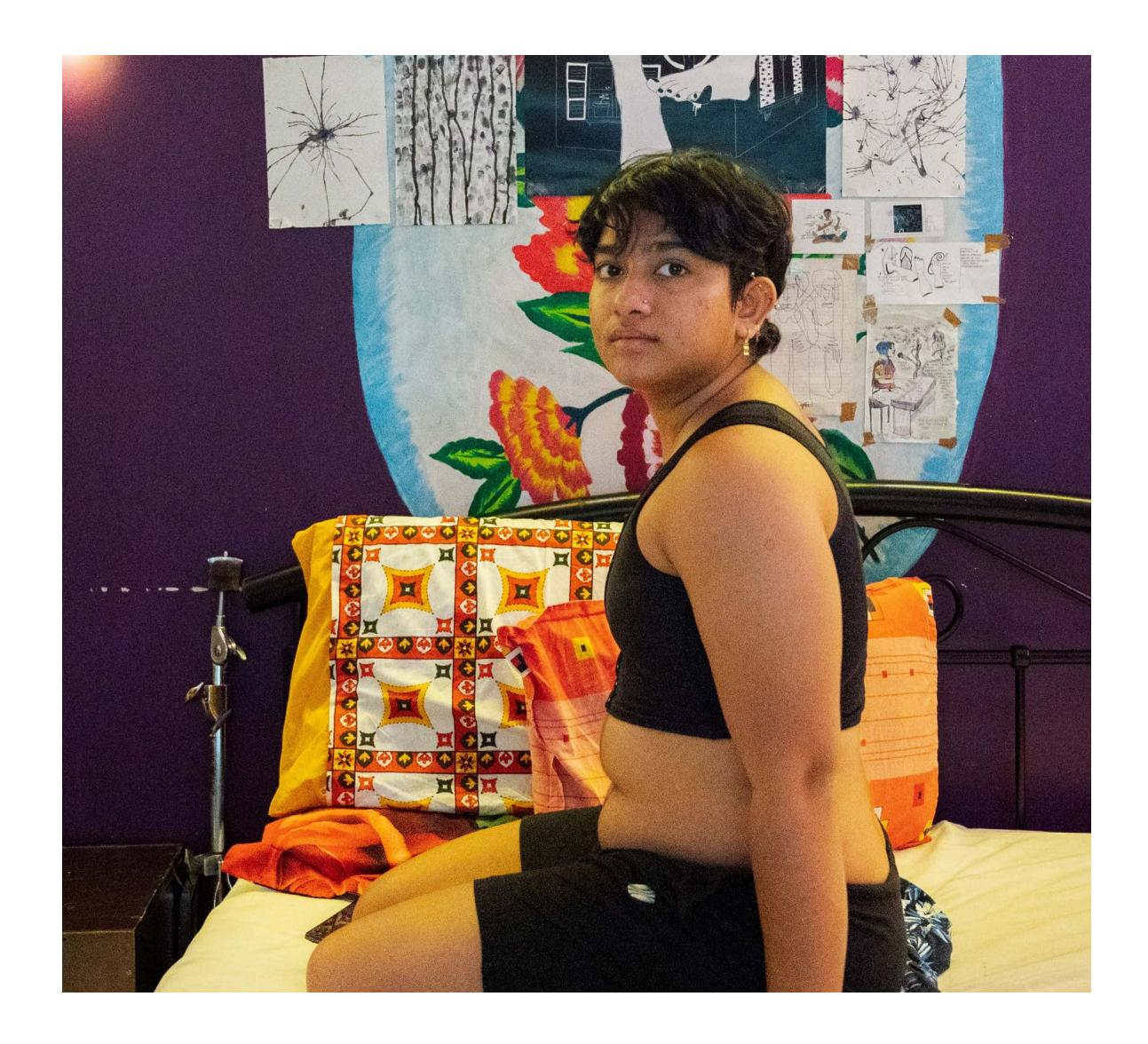
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EDITOR SAKSHI | CAMERA LEO PAAPAM | MUSIC A BHASKAR RAO | ANIMATION ILLESHA

Dear Sahithya

India | 2024 | 23 min | English, Hindi, Tamizh



Dear Sahithya is a filmic letter directed by Leo Paapam, addressing their friend Sahithya's experience with a double incision mastectomy. Leo captures this pivotal moment in Sahithya's life, documenting their journey towards acceptance as a trans nonbinary individual in a suburban middle-class world. The film unfolds as a collage of intimate and honest scenes, offering a glimpse into Sahithya's process of embracing their identity and celebrating their existence.

Leo Paapam



Leo (They, Them) primarily worked as a photographer while assisting various filmmakers and content creators in their attempts to learn filmmaking. Their work as an assistant includes an experimental Haryanvi film, a web series from Kashmir, and collaborations with other content creators. Their focus on representations of intersectional identities has guided their career choices. They've recently been working with filmmaker Shridhar Sudhir in research for Buddhijeev Studios, and assisting in teaching filmmaking. *Dear Sahithya* is their debut film.

leo@paapam.xyz



End of 14 Days

India | 2025 | 13 min | Bengali



During the pandemic, Bhola and Abbas, two young gay labourers, returning from India to their village in Bangladesh after cycling 1500 kms, are forced to quarantine themselves in the jungle at the outskirts of their village. Their fellow traveller, an old man, another labourer, has been hospitalized in critical condition after several days of arduous cycling. On the very last day of their quarantine, the two friends, worried about the only ally who understood them, hope for ever-lasting isolation.

Sudipto Kundu



An independent Indian filmmaker, Sudipto Kundu has directed, produced, and co-produced documentaries and short fictions. His documentary film *Ladli*, directed and produced by him, got the Best Short Documentary Film award at the Kasish International Queer Film Festival, the Best Documentary Film award at the Diorama International Film Festival, and other nominations and awards. His short documentary films *Coffee With Positivity* and *Tales of Another Radha* have been selected at various film festivals.

sudipta6d@gmail.com



FORGETMENOT

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RAJSHI R. CHAUHAN



RAJSHI R. CHAUHAN AND AKSHITA ACHARYA PRESENTS

A RAJSHI R. CHAUHAN FILM "FORGET ME NOT" MEGHA VINOD . PARINITA SHETTY . DOLFEN ARORA MUSIC ARYAN SINGH COSTUME & PRODUCTION DESIGN AKSHITA ACHARYA .

RAJSHI R. CHAUHAN EDITOR RAJSHI R. CHAUHAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AKSHITA ACHARYA SOUND DESIGN AND MIX VANDANA RAMAKRISHNA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER HIMANSHI CHAUHAN . MADHU SUDHAN SHARMA . SIDHARTH BANERJEE . VANDHANA SHARMA PRODUCED BY RAJSHI R. CHAUHAN . AKSHITA ACHARYA WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RAJSHI R. CHAUHAN

Forget Me Not

India | 2025 | 15 min | English, Hindi



Forget Me Not is the story of Nikki, who, after the death of her girlfriend, Sara, decides to undergo a procedure that will erase her memories. As Sara's ghost tries to change her mind, Nikki must choose between her grief and her past.

Rajshi R Chauhan



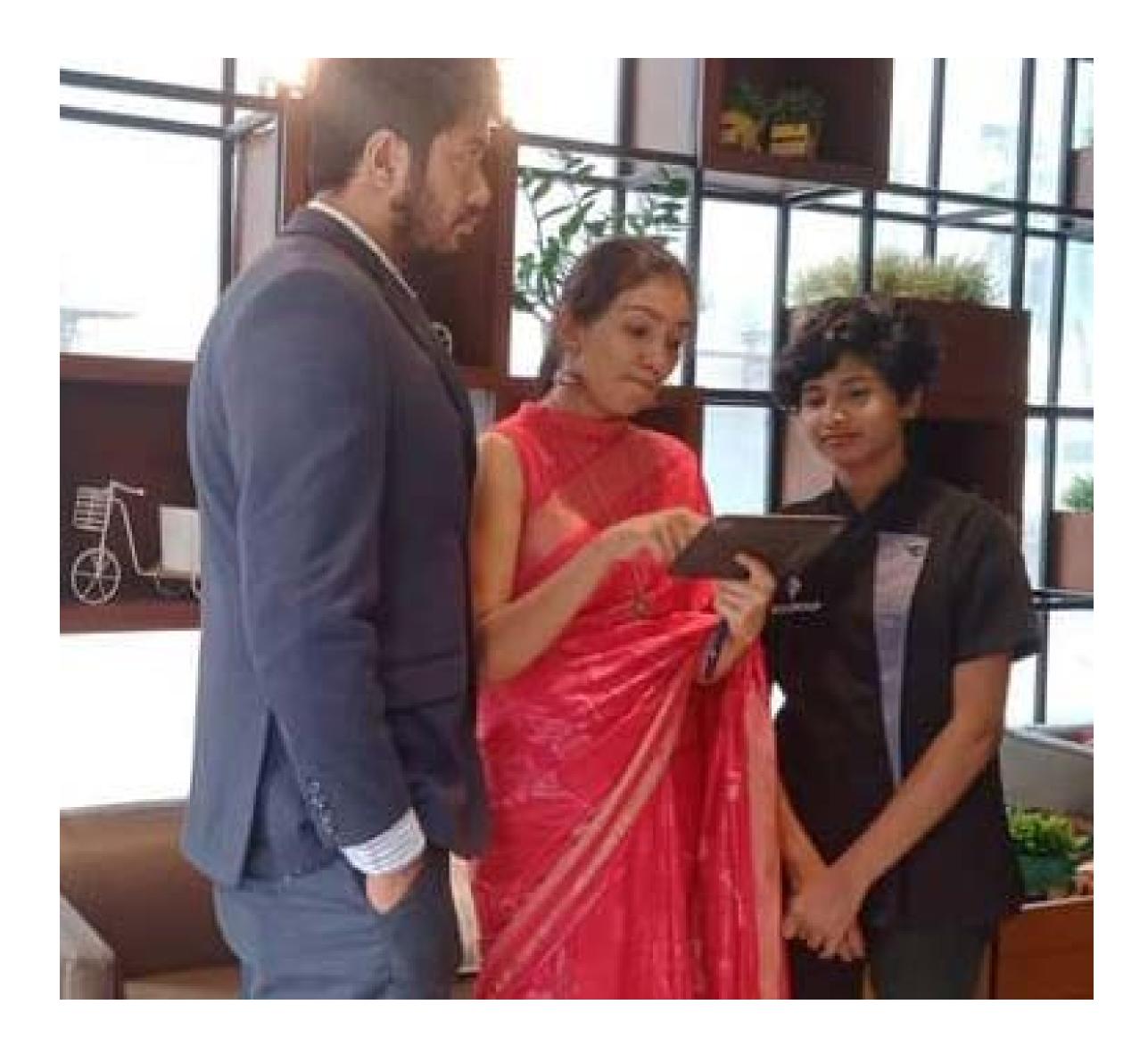
Rajshi is a filmmaker from Haridwar, currently based in Mumbai. With expertise spanning direction, screenwriting, and content creation, she believes in the power of inclusive storytelling. Rajshi's short documentary, *Udhampur – The City of Goddess*, showcases her ability to blend global concerns, such as climate change, with a cultural lens. She has honed her craft by blending formal training with a unique perspective shaped by her personal experiences. Her short film script has been a semi-finalist in the Shore Short Scripts Fund Spring Edition and the Outstanding Screenplays Short Film Fund 2025. Her latest short film *Forget Me Not* is a queer story that revolves around grief and memories.

rajsichauhan 11@gmail.com



Girl Friends

India | 2024 | 104 min | Malayalam



Intimacies and friendships unfold in an urban space in south India, centered around the house of Rosa, and in a restaurant run exclusively for couples. Along with Rosa, Janaki, Uma, Nandhana and Benila exemplify a lifestyle of diverse desires and sexual orientations. These intertwining or parallel narratives depict the contemporary independent Indian women who challenge family norms either by leaving home or concealing their true identities. Each woman faces unique challenges and must find her own solutions to navigate societal pressures.

Shobhana Padinjhattil K



Shobhana Padinjhattil K is a dalit woman film maker from Kerala, south India. During her time in college she found herself drawn to the radical left movement and, venturing beyond her home, immersed herself in alternative literature and politics. Engaging with film society circles exposed her to international cinema, sparking a desire to create her own films. Social and economic obstacles prevented her from pursuing this passion, leading her to work as a librarian for the Government of Kerala. It was not until she reached the age of 50 that she decided to fulfill her dream of becoming a filmmaker. She participated in a women's workshop focused on film making and transitioned from mere spectator to filmmaker. Girl Friends is her debut film.

padinjhattilshobhana@gmail.com



If You Know You Know

India | 2024 | 18 min | Hindi, English



We follow Kusum, a trans girl on a series of dates with boys as they find themselves trying to straddle the line of respecting her boundaries and expressing themselves and failing at it most of the time.

Bonita Rajpurohit



Bonita Rajpurohit is an actor and a director. Known for playing the lead in Dibakar Banerjee's *Love Sex aur Dhoka 2*, Bonita's keen interest lies in youth culture, gen-z lifestyles and the filmography of Larry Clarke and Lars von Trier. She had her debut as the writer and director with her short on digital dating, *IYKYK*, that earned her the 'Best Emerging Indian Filmmaker' Award at the KASHISH film festival. The film has been officially selected at the Dharamshala International Film Festival, PÖFF Shorts (Estonia), Tasveer (Seattle), Iris Prize (UK) and many other film festivals.

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Left Behind

by Akhil Thomas Varghese





OFFICIAL SELECTION COMPETITION

Bengaluru

International Short

Film Festival
2025

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Les Mains Gauches
Queer Feminist

Short Movies

2025

Produced by Vilas Films | Co-produced by Maya Films

Starring Raagav Aarava N B | Mahesh Direction, Story and Cinematography by Akhil Thomas Varghese Editing, Sound Design and Colour by Rishav Bhattacharya

Left Behind

India | 2024 | 9 min | Kannada



The inner feelings of a character from a conservative background towards his friend who is going to get married soon. His loneliness in the room where they used to stay together.

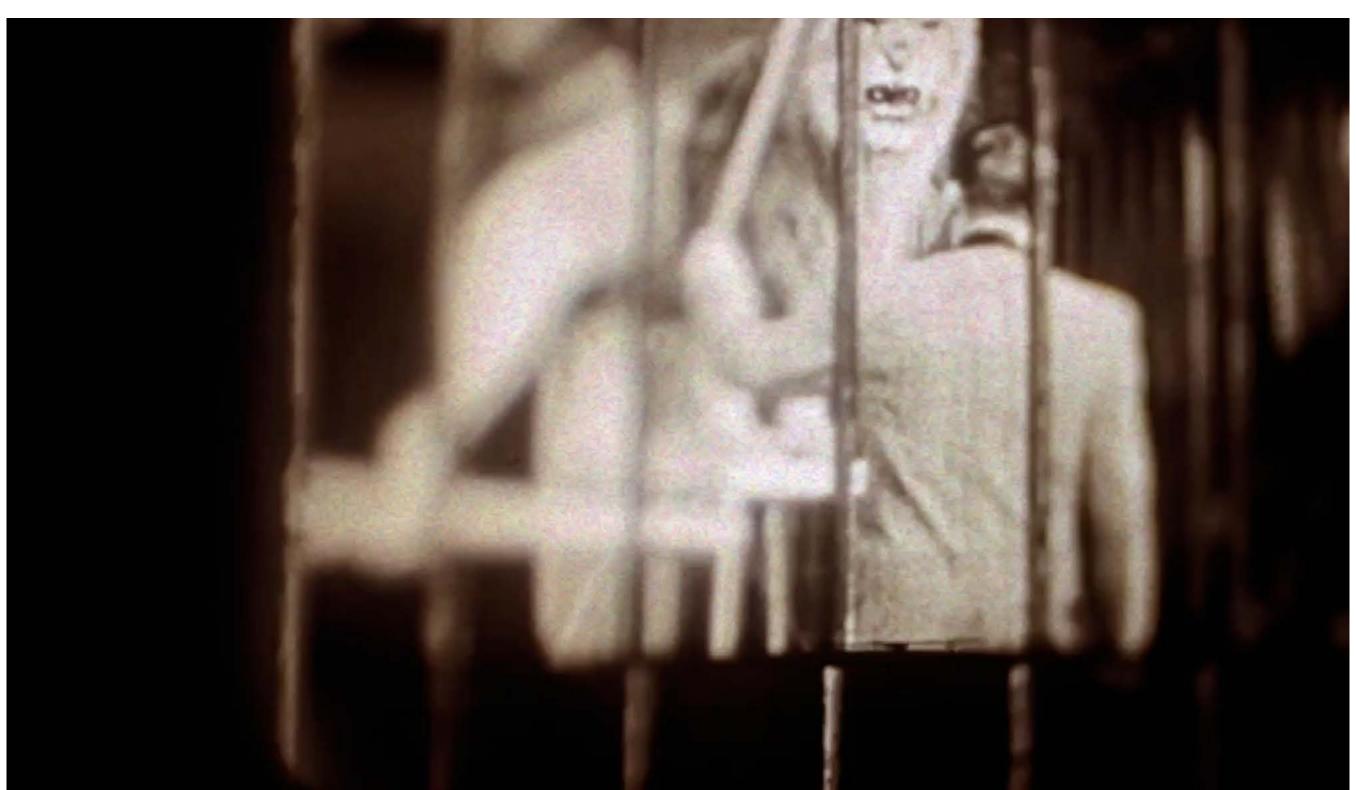
Akhil Thomas Varghese



Akhil Thomas Varghese is an independent cinematographer/filmmaker based in Bengaluru, India.

akhilthomvar@gmail.com







BACK TO SCHEDULE

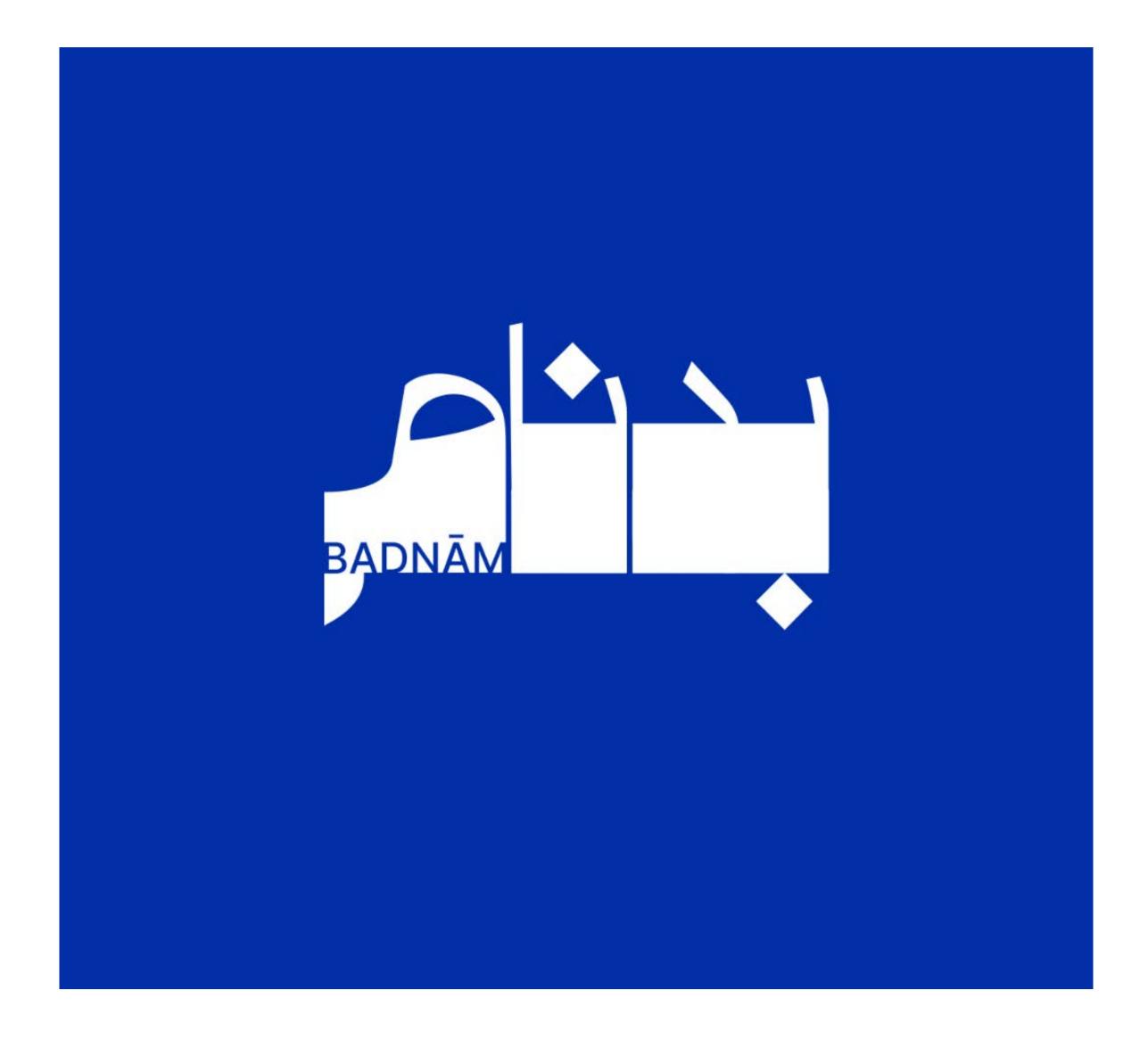
masturbation is easy, finding the video is hard

India | 2024 | 61 min | English



This experimental film interrogates censorship, surveillance, and the institutional policing of solidarity. At its centre is a guerrilla recording of a conversation between queer film organisers in Bangalore and the director of the local Goethe-Institut, where terms like "genocide" and "occupation" are politely negotiated. What emerges is a portrait of how liberal internationalism neutralises political speech—especially when it arises from queer contexts in the so-called Global South. Refusing narrative, catharsis, or neutrality, the film enacts queerness as method: durational, disobedient, and structurally resistant. It questions not what queer cinema can represent, but what it is no longer permitted to say.

badnām collective



badnām is a collaboration of queer filmmakers based in Bangalore, India. This collective formed out of necessity to confront the sanitisation of resistance and the co-opting of radical work by the gatekeepers of imperialist institutions.

info@badnam.org



My Comrade

India | 2024 | 25 min | Bengali



When a wounded rebel accidentally takes refuge in the home of a tribal villager, both the men's lives spiral into a tense interplay of politics and forbidden love.

Tathagata Ghosh



A Berlinale Talents alumnus, Tathagata has always believed in telling stories of the marginalized. His last short films *If, Miss Man, Footprints, The Scapegoat, The Meat* and *The Demon* have travelled to numerous international film festivals and won several awards.

tathagata314@gmail.com



Nisha

India | 2025 | 32 min | English, Kannada, Hindi



After a painful breakup, Nisha's friends throw her into a whirlwind of dates, but as she presses to move on, she questions whether love is the answer—or if she needs to heal herself first. *Nisha* explores spaces between closure and curiosity, between moving on and looking back. Rooted in south Indian queer life, it captures the humour, melancholy and hope in contemporary dating and chosen family.

Kris



Kris is a Bangalore-based community organizer with over a decade of experience in building safe, joyful spaces for FLINTA/LGBTQIA+ communities. She co-founded All Sorts of Queer, a support group based in Bengaluru, and manages operations for Maya Bazaar, a vibrant marketplace for queer entrepreneurs. *Nisha* marks her foray into films and brings authenticity, warmth, and lived experience to the screen. *Nisha* was written and directed by Kris with mentoring from Mujeer Pasha and Veena Kulkarni.

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Njaan Revathi / I am Revathi

India | 2025 | 115 min | Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam



Njaan Revathi (I am Revathi) is a brief journey into the life of trans woman A Revathi, a writer, activist and actor. Revathi left her home in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, in the mid-1980s and lived in the hijra communities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Over the years, she became a trans rights activist, a well-known writer and speaker, and a theatre actor. As Revathi and her contemporaries narrate her eventful life, the documentary explores the lives of trans people in India.

P Abhijith



P Abhijith is a native of Kozhikode, India. He is a filmmaker and chief photojournalist with *Madhyamam* and has been effectively creating awareness about the trans gender community of Kerala through images, visuals and writing since 2007. His photo exhibition played a crucial role in the implementation of the official state policy recognizing and supporting trans gender people in Kerala. Negha, an actress in his film *Antharam*, won a Kerala state film award and was the first trans woman actress to win in the history of the Malayalam film industry.

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Palama: Do You See?

India | 2025 | 85 min | Malayalam



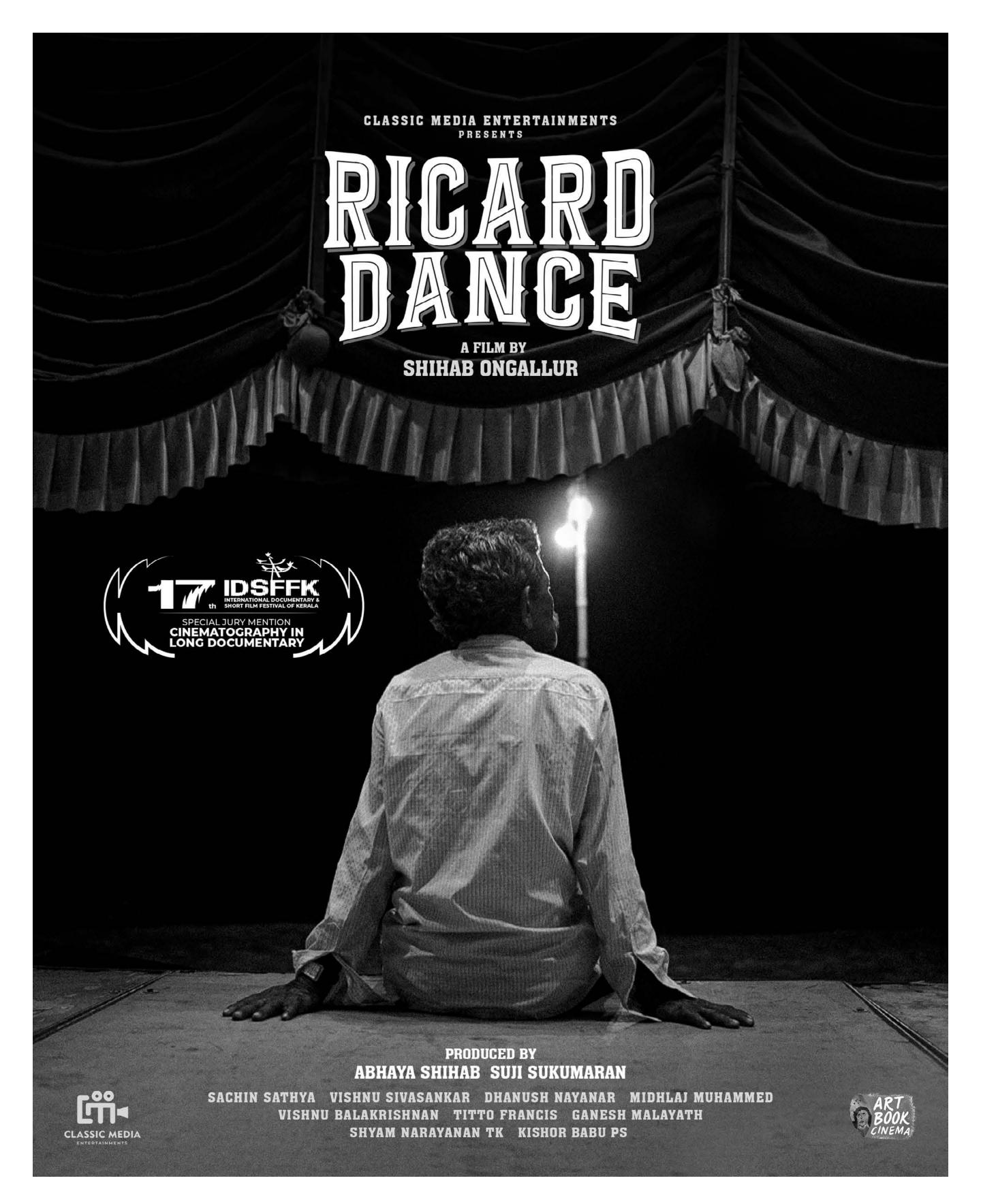
In a Kerala college, a group of students wage a courageous fight against a corrupt system that shields a faculty member, Anil Kumar, accused of raping their lesbian teammate, Prakruti. The students create a magazine, *Palama (Plurality)*, with pro-queer, Dalit, and environmental content, to raise awareness about the violence Prakruti faced. As they fight for justice, they confront the dark realities of institutionalized oppression, patriarchy, and homophobia. Will their resistance be enough to bring about change, or will the system crush their spirits?

Asha Achy Joseph



Presently teaching at the School of Communication at Sacred Heart College, Kochi, Asha Achy Joseph is a researcher, television producer and film maker. Her debut film, a 16mm documentary, Anyar (The Outsiders), based on Christian women's inheritance rights, was selected for the Indian Panorama, IFFI 1998. She has produced Changatikkoottam (Friend's gathering), Best Children's TV Program, 1999) and co-produced the national award-winning short The Diary of a Housewife (2001). Her short fiction Ore Udal (One Body) unravelling the inner conflict of a nun, was selected for Indian Panorama, IFFI 2015, and 15 international film festivals. She is a founding member of the Women in Cinema Collective. In 2024 she completed her first feature film Palama: Do you see me? with NaSym collective, a film making collective founded by Asha along with her students and colleagues.

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Ricard Dance

India | 2025 | 55 min | Malayalam



Ricard Dance, once a beloved South Indian art form, now struggles to survive. Once stars, artists like Kochu, Santhosh, and Kamaru face fading fame. This is the story of the Sree Durga Ricard Dance Group and their decades-long journey across Kerala, bringing countless characters to life on stage, and how even today this fading tradition still finds love amidst the noise of modern media.

Shihab Ongallur



Shihab Ongallur is an Indian cinematographer primarily known for his work in the Malayalam film industry. Over the past decade he has contributed his cinematographic expertise to several acclaimed films, including *Bhagavan Dasante Ramarajyam*, *Missing Girl, Kuttante Shinigami, Velleppam, Abhirami, Photographer Pandu* (Kannada), *Kolaahalam*, and *Shades of Life*. His work on *Bhagavan Dasante Ramarajyam* earned him the Best Cinematographer Award at the Jaipur International Film Festival. In 2023, he also received the Kerala State Television Award for Best Cinematographer for the music video *Kanmashi*. Most recently, his cinematography in *Ricard Dance* was honored with a Special Jury Mention at the 17th International Documentary & Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK), 2025.

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sab changa si / all was good

India | 2022 | 76 min | English, Kannada, Urdu



sab changa si (all was good) is a first-person documentary filmed with minimal means during the anti-CAA student protests in Bangalore. Set against the backdrop of the Indian government's divisive Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019, the film follows a group of privileged students stepping into radical politics while negotiating the contradictions of caste, gender, and religion. With a raw and persistent gaze, the filmmaker documents the fragile intimacies of protest and reflects on the possibilities and limits of solidarity across identities. Made on a budget of less than €60, sab changa si became the first Indian film to receive the Peace Film Prize at the 72nd Berlin International Film Festival, 2022.

teresa a braggs



teresa a braggs (b. 1997, Calcutta) lives & works in Bangalore.
teresaabraggs@gmail.com



Sakhi

India | 2025 | 4 min | Marathi



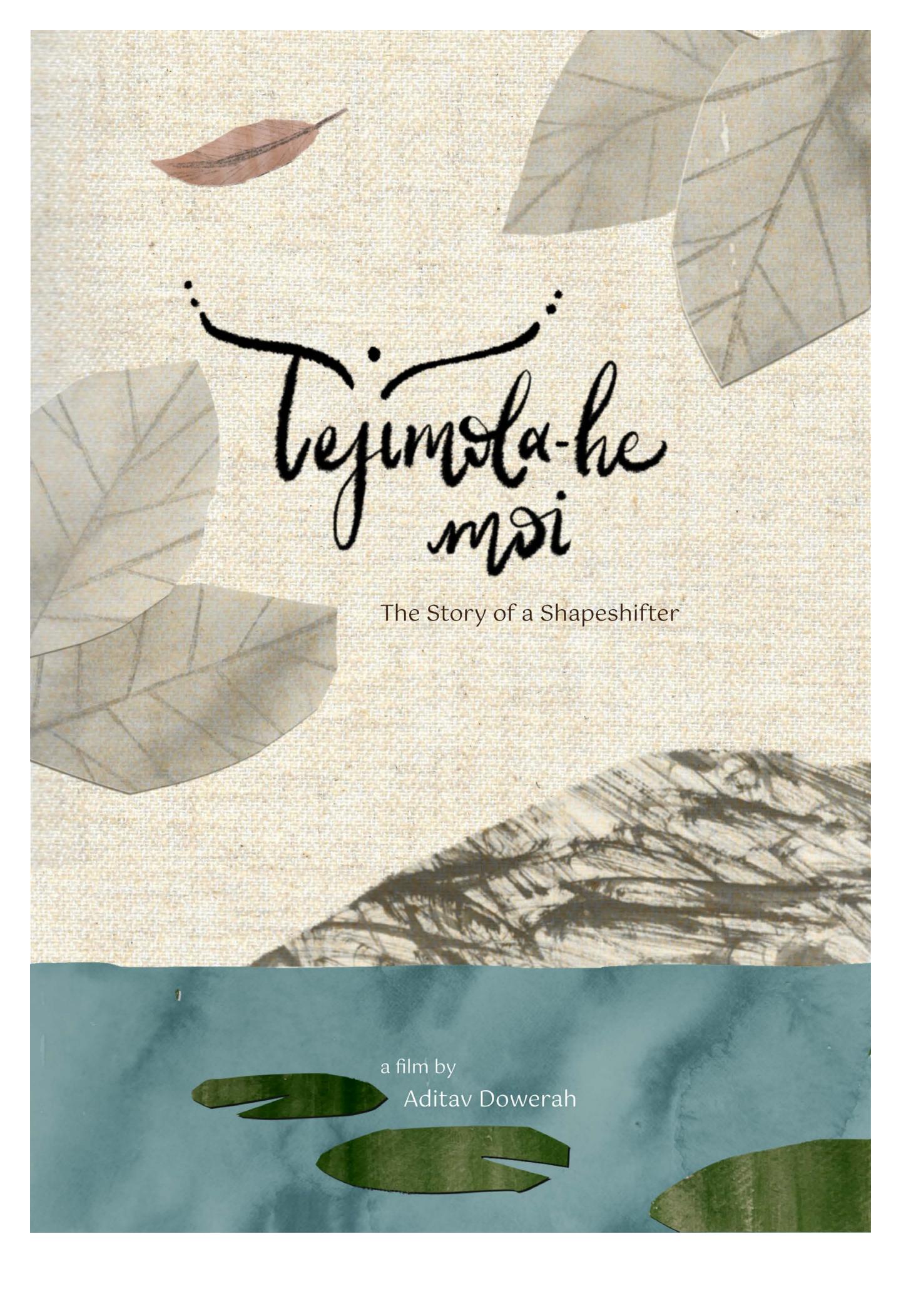
A trans woman gains the strength to embrace her identity with the help of a few women through the night of a Mangala Gauri celebration.

Nikita Patwardhan



Nikita Patwardhan is a third year animation and film design student at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. She is a passionate story teller who loves to travel and experience culture through art.

nikita_p@nid.edu



Tejimola-he Moi / I am Tejimola

India | 2025 | 7 min | Assamese



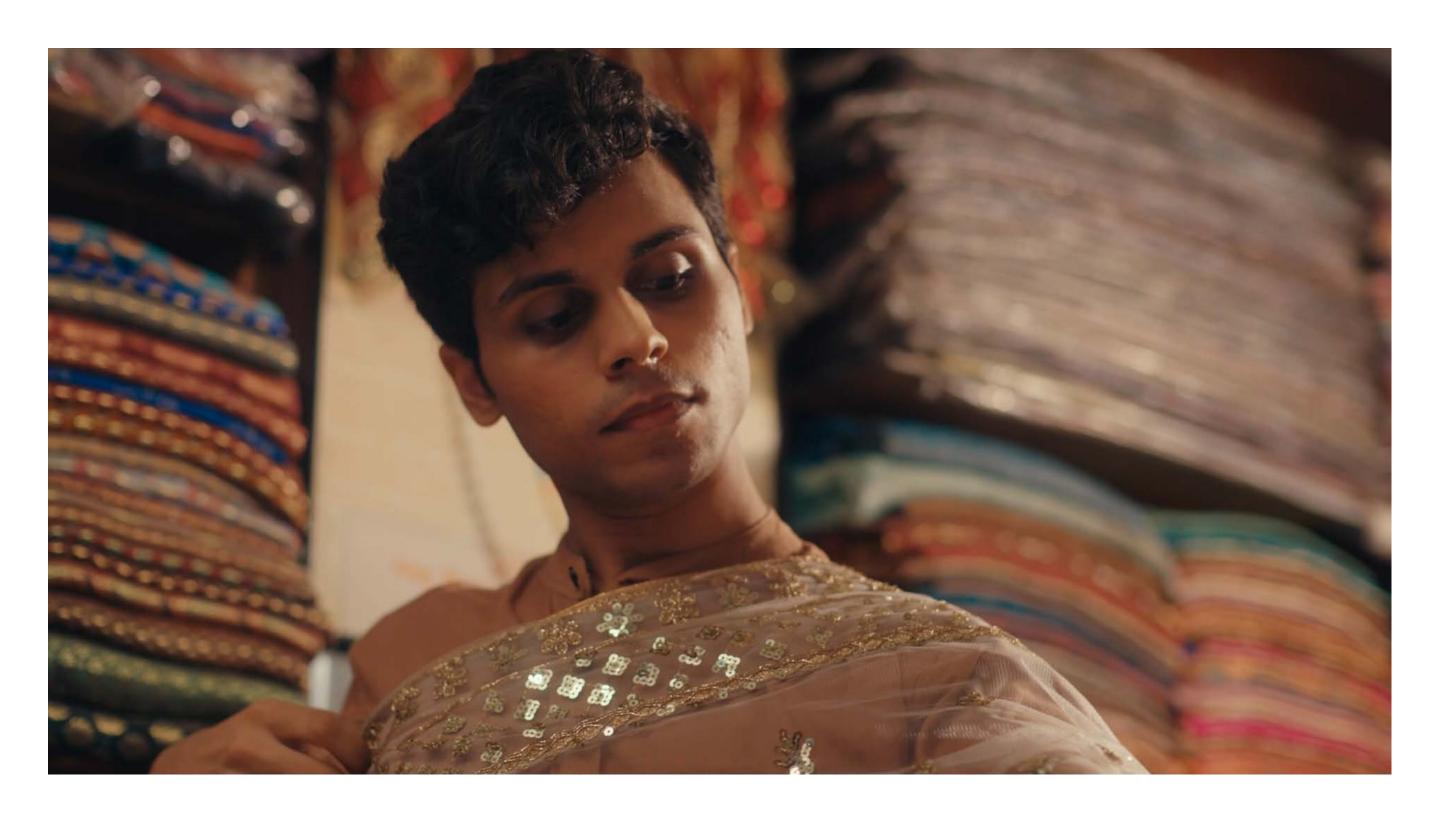
As the protagonist is getting ready for their day, they encounter a sinister presence. During their struggle, they turn to a childhood story for strength. Tejimola-he Moi is a re-telling of an Assamese folktale through a queer lens and deals with themes of gender expression and fluidity as a form of protest.

Aditav Dowerah



Aditav Dowerah is a designer from Guwahati, currently based in Bengaluru. He graduated from the IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay, with a dual degree in Communication Design. Primarily a visual artist, he tries to explore tangibility and nuance in his pictures and storytelling, and has a love for layered narratives. He enjoys keeping his hands busy (and messy) with printmaking, and baby-talking to animals.

aditavd@gmail.com







BACK TO SCHEDULE

Zari

India | 2025 | 19 min | English, Hindi



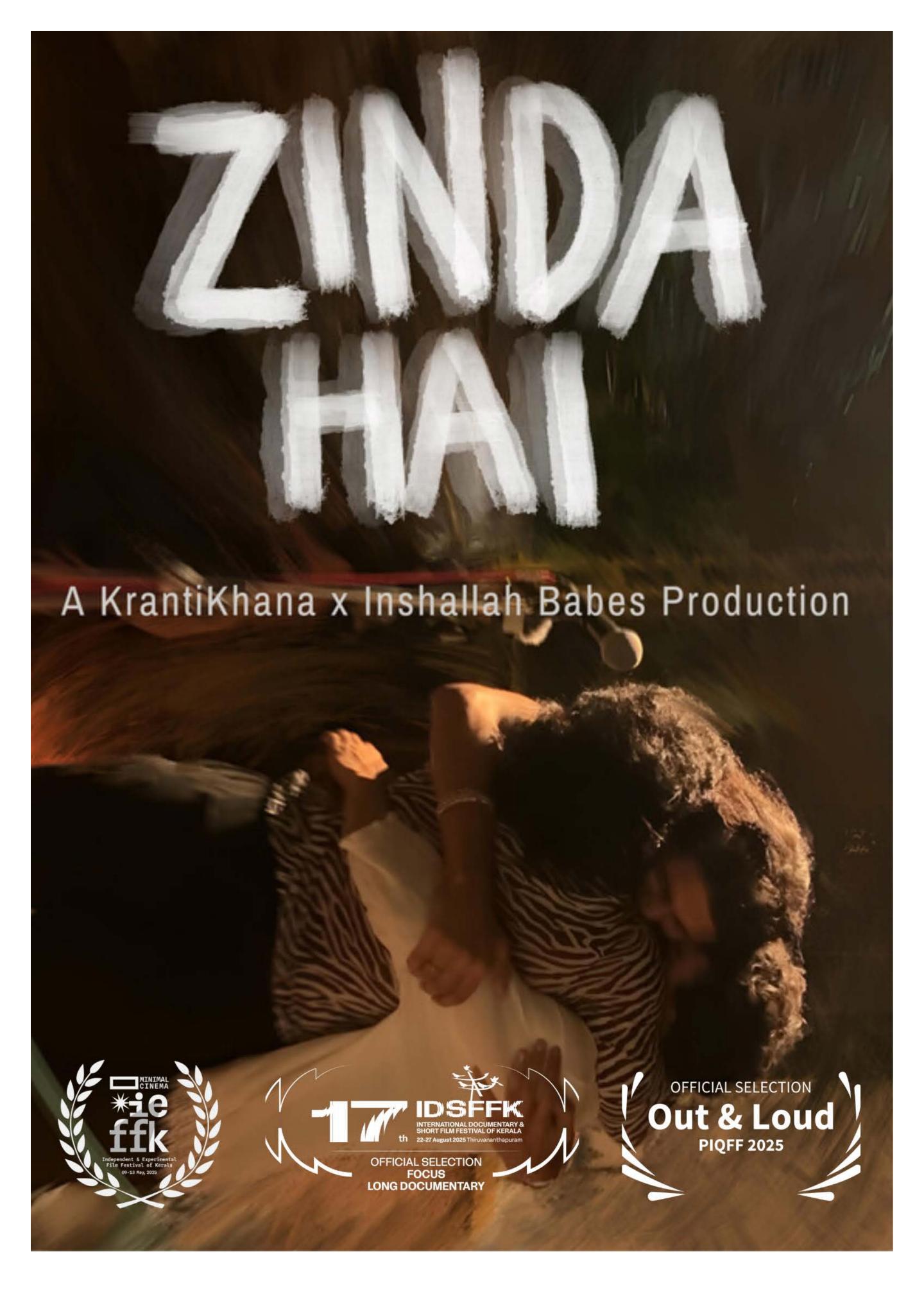
Amidst preparations for his sister's wedding in India, a young American Neelu forges an unexpected connection with Zayb, a quiet sari store clerk who moonlights as an intense drag queen.

Shruti Parekh



Shruti Parekh is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker who tells stories of self-discovery and subversion. Her narrative short *Zari* was produced as a winner of the CAPE/Janet Yang Productions Julia S. Gouw Short Film Challenge, and won the Grand Jury Award and Audience Award for Narrative Short at NewFest, as well as the audience awards at Inside Out Toronto and the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. Shruti's prior short, *Esperanza*, won four awards and played at over 20 festivals around the world. Shruti recently completed her newest narrative short, *Homebody*, a recipient of the 2024 NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music, & Theatre.

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Zinda Hai

India | 2025 | 98 min | Hindi, Dakhani, English, Tamil, Marathi



A small fortune, a trans-queer punk band, a fleeting safe house of friends and lovers, and a freedom they had only ever dreamed of. But the voices of their murdered friends echo across the house. How does the band create music affirming love, life, joy, and anger? Can they put up a show in the memory of their fallen comrades, before time and money force them back into a disapproving world?

Sarthak



Sarthak is a non-binary filmmaker and storyteller from Jamshedpur. In a world full of formulaic 'content' creation, they seek experiential storytelling that is influenced by and derived from our zeitgeist. Centering people and their politics, they aspire to rediscover fluidity in storytelling. They come from a background in theatre, journalism, dance and music. *Zinda Hai* is their debut film, blending documentary and experimentation through raw phone-shot narrative.

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RETROSPECTIVE







Aan Poovu

India | 1996 | 20 min | Malayalam



Many factors led Seethalakshmi, one of several daughters in an extremely backward family in rural Kerala to undergo a sexchange operation and become Sreedharan. The film, through Sreedharan's situation, tries to subtly unravel how deeply gender colours the already complex relationship between an individual and society even in a 'model state' like Kerala.

P Balan



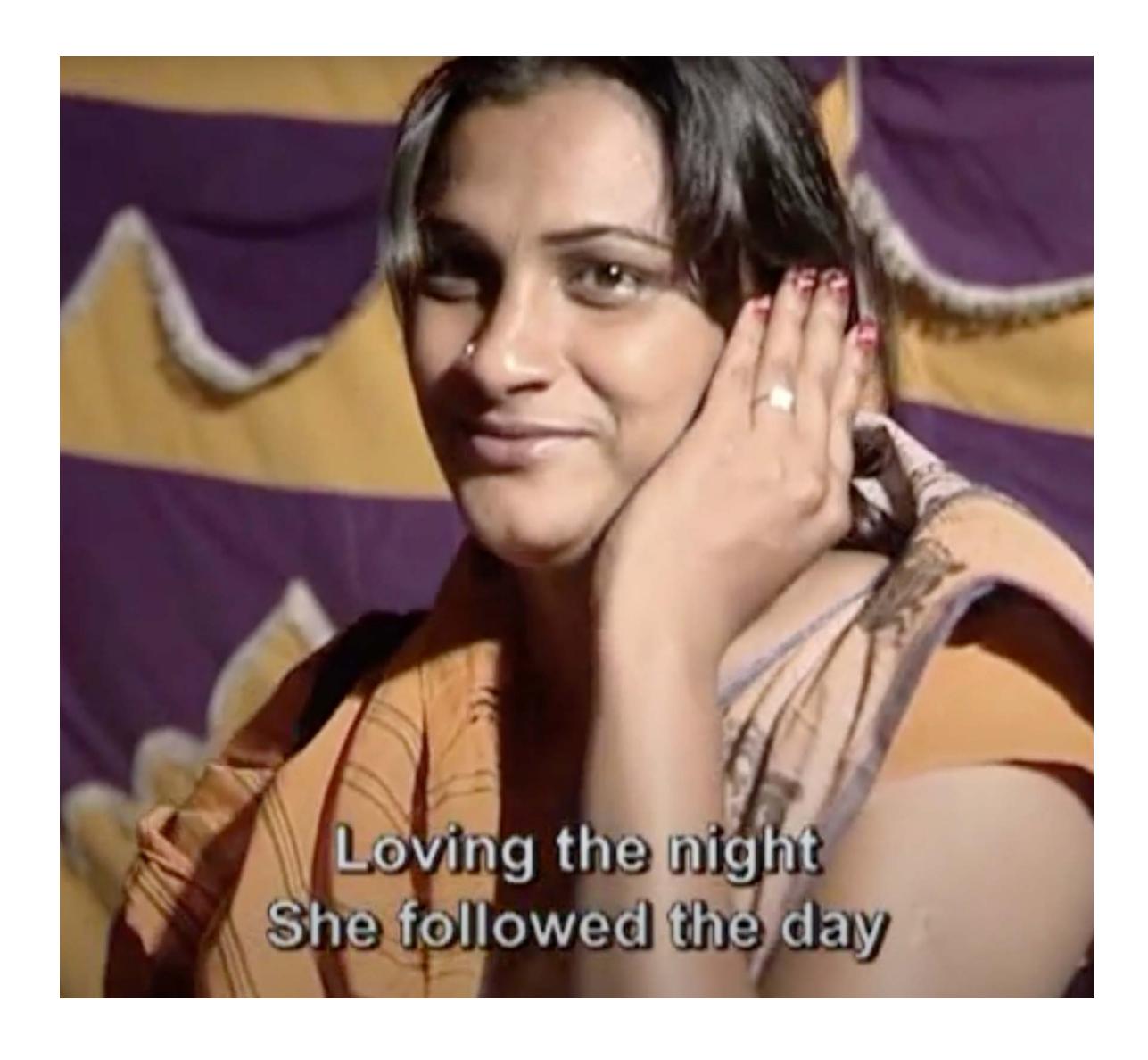
P Balan is a well-known public broadcasting figure and director, who retired from All India Radio after a 34-year-long career. *Aan Poovu* was his first directorial work and won the Kerala State Award For Best Documentary.

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All About Our Famila

India | 2011 | 120 min | Tamil, English, Kannada

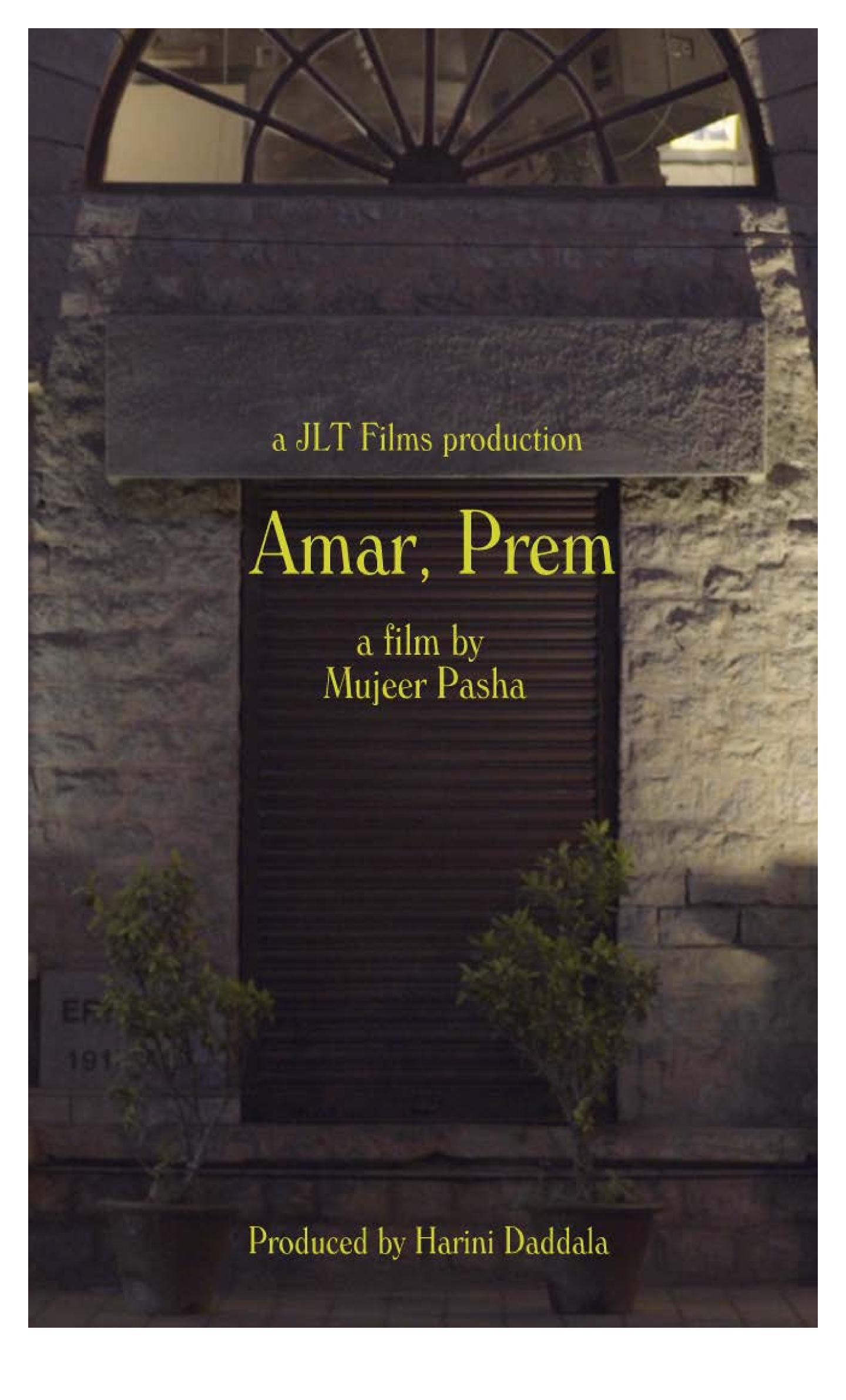


This film is the story of extraordinary courage and extreme vulnerability. Seen through the eyes of Revathi, her guru; Sharada, her mentor; and Sumathi, her lover, this film is a story of Famila.

Chalam Bennurakar



Chalam Bennurkar was an Indian documentary film maker, film activist and director, best known for his Tamil documentary film *Children of Mini Japan (Kutty Japanin Kuzhandaigal)*.



Amar, Prem

India | 2018 | 12 min | Hindi, English



Amar and Prem, two discreet roommates, decide to end their romance and stay friends—although, we all know, some feelings never quite fade. This dark romantic comedy playfully explores our obsession with eternal love, even when we know it's fleeting, highlighting the bittersweet truth that sometimes, love's story is never truly over—it's just paused at the comma.

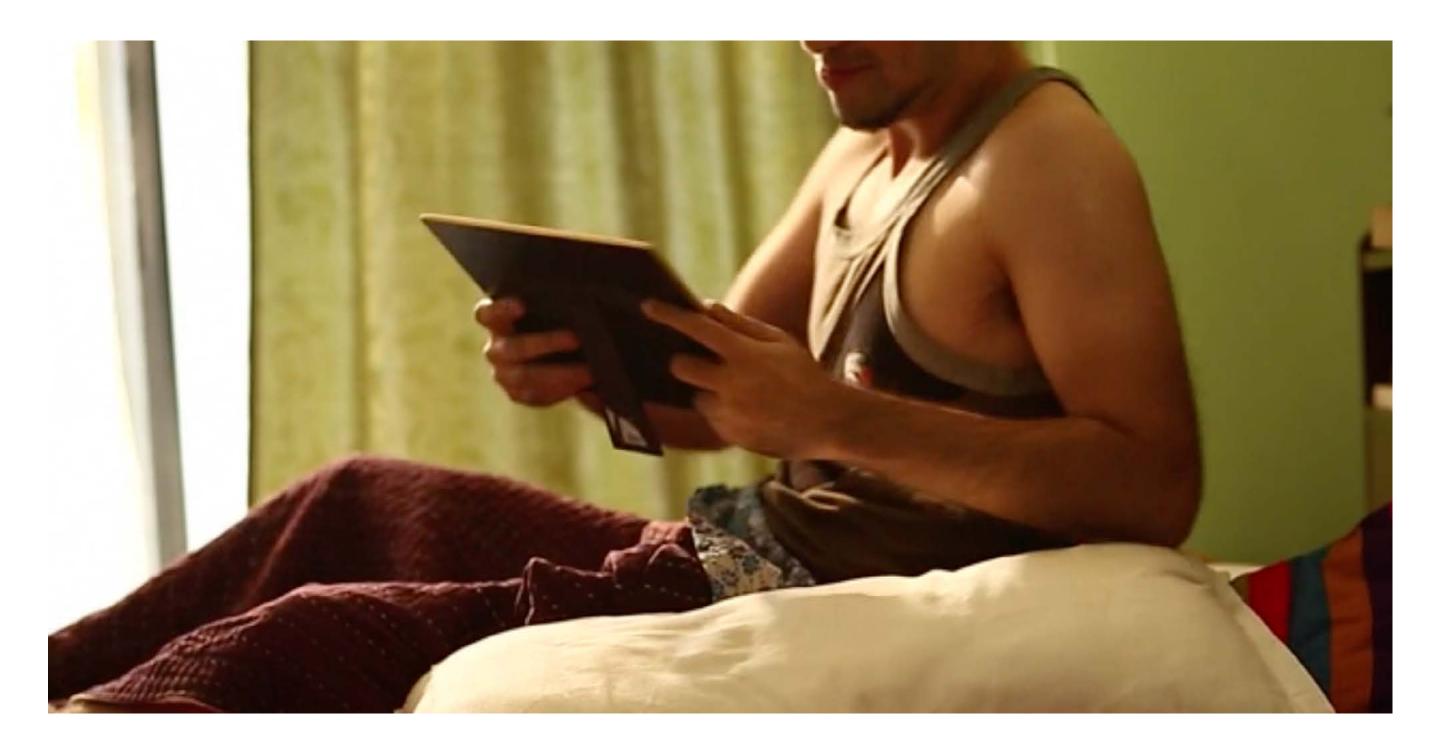
Mujeer Pasha



Mujeer is a writer, director, editor, and producer who collaborates with brands and communities, and helps them craft their stories. His filmmaking journey took root in his family, which is full of film buffs. Here, watching films was sacred, but making them was forbidden. As he grew up, he had a secret weekend affair with filmmaking while he juggled a tech job during the week. Eventually, he took a leap of faith. And for the last 10 years, he has been bringing films to life.

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BACK TO SCHEDULE

Bhram

India | 2015 | 15 min | Marathi



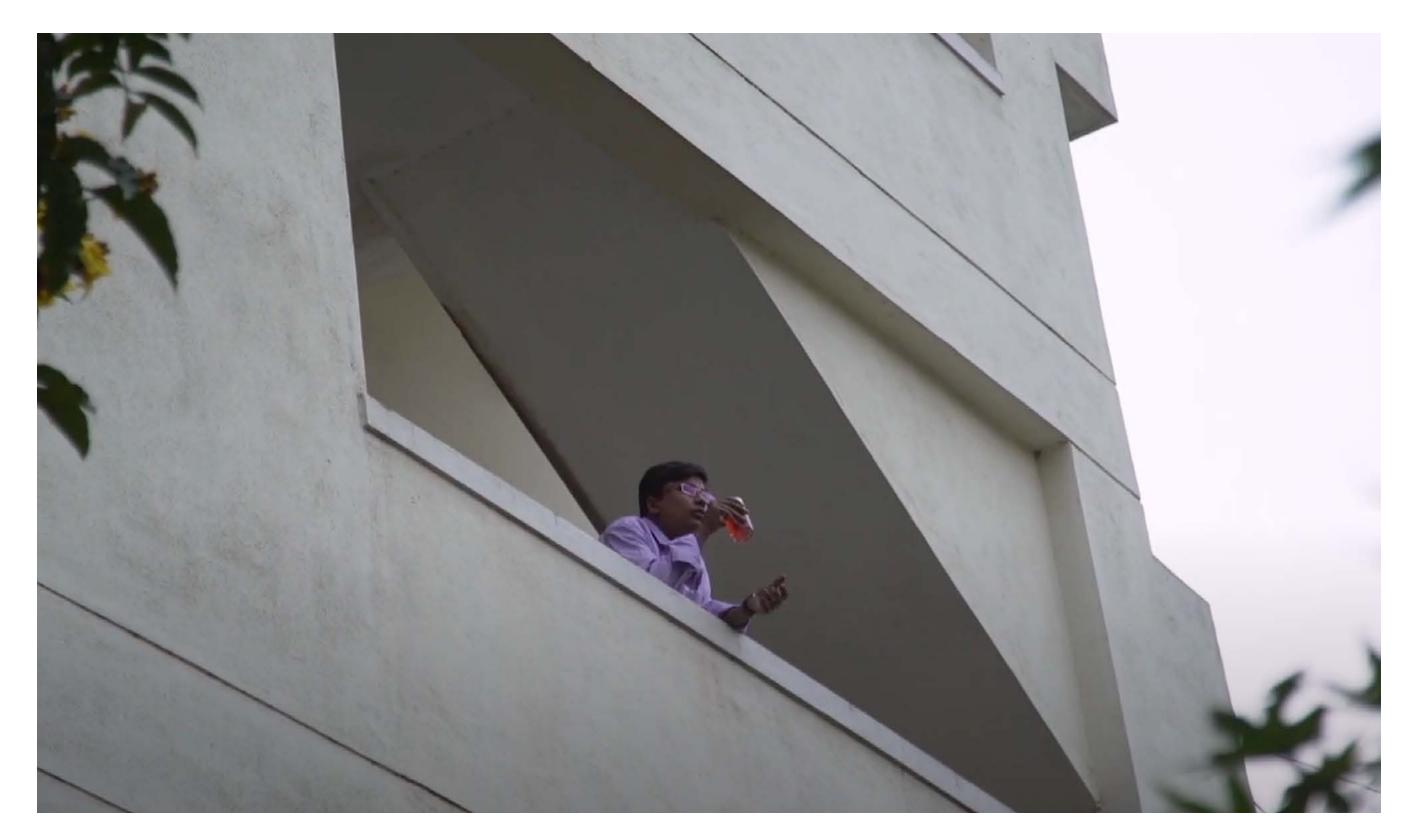
Bhram is the story of a seemingly progressive mother and her gay identified son, on the day she's meeting his boyfriend for the first time. Guess who's coming to lunch. Bhram touches the subject of casteism in India, and how it connects with homosexuality.

Manoj Thorat



Manoj S. Thorat is an Out and Proud and prefers to call himself as androgynous. He loves writing poems and short stories. *Bhram* was his directorial debut and this will be 10th film festival screening. He has also acted in a Marathi play, *He She It,* based on true LGBT life-stories. Recently, he has debuted as an actor in the queer film *Sannata: Absence of Sound.*

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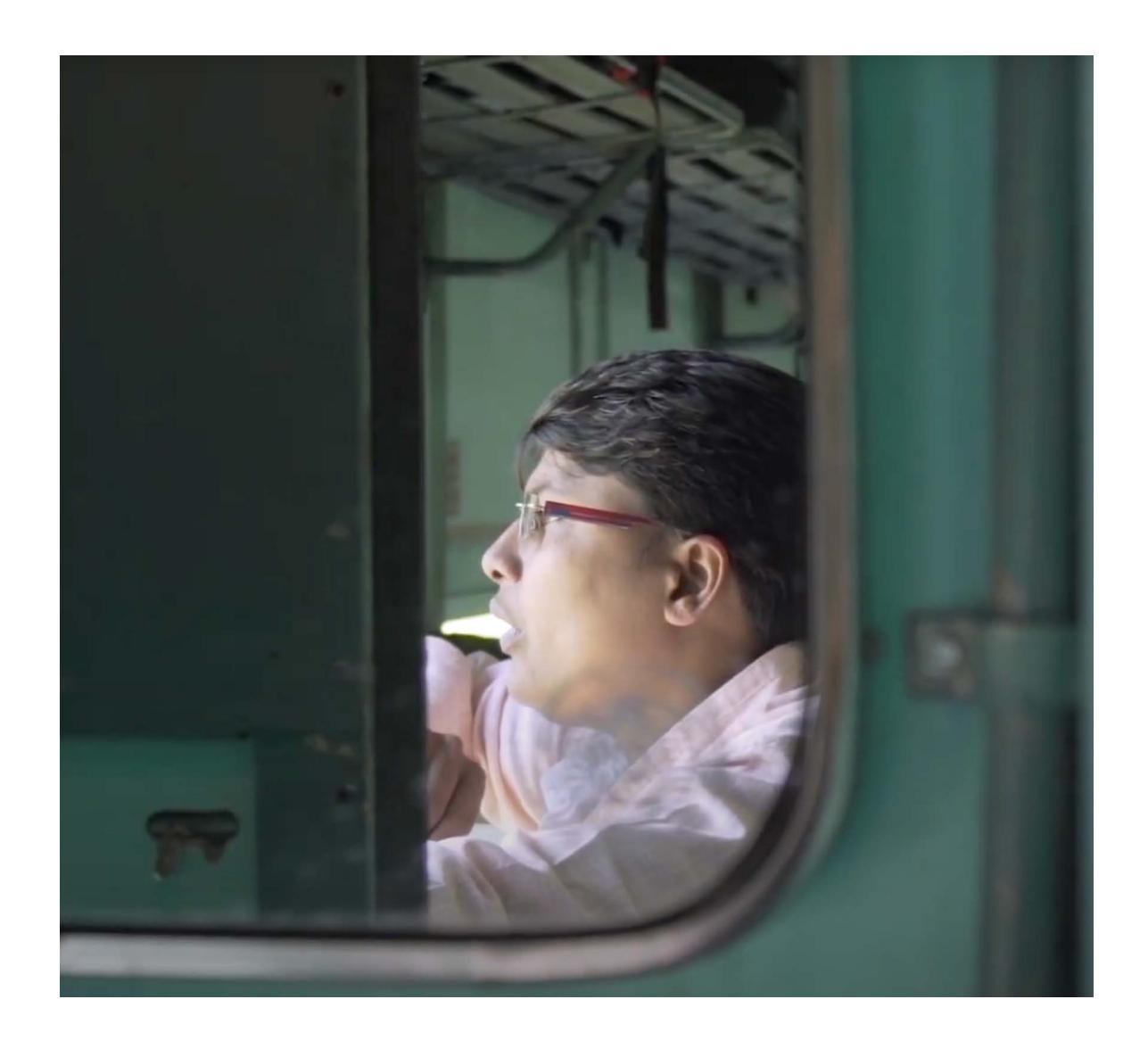




BACK TO SCHEDULE

I'm Not There

India | 2018 | 12 min | English, Hindi



The documentary explores the relationship between migration and one's gender and views migration as a journey that allows one to leave behind a self that they don't identify with, and move to a new space, seeking a new identity.

Ajita Banerjie



Ajita is a gender and sexuality rights researcher. She has worked with NLSIU as Visiting Faculty and with several international human rights organizations, including ILGA Asia and International Commission of Jurists, focussing on LGBTIQ rights and access to justice.

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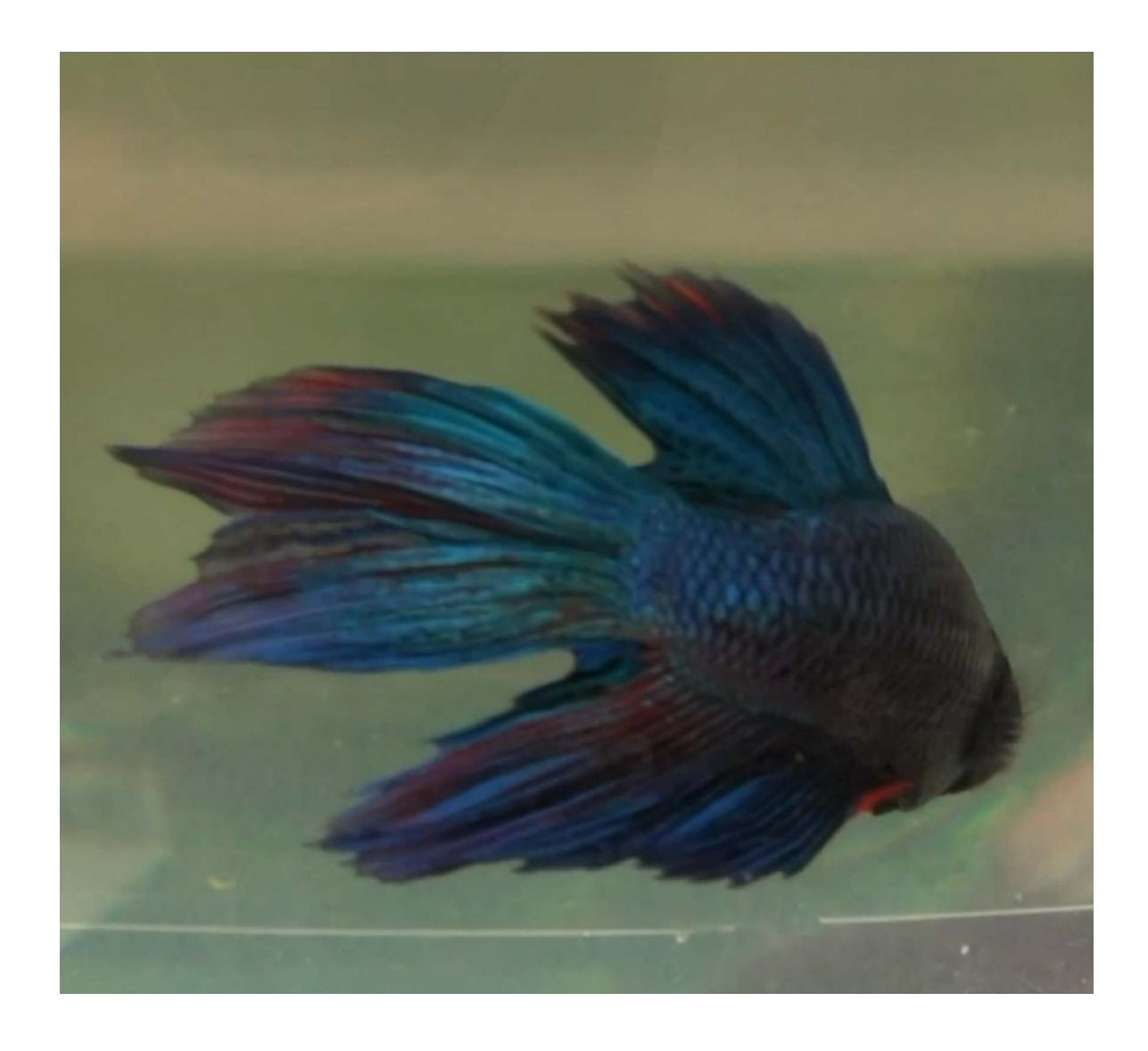




BACK TO SCHEDULE

Kalvettukal

India | 2012 | 33 min | multilingual



Kalvettukal is a multilingual docu fiction film about transgender men in South India. The first chapter tells the real story of a transman and his partner who fled their native place to find freedom to love in a big city. The second chapter is a music sequence which depicts one of the expressions of erotic desire within the community. The third chapter is a set of interviews of trans men in which they articulate their issues, desires and challenges.

Gee Semmalar



Gee Semmalar is currently in Geneva writing a book on the history of trans people in 19th century British India. He was awarded a doctorate in Law in 2023. He is exhausted by, but compulsively attached to activism; what the Genz might describe as an OG bleeding heart.

gee.semmalar@gmail.com



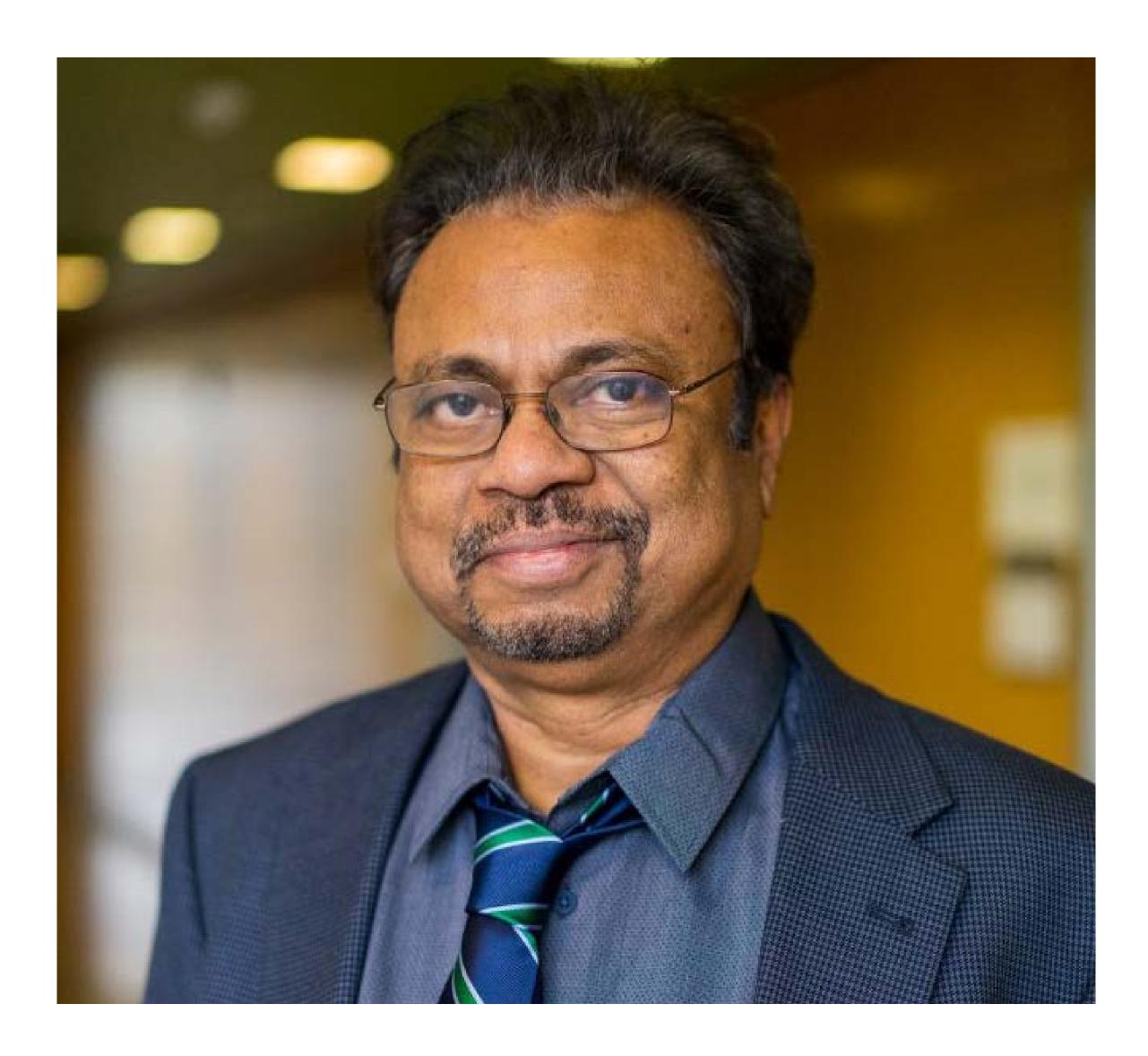
Kattumaram

India | 2020 | 73 min | Tamil



A conservative uncle tries to come to terms with his niece's romantic relationship with a woman.

Swarnavel Easwaran



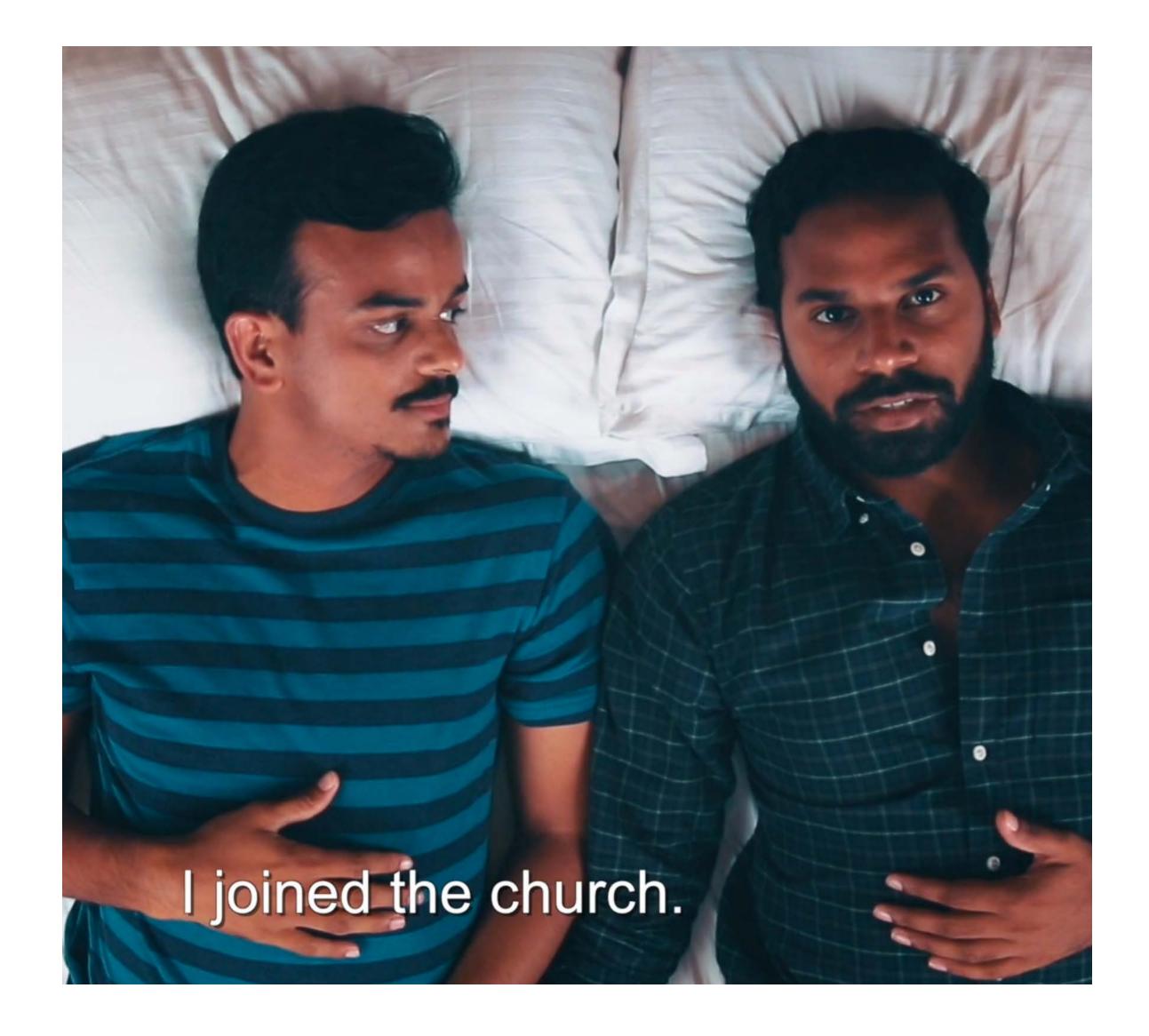
Swarnavel Eswaran is a Professor in the Department of English and the School of Journalism at Michigan State University, where he teaches film history, theory, and production. His documentaries include Nagapattinam: Waves from the Deep (2018), Hmong Memories at the Crossroad (2016), Migrations of Islam (2014), and Unfinished Journey: A City in Transition (2012). His research focuses on Tamil and Indian cinema's history, aesthetics, politics, contemporary digital cinema, and concomitant changes. His fiction feature Kattumaram, a collaboration with director Mysskin, has been screened in over fifty international film festivals, including at the Frameline, InsideOut, and Kashish.

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Knock Knock

India | 2007 | 29 min | English



In a newly opened hotel that subscribes to old fashioned values, an ensemble of unlikely characters converge on an ordinary afternoon. When their paths intersect, the seemingly predictable series of events turn into a clash of stereotypes, making the viewers question their assumptions about others and the inescapable irony of human relations.

Moses Tulasi & Ravikanth Mallipeddi



Moses Tulasi: A natural science technologist, Moses pursued social science calling on film and journalism in 2015. His YouTube channel, *TransVision* is the winner of Laadli Media awards in 2017. His documentaries are screened at film festivals and academic institutions. *Knock Knock* is his foray into fiction narrative. He writes for Siasat, FirstPost, theNewsMinute and several others.

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Ravikanth Mallipeddi: A graduate in mass communication, Ravi developed a passion for reading and writing since childhood. While he makes a living as a technical writer in NGO sector, writing stories and scripts is his creative outlet. The script of *Knock Knock* was conceived based on certain real-life incidents.







DARK STORIES presents

a film by रोहन कानवडे

एकद्या भिंती

(Lonely Walls)

अभय कुळकर्णी

भूषण कुळकणीं

with

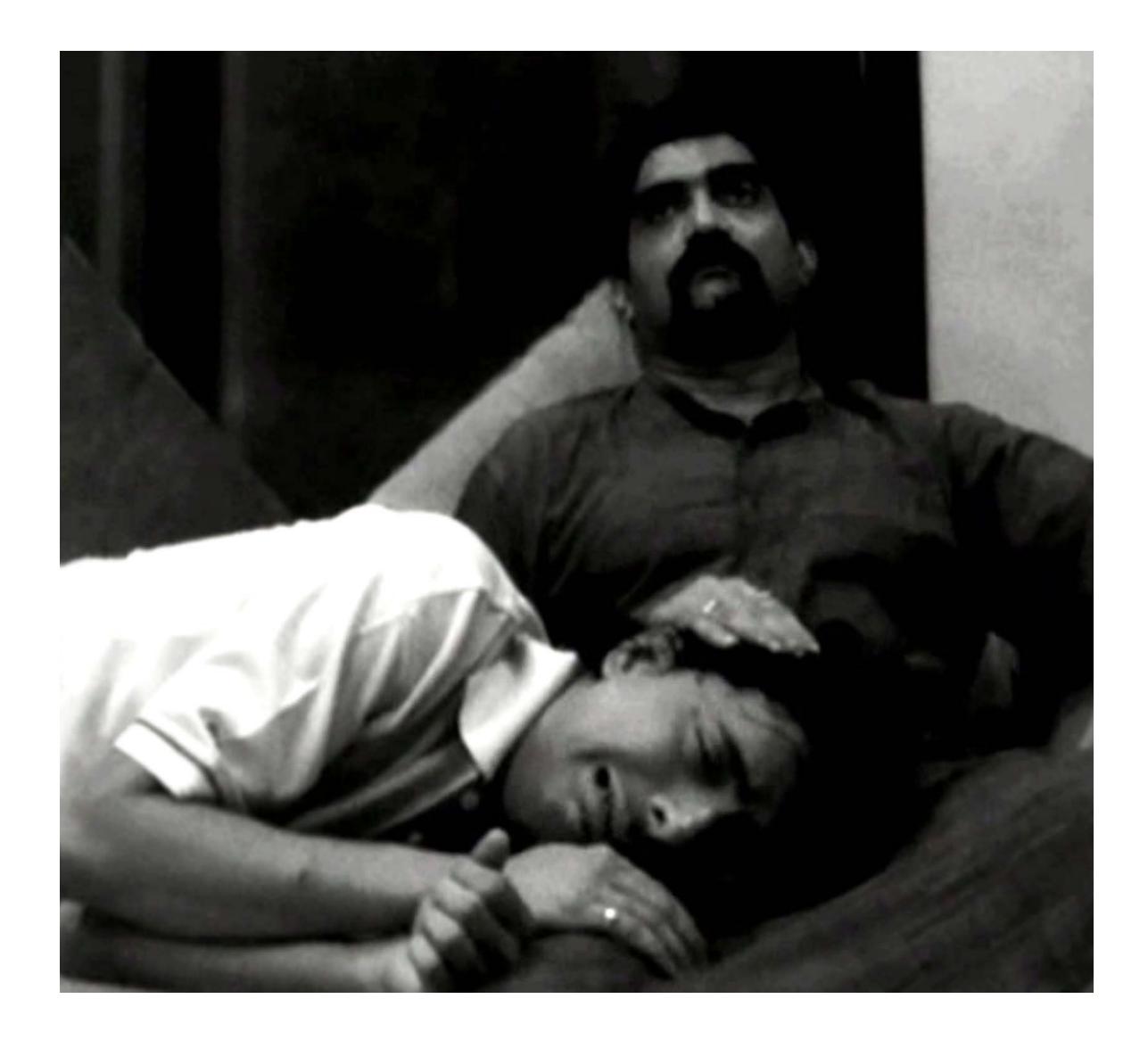
Abhik Mitra, Ajeya Sirpotdar, Samir Gupte, Sarang Bhakre, Swapnil Chavan, Varun Dixit, Chandan Mantri & Suman Kanawade

story, screenplay, cinematography, editing and direction by ROHAN kanawade



Lonely Walls

India | 2013 | 38 min | Marathi



Story of a father and a son. The story starts a few days after the mother's death – the son confesses to his father that he's gay. The father's acceptance lifts a burden the son has carried till date. The father knows that if his son had revealed his orientation to his mother, she would have made his life hell; because she wouldn't have tolerated one more gay man in the house.

Rohan Kanawade



Rohan is a self-made filmmaker with a background in interior design. His shorts have been screened globally. *U Ushacha* won him the prestigious Satyajit Ray Short Film Award at London Indian Film Festival 2019.

His first feature *Sabar Bonda*, won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, becoming the first Marathi film to do so. It is currently screening in theatres in India.

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BACK TO SCHEDULE

Reminiscence of Ether

India | 2013 | 21 min | English



A taste of loss and longing in the lives of queer women.

Veena Kulkarni(AM2)

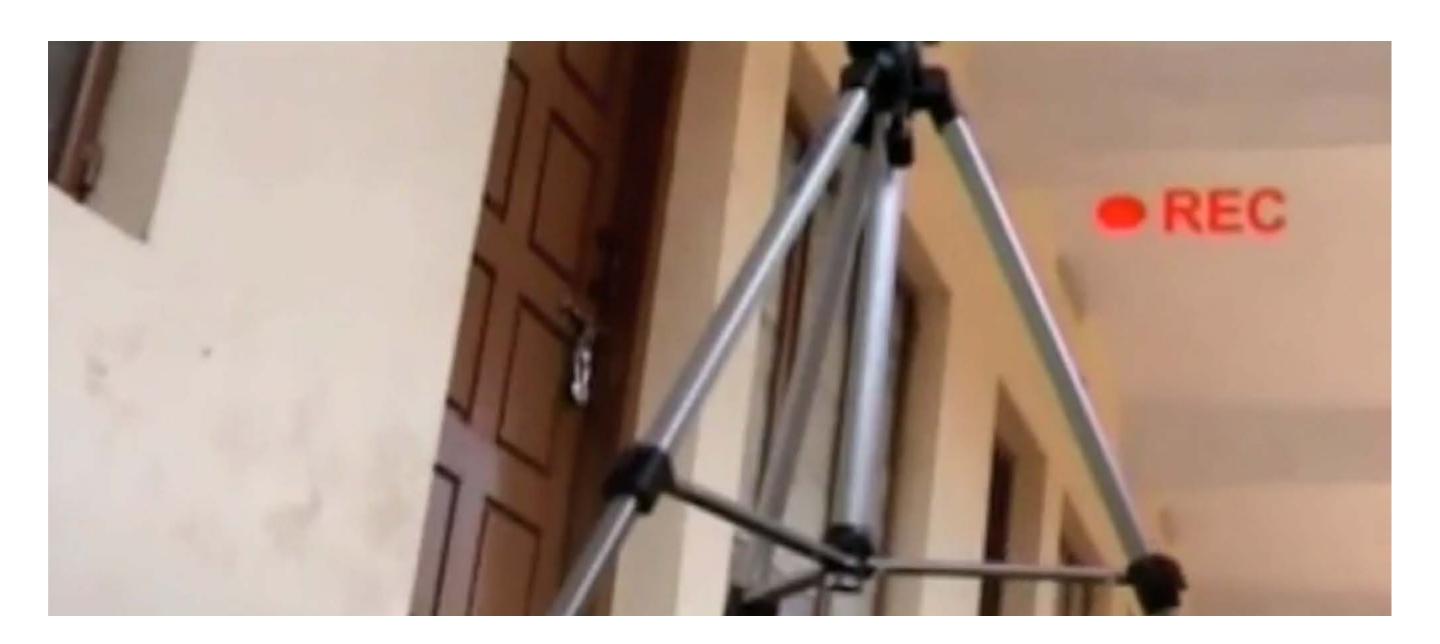


Veena is a researcher, a filmmaker, entrepreneur, godmother, cat parent, and in all of this she tells stories, that's what she's best known for! Anything created by Veena tends to evoke love, free thinking and hope, much like the child-like optimist she is herself.

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BACK TO SCHEDULE

Secret Minds

India | 2011 | 5 min | English



Secret Minds is a film that explores the hypocrisy surrounding homosexuality. For its explicit and honest narration-using only music and no dialogue-the film got the director, producer and actors all suspended from their college in Kerala.

Jeo Baby



Jeo Baby is a director, screenwriter and actor who works in Malayalam films. His family drama film *The Great Indian Kitchen* won the 51st Kerala State Film Award for Best Film and he received the Kerala State Film Award for Best Screenplay.

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Snarky Baudelaire

India | 2013 | 9 min | English



This is a videopoem done in collaboration with Joshua Muyiwa, where the poet and dancer meet the poetic language of a camera. It is based on Muyiwa's *The Catalogue*, a nine-part poem which attempts to understand the relationship between a photographer and a poet through the history of the image and text.

Nicolas Grandi



Nicolás Grandi is a Buenos Aires based filmmaker, transdisciplinary artist, researcher and educator. He has been teaching film theory and practice in universities, schools and community workshops in Argentina and India where he lived for 5 years. This experience allowed him to integrate his artistic, academic and spiritual practices. Since then he's been coordinating The Poetics of Memory Lab, a nomadic platformfortransdisciplinary experimentation. He also teaches at UNTREF, Buenos Aires and supervises TV productions for the national broadcasting system in Argentina. His films which include *La Pasión Según Ander* (2005), *Casafuerte* (2004), *Simon Decouvre* (2000) have been screened widely at film festivals around the world.

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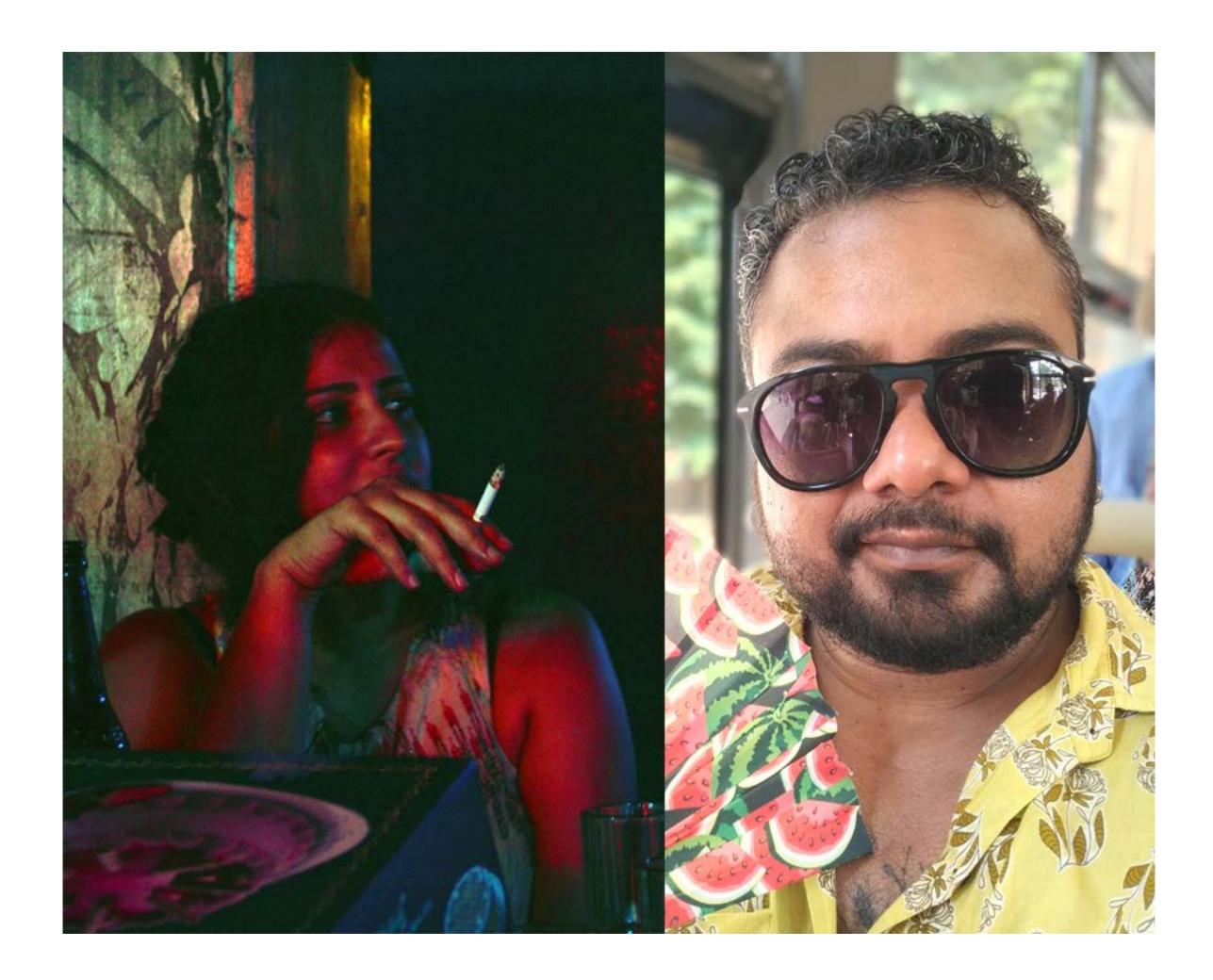
Transformers

India | 2015 | 7 min



Sexy S and Gangster G discover their superpowers.

Namita Aavriti & Gee Semmalar



Namita Aavriti is a programmer and filmmaker working with documentary, poetry, and experimental cinema. She has programmed for several film festivals and recently was part of founding the badnām, a festival for films from Palestine, Lebanon and other parts of the world that contend with censorship, occupation, and the politics of images. Her films and work include interactive pieces on the city, porn and cinema, stop motion, use of 16 and 8 mm footage, and have been shown in independent festivals and art spaces.

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Gee Semmalar is currently in Geneva writing a book on the history of trans people in 19th century British India. He was awarded a doctorate in Law in 2023. He is exhausted by, but compulsively attached to activism; what the Genz might describe as an OG bleeding heart.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to all the filmmakers for creating with such love and patience. We had so many first-time directors this year and we were thrilled by the variety of work - intimate, revealing, joyful, reflective, provoking. A special thanks to all those who took time to dig through their old hard drives and archives to send us their films for the retrospective. It has been such a joy to revisit these gems from the past (and for some of us to experience them for the first time)!

Our deep gratitude to Kalpana Chakravarthy & Prakash Babu for *All About Our Famila*.

Thanks to Avijit Mukul Kishore for "A Miniscule Minority"; Shruti Parekh for Zari; Shihab Ongallur for Ricard Dance; and to Iswar Lalitha for his recommendations.

The festival is back at **Medai** – The Stage for the second year. We're so grateful to Preeti Banerjee, director for cultural events, and L. Maladri, technical in-charge, for their warmth and support on all things big and small.





Thank you Malavika PC for jumping in to design all of our material, and especially for the late nights of work and last-minute edits.

A massive thanks to all those who have donated to keep us going and for keeping us independent. Ashish Chopra/Beunic, thank you for organising the fundraiser.

Thank you Kris, Vinay and Anush for taking the stage to introduce the films and filmmakers - we really appreciate it!

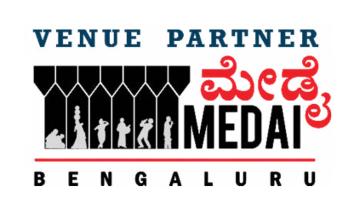
So, so much love to all of the volunteers—those who joined us this year, and those who've showed up year after year. Thank you for all your work and spirit and fun and care.

And to our beautiful audience: for coming back each year to stand in the long lines and to squash onto the mattresses, we love you!

With all our love,

The BQFF Organising Committee





THE B'LORE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL OCT 3 - 5 MEDAI-THE STAGE KORAMANGALA 15TH EDITION #BQFF 2025