

THE BANGALORE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

**THE BANGALORE
QUEER FILM
FESTIVAL #BQFF2023**

 **GOETHE
INSTITUT**
MAX MUELLER
BHAVAN

af
Alliance Française
BANGALORE

Hi lovelies!

She's back! The Bangalore Queer Film Festival is back with its 13th edition! *waits for applause* We return with nearly 60 films and over thirty hours of cinema spread over three full days. Go on, squeeze in, and find yourself a little spot on the mattresses with us.

Our schedule is packed. There's no breathing room. We've got lights, action, drama and a whole lot of melodrama. We've also got our first films from Tibet and Myanmar. We're the Asian and World premiere for films from Brazil, Belgium-Singapore and Scotland, UK. And so many other precious little gems. And to celebrate the 13th edition of the festival, we've peppered the programming with bits of queer horror – everything from B-Grade Bollywood brilliance to much experimental excitement.

The boundaries of horror as a genre are leaky, liquid. A film that is quiet, slow and unassuming can be as horrifying as one that slashes at you and keeps you waiting for what's around the corner. Some of us love these films that take us into realms of the psychic, the violent, the depraved, the degraded, the vulgar, the otherworldly. Horror makes something erupt onto a surface. It also allows for victims to claim

their vengeance in blood, fear and social retribution.

The teeth that sink into flesh, the hair rising on the back of the neck, the fear that pulsates in your nether regions, the being that occupies your body, the power to mutate into an unearthly other, the thirst that comes with a desire for vengeance, the feeling of dread at an unknown threat. Horror as a genre is already queer in its own erotic way.

At a time in which the genre is entering the big budget mainstream - with films and series like *Kanchana*, *Arundhati*, *Stree*, *Ragini MMS*, *Pisaasu*, *Aranmanai*, *Tumbbad*, *Bulbul*, and recently *Adhura* - we pay a tiny tribute to horror cinema in this - the 13th edition of the Bangalore Queer Film Festival.

Now: the real question - Which one of our many films will send a shiver down your spine?

Love,
The Organisers of BQFF

FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST

Alliance Française de Bangalore

Page nos.

9:00 - 10:20	5 nanomoles - the Olympic dream of a trans woman	51
10:20 - 10:40	TAPS	43
10:40 - 11:00	Oranges in the Winter Sun	40
11:00 - 11:20	Jaagte Khwaab (Dreams Awaken)	55
11:20 - 11:30	BREAK	
11:30 - 12:00	Mondial 2010	71
12:00-12:20	Ekka Dokka Tekka (One Two Three)	31
12:20 - 12:45	Iyaan Paatta	34
12:45 - 1:00	tu m'as fait craquer comme une pipas (you made me crack like a sunflower seed)	47
1:00 - 2:00	LUNCH BREAK	
2:00 - 4:25	Veerana	12
4:25 - 4:40	BREAK	
4:40 - 4:45	The Legend of the Prince and the Warrior (Ang Alamat ng Munting Prinsipe at Mandirigma)	23
4:45 - 4:50	Chummy Matrimony	27
4:50 - 5:05	Aalapanam	18
5:05 - 5:20	Apaar	22
5:20-6:05	Signal GPS perdu (GPS Signal Lost)	64
6:05 - 6:20	Nhím (Porcupine)	39
6:20 - 6:25	Bóng Xà Bông	26
6:25 - 7:00	Warm Spell	67
7:00 - 7:10	BREAK	
7:10 - 7:35	The Quiet Solace of Sunset	46
7:35 - 7:55	Closeting	28
7:55 - 8:10	Shoot Your Shot	42
8:10 - 8:20	BREAK	
8:20 - 9:50	Ek Jagah Apni (A Space of Our Own)	09

SATURDAY, 5TH AUGUST

Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan

		Page nos.
9:30 - 10:25	Day Dream	52
10:25 - 10:30	Sanaa, Seductress of Strangers	41
10:30 - 10:40	Fender Bender	32
10:40 - 10:55	Forty	33
10:55 - 11:15	Malwa Khushan	37
11:15 - 11:25	BREAK	
11:25 - 11:55	Raja Bhau	57
11:55 - 1:00	Lailaa Manju	15
1:00 - 2:00	LUNCH BREAK	00
2:00 - 2:20	Two Souls	48
2:20 - 2:25	Amôr - the Tune of Love	21
2:25 - 2:55	K.G.B (Kadamba Geleyara Balaga)	35
2:55 - 4:55	Divine Factory	54
4:55 - 5:10	BREAK	
5:10 - 5:20	Tween Peek	66
5:20 - 5:25	Carmen	59
5:25 - 5:35	Between	70
5:35 - 5:45	Sexparty	72
5:45 - 6:05	Yek Nameh Be Madaram (Letter to My Mother)	68
6:05 - 6:10	The Mimicamimers	65
6:10 - 6:20	BREAK	
6:20 - 6:35	Aching Hearts	19
6:35 - 6:40	Dead Mother's Mud	30
6:40 - 7:05	Daddy in the Refrigerator	29
7:05 - 8:05	Riptide	16
8:05 - 8:10	SHORT BREAK	
8:10 - 10:05	Wolf and Dog	13

SUNDAY, 6TH AUGUST

Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan

		Page nos.
9:00 - 9:10	Amar	20
9:10 - 9:25	Untitled Sequence of Gaps	73
9:25 - 9:50	La Reproduction	36
9:50 - 10:10	Exhibition	60
10:10 - 10:25	Beach	25
10:25 - 10:35	BREAK	
10:35 - 10:50	Wait Your Turn	49
10:50 - 12:40	Valentine @ 3	11
12:40 - 1:40	LUNCH BREAK	
1:40 - 3:15	Obsesiones	10
3:15 - 3:45	Diva	53
3:45 - 4:05	My Heart is Going to Explode!	38
4:05 - 6:10	My Film with Andrei Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Document a Sex Party	56
6:10 - 6:20	BREAK	
6:20 - 6:45	The Cutest and Funniest Animals in the World	44
6:45 - 7:15	Home When You Return	61
7:15 - 7:45	The Demons of Dorothy	45
7:45 - 7:55	Bad Behaviour	24
7:55 - 8:35	No Stranger at All	62
8:35 - 8:45	BREAK	
8:45 - 10:10	Paternal Rites	63

POB CULTURE FILMS

Ek Jagah Apni (A Space of Our Own)

India

2022

1 hr 28 min

Hindi

8:20 - 9:50 PM | 4 aug 2023



Laila and Roshni look for a house after they are evicted. Their search for a home parallels their ongoing search for a place in this society that continues to keep them away in a section that cannot be the centre. Laila is torn between being true to herself and preserving links with the family she was born into. Meanwhile, Roshni treads a fine line between concealing her identity and living the life that she wants, but it is not without its dangers.

As the search for a home continues, it transcends physical spaces and biological bonds. New friendships blossom and help comes from unexpected quarters.



DIRECTOR: Ektara Collective

Ektara Collective is a film making collective that comprises trained and untrained people from diverse backgrounds and identities who come together and collaborate to make independent cinema that is located in our realities and experiences. The collective is based in Bhopal, India. Their earlier films are *Chanda Ke Joote* (2011), *Jaadui Machchhi* (2013), *Turup* (2017) and *Hotel Raahgir* (2020).

Obsesiones (Obsessions)

Mexico
2022

1:40 - 3:15 PM | 6 aug 2023

1 hr 36 min
Spanish



Sahid and Ámbar are looking to explore their sexuality, but the Grimaldi family has a lot of problems because Sahid's father Roberto is always disturbing their lives.



DIRECTOR: Isaías Gómez May
Isaías Gómez May is a director of TV soap operas at Televisa Networks. He is known for *Cómplices al rescate* (2002) and *Mi fortuna es amarte* (2021).



Valentine @ 3

India
2022

10:50AM-12:40 PM | 6 aug 2023

1 hr 51 min
Tamil



Valentine @ 3 is an anthology of three stories based on the LGBT community. The three stories depict the lives of gay people at different ages. The first one speaks to an 18-year-old gay boy's feelings towards his school and college crush and his relationship with his mother. The second deals with two gay men trying to fight against social odds to save their relationship. The third with the conversation and stories shared between two gay men in an Uber cab.



DIRECTOR: Mani Shankar Iyer
Mani Shankar Iyer is a screenwriter and director from Chennai (Tamil Nadu, India). His directorial ventures *Magizhvan* (Tamil) and *Sattham* (Tamil) were official selections at international festivals including the Seattle South Asian Film Festival, KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival, Jaipur International Film Festival, La Dolce Vita Cine Roma (Italy), the Twilight Tokyo International Film Festival (Tokyo), the Pattaya International Film Festival (Thailand), and Mont Blanc International Film Festival (France), and won awards at some of these festivals. Besides filmmaking, Mani Shankar Iyer also lectures on filmmaking and screenwriting at film institutes in India. *Valentine @ 3* is his most recent feature film.



Veerana

India

1988

2 hr 25 min

Hindi

2:00-4:25 PM | 4 aug 2023



A beautiful young girl, unfortunately possessed from her childhood by a vengeful spirit, wanders around lonely places to seduce and kill people, gradually becoming lost in a dark world of revenge and lust.



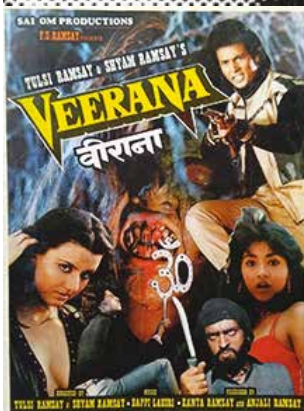
DIRECTORS: Shyam Ramsay & Tulsi Ramsay

Shyam Ramsay (1952-2019) and Tulsi Ramsay (1944-2018) were film directors and editors, and two of the seven renowned Ramsay Brothers, sons of horror cinema pioneer Fatehchand U Ramsinghani, active in Hindi cinema throughout the 1970s and the 1980s. The two brothers



started directing their own films with *Do Gaz Zameen Ke Neeche* in 1972, and then there was no looking back.

Together they directed and produced a number of cult horror movies such as *Darwaza* (1978), *Ghungroo Ki Awaaz* (1981), *Purana Mandir* (1984), *Takhana* (1986), *Veerana* (1988) and *Mahakaal* (1994). Their films feature “zombies, vampires, werewolves, reanimated corpses and snowmen” (Outlook, 18 Sep 2019). They are also credited with making the country’s first horror TV series, *The Zee Horror Show*.



Wolf & Dog

Portugal

2022

1 hr 51 min

Portuguese

8:10-10:05 PM | 5 aug 2023



Ana was born on an island. She is a middle child. The three siblings live with their mother and grandmother. As she grew up, Ana realised that girls and boys were given different tasks. Luís, Ana’s best friend, loves dresses as much as pants. Ana admires him. Her friend Cloé arrives from Canada, bringing with her the glowing days of youth. With Cloé, Ana embarks on a journey that will take her beyond the horizon. The line between “Wolf” and “Dog” will reveal to Ana the right sea for her to sail.



DIRECTOR: Cláudia Varejão

Cláudia Varejão was born in Porto and studied at the Creativity and Artistic Creation Program of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in partnership

with the German Film und Fernsehakademie Berlin and the São Paulo International Film Academy. She also studied Photography at AR.CO in Lisbon. Cláudia is the author of the short film trilogy *Weekend*, *A Cold Day*, and *Morning Light*. *Ama-san*, a portrait of Japanese divers, was her feature debut, receiving dozens of awards around the world, followed by *In The Darkness of the Theater I Take Off My Shoes* and *Amor Fati*. Besides her work as a filmmaker, she developed a career as a photographer, and she’s a guest professor at AR.CO and Catholic University of Porto. Her work, whether in film or photography, documentary or fiction, lives from her proximity to those portrayed.



Spotlight
Features

Lailaa Manju

India

2022

53 min 02 sec

Marathi, English,

Hindi

11:55 AM - 1:00 PM | 5 aug 2023



Lailaa Manju is a spin on the iconic Arabic legend 'Layla Majnun', where a lovestruck Qays is so overcome with his love for Laila, that he becomes "majnoon" or possessed. Our characters Lailaa and Manju are two Mumbai-based girls in love, who fight to stay in love in the middle of the pandemic as Manju struggles to come out to her mother about her sexual identity and Mumbai shuts down due to COVID-19.



DIRECTOR: Kamyaa Nair is a writer, producer, actor and director. She has previously acted in *Uninvited* (2017), a short film; and written *Ruhaan* (2017). Kamyaa dreams of being a filmmaker with a chance of making and being a part of important stories. She was industry initiated through a brief stint as an associate producer with Viacom18's OTT platform, Voot. This led her to work with boutique production houses like Lekh-haq Films, writing short films and acting. And occasionally, she even picked up gigs as a graphic designer, editor, photographer and artist.

Riptide

India

2023

57 min

Malayalam

7:05-8:05 PM | 5 aug 2023

Set in a retro atmosphere, *Riptide* is a story told in three chapters. Suku and Charlie are lovers living in a college hostel room, living a life drowned in love, literature and music, nearing the end of their college life. A life-threatening disease forces Suku to leave the hostel for treatment. In a near-death experience, Suku has a vision of Charlie screaming in pain. A healthy Suku comes back to the hostel only to find a traumatised Charlie reading a never-ending novel, blood stains on the wall and a never-ending love song which keeps playing repeatedly on the radio.



DIRECTOR: Afrad VK

Afrad VK is an independent filmmaker from Kerala. *Riptide* is his debut film and started as a diploma film project.



SHORT
FILMS

Aalapanam

India

2023

14 min 39 sec

Malayalam

4:50-5:05 PM | 4 aug 2023



A tale of change and connection about a family together but still apart, *Aalapanam* is a Malayalam film that follows Vinayak, a trans man in his 20s, as he navigates his relationship with his mother. The film takes place in two realities.

Aalapanam is a film about shared bonds that might connect broken families. It is a film about acceptance and aspiration. It carefully weaves motifs into its narrative and shows how love persists even when everything else might not.



DIRECTOR: Niketh Manulal
Niketh Manulal made his directorial debut with *Signs of Change*, an experimental student film co-directed with his friend Jashan Sehmi. He went on to co-direct

another short film, *Untitled Music Project*. *Aalapanam* is his graduate film where he explores his journey as a trans man.

Aching Hearts

The Netherlands

2022

13 min 38 sec

Dutch

6:20-6:35 PM | 5 aug 2023



DIRECTOR: Renée van Zadelhof
Renée van Zadelhof is an independent filmmaker and a transcriber for media and film. Before *Aching Hearts* she directed *Lang zal ze leven* (2018).

Simone is suddenly confronted with her ex-wife Nora. After the loss of their daughter, they had no contact for a long time. Their reunion opens old wounds and throws Simone off balance. As it happens with tragedies, their lives are never the same again.

Amar

India

2022

10 min 21 sec

Hindi

9:00-9:10 AM | 6 aug 2023



Amar revolves around the protagonist Amar who is blind from birth and who has graduated from a blind school. Amar's mother passed away in his childhood and he now lives with his father in a small apartment. The film takes the audience along with Amar as he wanders – sometimes on populous streets and sometimes in solitude playing his harmonica. He has a new friend named Iqbal who is a filmmaker and lives in the same town. Amar rejoices in Iqbal's company and likes to be around him. Eventually he discovers that he and Iqbal are deeply emotionally connected and have feelings for each other.



DIRECTOR: Anshul Kumar

Anshul Kumar is a student pursuing his Masters in design with film and video as his specialisation at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. *Amar* is a fiction film he

directed as part of his student design project. Before joining NID, he worked in a film production house based in Mumbai and took up acting assignments in films, including full length features.

Amōr - the Tune of Love

India

2023

4 min 50 sec

Malayalam

2:20-2:25 PM | 5 aug 2023

Amōr - the Tune of Love is a Malayalam music video presented as a cultural response to the homophobic attitude in the state of Kerala. The music video depicts emotions pertaining to same-sex romance with a focus on the feeling of belongingness.



DIRECTOR: Jijo Kuriakose

Jijo Kuriakose is an artist, photographer, writer and documentary filmmaker. He has earlier directed a short documentary film titled *Njan Sanjo* (I am Sanjo) and has also curated a few queer art

exhibitions in Kerala.



Apaar

India

2022

13 min 55 sec

Hindi

5:05 - 5:20 PM | 4 aug 2023



In a village in India Mira goes out to a village fair but doesn't come back. The search for Mira begins the next day, and other mysteries unravel.



DIRECTOR: Abison Yumnam
Abison Yumnam is a filmmaker from Imphal, Manipur. He completed his M.A in Literature from St. Joseph's College of Arts and Sciences, Bangalore. He is passionate

about telling stories through the audiovisual medium, and therefore took up film making at the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI). He would love to make movies in all genres and is trying to do so with engaging storytelling techniques.



Ang Alamat ng Munting Prinsipe at Mandirigma (The Legend of the Prince and the Warrior)

Philippines

2021

5 min

Filipino

4:40-4:45 PM | 4 aug 2023



One day, Christopher overhears his parents scolding his older brother, Ferdinand, because of a leaked video with his boyfriend on the Internet. After his brother is subjected to abuse and rejection by his family and peers, Christopher formulates a colourful legend of "thieves, dragons, fairies, trolls, and shadow monsters", a story centred on the love and acceptance of the prince for his warrior.



DIRECTOR: Jake Collado

Jake Collado is a Filipino filmmaker, writer, actor, illustrator, and spoken word artist. Currently a graduate student of the Master of Arts in Media Studies (Film) program of the University of the Philippines Diliman,

he fancies himself above anything else as a storyteller, debuting with his first short *Ang Alamat ng Munting Prinsipe at Mandirigma* (The Legend of the Prince and the Warrior) as finalist of the Sine Kabataan 4 Short Film Competition Section of the Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino 5 (2021), a national film festival organised by the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

Bad Behaviour

India

2023

9 min 42 sec

English

7:45-7:55 PM | 6 aug 2023



Bad Behaviour is a performative documentary that sets out to explore MG Road, Brigade Road and Church Street - the neighbourhoods that gave Bangalore its moniker 'the Pub City' in the 80s and 90s because of their watering holes and cruising spots.

Thomaskutty and Thomachen, two middle-aged gay men past their heydays, meet at Koshy's Parade Café. Emboldened by a few drinks, they set out to explore the streets of their heady youth for an evening of revelry - from Black Cadillac to Italian Guesthouse, from Knock Out to Roach Guesthouse, the boxing arenas, belly dancing, and all the debauchery of the good old Pub city. However, as they leave Koshy's, they find themselves in a neoliberal gentrified urban transformation!



DIRECTOR: Bhavana Rajendran, Rency Philip and Sharanya Ramprakash
Bhavana Rajendran, Rency Philip and Sharanya Ramprakash are theatre makers based in Bangalore. None of them call

themselves filmmakers... yet. Of the motley lot Sharanya may have some understanding of films and dramaturgical narratives, while Bhavana and Rency come with their special expertise in performing nonsense, onstage and off. The two of them have also spent many years together on the streets of Bangalore pub hopping, jaywalking, and generally creating nuisance. However, let not Sharanya's capabilities disarm; she is an expert in unruly herself.

Beach

India

2022

14 min 57 sec

Hindi

10:10 - 10:25 AM | 6 aug 2023



Karan is a trans man who recently had a gender affirmation surgery and something as trivial as going to the beach shirtless has been a dream and an act of liberation for him. Aditya, a cisman, has witnessed Karan's struggle with gender dysphoria throughout college, often standing up for him more often than he has for himself. Will Karan muster the courage to realise his dream on the beach? Will he feel liberated?



DIRECTOR: Anisha Sharma
Anisha Sharma, 34, born and brought up in Bombay. She first fell in love with the creative arts when at the age of 8 she wrote a book about a boy

travelling back in time to meet William Shakespeare. By then she'd already started wearing glasses because she loved to read, even in the dimmest of lights. Since then, she has had the good fortune to be exposed to all kinds of cinema, through which she not only discovered her passion to be a professional writer but saw how cinema could break boundaries and societal constructs. The qualities of empathy, authenticity and allowing moments to breathe are what truly shone through.



Bóng Xà Bông

Vietnam

2021

6 min 35 sec

Vietnamese

6:20 - 6:25 PM | 4 aug 2023



The video reexamines and deconstructs news outlets as primary sources that generate and reify stereotypes of the LGBTQIA+ community in Vietnam. By digitising an important queer memory, experimenting and interweaving it with fantasies and anecdotes, the video aims to deconstruct stereotypes of the LGBTQIA+ and question the role that memory plays in the ever-changing formation of identity.



DIRECTOR: Phạm Nguyễn

Anh Tú

Phạm Nguyễn Anh Tú is a visual artist born and raised in Sài Gòn, Việt Nam.

He approaches video making through combinations of animated collages and chroma key compositing to recreate scenes

of personal memories, fantasy and inner dialogue. He is interested in using art as a site for experimenting and critically reflecting, to grasp the systems of knowledge that structure our world and find their origin and the constraint they impose upon us, in order to rethink and reimagine our engagement with the physical world.

Chummy Matrimony

India

2021

3 min 13 sec

Silent

4:45 - 4:50 PM | 4 aug 2023



Four different families meet each other to bind their children within arranged matrimony.



DIRECTOR: Tamjeed Elahi Khan

Tamjeed Elahi Khan is a self-taught screenwriter and director, partly grown up and educated in Mumbai & Belagavi (Karnataka). After completing his Diploma in Civil Engineering in 2008, he started his journey of dreams, arriving in

Mumbai in 2009 and joining Madhumati's Acting Academy. Soon after, in 2011, he landed his debut Hindi feature film role in *Hum Baja Bajaa Denge* as parallel lead. In 2013 he made his debut in direction (as Co-Director) with a short film named *One Night with Right & Wrong*. Later in 2016 he made his solo debut by directing and writing an internationally screened short film named *HISSAA*, based on female genital mutilation. A Hardcore foreign film buff, Tamjeed Elahi Khan will roll out his first feature film soon.

Closeting

Indonesia

2022

20 min 52 sec

Bahasa Indonesia

7:35-7:55 PM | 4 aug 2023

As he is about to celebrate his 25th birthday with his mother and close friends at home, Ahmad – a closeted gay Muslim man – finds out that his boyfriend has just passed away.



DIRECTOR: Kurnia Alexander
Through frequent visits to VCD rentals and TV, Kurnia Alexander fell in love with romcoms, sitcoms and horror, and has been dreaming of making movies since he was a child. Despite never having had formal training in filmmaking, Kurnia is promising himself that he's going to turn this dream into reality—be it behind or in front of the camera. So far, Kurnia has been making short films & web series that deal with queer themes and humanity at large and is ready to take on the world as an Indonesian filmmaker to look out for.



Daddy in the Refrigerator

South Korea

2018

21 min 18 sec

Korean

6:40-7:05 PM | 5 aug 2023



Yeon is living under a curse after something terrible was done to her as a child by something called “dad”. The curse suddenly appears and torments the body of the kid. Because of this Yeon lives alone without being able to have a deep relationship with others. Yeon meets Dae at a lesbian club and one day Dae suddenly lands up at her house.



DIRECTOR: Jung In-hyuk
Born in 1997, he graduated from Korea Animation High School and studied film directing in college. His short films, in which he mixes the stories of non-mainstream characters with B-grade humour and various filmmaking techniques to create a genre that defies definition, have earned him a passionate fan base. *Daddy in the Refrigerator* won the Bucheon Fantastic Special Award at the Mise-en-scène Short Film Festival in 2018 and advanced to the finals of the Seoul Independent Film Festival.



Dead Mother's Mud

Brazil

2023

4 min 30 sec

Portuguese

6:35-6:40 PM | 5 aug 2023



Vida, a black trans woman, insists on disposing of her mother's ashes without the company of anyone, not even her girlfriend. In the solitude of her ritual, she arrives at the beach, sets up a parasol and a chair, and admires the sea. Soon she takes the urn and pours the ashes into the water. Then her mother emerges.



DIRECTOR: Camilo Pellegrini
Camilo Pellegrini graduated in theatre direction. From 2000 to 2010, he wrote and directed plays: *Amélia*, *Adormecida*, *Caminhos de Sangue*, *Madrasta*, *Amores de Sabrina*, *Brecht*

Morreu and *Gênesis dos Novos Deuses*. He directed Rodrigo de Roure's *The Last Days of Gilda*. His most significant work was *Brecht Morreu* (2003), a bilingual tribute to Bertolt Brecht, staged at Espaço Sesc in Copacabana with Brazilian and German actors. He collaborated as a scriptwriter in ten soap operas and three series at Record. There, he was the main author of the soap opera *Genesis* and the series *Miracles of Jesus*. He wrote and directed the webseries *Minutinho de Terror* (Best Stories Series Award at the 2018 Rio Webfest). He wrote and directed the short film *A Lama da Mãe Morta*, still unreleased.

Ekka Dokka Tekka (One Two Three)

India

2023

20 min

Bengali

12:00-12:20 PM | 4 aug 2023



Three popular mainstream writings in Bengali literature are retold through a queer lens set in Kolkata. *Ekka* is the story of a young boy Srikanto, based on a novel by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, who befriends a young man at a Pride walk. *Dokka*, inspired by the works of poet Rabindranath Tagore and scientist J. C. Bose, narrates the story of a youth named Bolai and his intimate asexual kinship with nature. In *Tekka*, incited by Streer Patra (*A Wife's Letter*) by Tagore, a mother rebels against her homophobic in-laws after her adopted daughter dies by suicide.



DIRECTOR: Tirthankar Guha Thakurta

Tirthankar Guha Thakurta is a doctor, medical teacher and queer rights activist based in Kolkata.

He currently works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology at KPC Medical College, Jadavpur. He actively engages in creating a LGBTQ-inclusive medical curriculum and campus, building queer-affirmative teaching-learning spaces and spreading awareness on gender-sexuality rights through seminars, blogs and podcasts.

Fender Bender

Scotland, UK
2023
8 min 10 sec
English

10:30-10:40 AM | 5 aug 2023



Julia and Emily crash into each other with no major consequences.



DIRECTOR: Caroline Biagi
Caroline Biagi has a degree in Filmmaking from the Faculty of Arts of Paraná, in the South of Brazil, and a Master's Degree in Screenwriting within the Kino Eyes programme.

She has worked as a writer and a director since 2012. Her most recent short film, *Brazil x Netherlands*, was screened at the 29th São Paulo International Film Festival and the 42nd LUCAS – Internationales Festival für junge Filmfans, among other festivals. Her feature film script *The sun and the fish* received a grant from a Brazilian development fund and was selected for the international co-production market at GUIÕES 2021, in Portugal.

Forty

India
2022
13 min 25 sec
Hindi, English

10:40-10:55 AM | 5 aug 2023



Forty explores a mother-daughter relationship where a young, 20-year old Aparna (Appu) in the face of grief stumbles upon her mother's notebook, opening up a past life that lived and breathed.



DIRECTOR: Sreelakshmi M
Sreelakshmi M (she/her) is a queer filmmaker from the city of Delhi, although her roots lie in the southern state of Kerala. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Film and Video Communication at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India.

Her curiosity lies in understanding the medium of moving images, with a special affinity towards cinema. Just like a mix of her identities, she aims to create a melange of stories through her films, experimenting with the norm.

Iyaan Paatta

India

2023

25 min

Malayalam

12:20-12:45 PM | 4 aug 2023

A closeted gay person in a straight relationship meets a person who has come out, and what follows is a tale of turmoil, self discovery and unrequited love within a society that imposes familiarity. This is a film adaptation of "White Nights", a short story by Fyodor Dostoevsky, published in 1848.



DIRECTOR: Fabin Thomas

Fabin Thomas is interested in telling stories about the time and space he lives in. *Iyaan Paatta* is his directorial debut.

K.G.B

(Kadamba Geleyara Balaga)

India

2023

28 min 39 sec

Kannada

2:25-2:55 PM | 5 aug 2023

Abhay, Pruthvi, & Hemanth are in their 7th year of Kadamba Geleyara Balaga (Sulthanpalya, Bengaluru), their local Ganesha club. Little does Abhay know that it might be their last year together. Right now they have much more pressing tasks to attend to. One, to impress their local area crush and two, to eviscerate the rich colony kids. And the way to do both? Put up a grand pandal with the Ganesha idol on a Bullet bike.

Since they're short on cash, the gang venture into the big bad world of their locality, trying to convince aunties and uncles to part with their money. In the meantime, Hemanth and Pruthvi try to figure out a way to break it to Abhay that this may be the last year they will be able to participate.



DIRECTOR: Mahishaa

Mahishaa is an Ambedkarite filmmaker based in Bangalore. He is the founder of Neelavarana, an Ambedkarite artist collective that produces short films, music videos & documentaries focusing on Bahujan stories made by people from the

DBA community. He is interested in exploring media narratives that dissect and challenge dominant caste, class and gender depictions. Mahishaa works on having characters from marginalised communities being played by the people from the community since the value of such representation cannot be understated, especially in Kannada cinema.



La Reproduction (The Reproduction)

France

2023

24 min

No dialogue

9:25-9:50 AM | 6 aug 2023



Marc-Antoine, a solitary 30-something with an outdated appearance, sees a new neighbour arrive in the building opposite his home, on the other side of the courtyard. He discovers that Amélie, an unacknowledged high school sweetheart, is his girlfriend. Resembling this neighbour then becomes an obsession.



DIRECTOR: Jean-Marie Villeneuve
Jean-Marie Villeneuve wrote his first one-man show *I am too much* in 2000. From 2006, he started cinema with the writing and realisation of several short films and experimental clips. In 2014, he directed a comedy *The Cream* which was selected for many festivals across the world and won Best Director in Indianapolis. In 2014, his first full-length film *Tout est Faux (Everything is false)* had beautiful critical success in France. His short *AXN*, quite experimental, was selected for the New York Independent Film Festival in 2016. In 2019 and 2020, he directed two short films, *Autumn* and *Where's Wally?*, which won several awards at festivals. *La Reproduction* is his new short (2023).



Malwa Khushan

India

2023

20 min

Hindi

10:55-11:15 AM | 5 aug 2023

The film is a coming of age story of two sisters Malwa and Khushan, exploring and experiencing sexuality and attraction in their adolescent years. Living with their grandmother, Khushan always looks up to Malwa for her outspoken nature and courage. Soon a new girl arrives in her class and Khushan begins to develop feelings for her.



DIRECTOR: Preeti Kanungo & Sourav Yadav

Preeti Kanungo is an independent filmmaker and a social worker who believes in making cinema that speaks to her. She feels passionate about telling stories that provide some answers and the warmth of a tight hug. She is also a part-time stop-motion animator, which is one thing that brings her alive. She wishes to experiment with the medium of cinema and make a lot



of experimental films. *Malwa Khushan* is her debut narrative film. *Malwa Khushan* won the KASHISH film Grant 2022 and has also been nominated for the Ismat Chughtai Award for Best Indian Woman Filmmaker at KASHISH 2023.

Sourav Yadav is a multi-talented filmmaker with a producing, cinematography, and colour grading background. His experience working behind the camera and in post-production has given him a unique perspective on visual storytelling. It has helped him bring a distinctive look and feel in *Malwa Khushan* while collaborating with Preeti. It is his first short film as a director after college. Sourav is excited to continue exploring the intersection of directing and cinematography in future projects.



My Heart is Going to Explode!

South Korea

2023

19 min 57 sec

Korean

3:45-4:05 PM | 6 aug 2023



After a love affair full of gaslighting comes to an end, Soojin is haunted by the green-lit girl she slept with in a drunken stupor the night before. Soojin's friends scold her for losing her mind, but suddenly a UFO appears in the sky of Seoul and starts attacking everyone. Will Soojin be able to find the green girl in the middle of hell? The latest alien-invading sci-fi action-romance blockbuster from Jung In-hyuk, who has created his own genre by mixing minority stories with B-grade humour and clichés.



DIRECTOR: Jung In-hyuk

Born in 1997, he graduated from Korea Animation High School and studied film directing in college.

His short films, in which he mixes the stories of non-mainstream characters with B-grade humour and

various filmmaking techniques to create a genre that defies definition, have earned him a passionate fan base. In 2023 *My Heart is Going to Explode!* entered the Korean Fantastic section of the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival.

Nhím (Porcupine)

Belgium / Singapore / Vietnam

2023

13 min

English, French, Vietnamese

6:05 -6:20 PM | 4 aug 2023

In an abandoned hospital on the outskirts of Brussels, a young streamer, alias "Porcupine", performs a live sex show for an online subscriber. Under the same dilapidated roof, an old woman lights a fire and drinks her sorrows away in the room where her husband stayed until he died. A chance encounter between these two lonely beings will unleash a flood of memories and virtual data. But real-life connections are scarce, and mutual consolation seems a distant dream.



DIRECTOR: Trương Minh Quý & Nicolas Graux

Trương Minh Quý was born in 1990 in Buôn Ma Thuột, Vietnam. His films, rooted between documentaries, essays, and fiction, draw upon the landscape of his native country, his childhood memories, and Vietnam's history. They have been screened at major festivals worldwide, including Locarno, Berlinale, New York,



Clermont-Ferrand, Oberhausen, Rotterdam and Busan. His second feature film, *The Tree House* (2019), premiered at the 72nd Locarno Film Festival and won the Swiss Critics' Boccacino Award.

Nicolas Graux, born in 1988 in Belgium, graduated from the Institute of Media Arts in 2012 with a Master's degree in film directing. His films utilise sensory ethnography and fiction to explore the resonances of personal and collective memory, addressing contemporary social issues from an intimate perspective. His debut feature documentary, *Century of Smoke* (2019), a haunting portrait of a community of opium addicts in Laos, had its world premiere in the International Competition at Visions du Réel.



Oranges in the Winter Sun

India, UK

2022

20 min 42 sec

English, Hindi

10:40-11:00 AM | 4 aug 2023



Oranges in the Winter Sun is about the entanglements between memory and letting go. Told as a retelling, it is about two queer people finding space for their love in the cramped corners of the world. It is about a camera, with only twelve films – hence beckoning the photographer to decide what to leave inside and outside of a frame. It looks at the city of New Delhi through a queer perspective, amongst its shadowy domes and incessant metro announcement – at every corner, queerness is seen as trespassing. The film is about the memory of a love story – how you feed off memories until in the present you aren't starved of that love. All scenes except for the last one are a retelling – stuck in the past, where the protagonist is willing time to stay. But it ends in hope, in the present, in possibility of much more to happen.



DIRECTOR: Anureet Watta

Anureet Watta (they/them) is a poet and filmmaker living in New Delhi.

Their works are informed by their lived experiences as a queer person and they

attempt to delve into narratives that explore queerness outside of the omnipresent heteropatriarchal gaze. Their first film *Kinaara*, an experimental five-minute short, encapsulates the story of two queer women who are separated during the partition of 1947. They then completed their second short experimental film, *Oranges in the Winter Sun*, which has been showcased in five international film festivals so far. Anureet has also written several short films that are yet to go into production. They have also co-written a feature film with Faraz Arif Ansari (*Sheer Qorma*, 2021). They are a part of the Writer's Ink Institute Screenwriting Lab.

Sanaa, Seductress of Strangers

Germany

2022

3 min 20 sec

German

10:25 -10:30 AM | 5 aug 2023



Sanaa has been working as a city guide in Berlin-Wedding for years. But work alone is not enough for her. She is stubborn and trans. Her passion for the migrant men in the neighbourhood really keeps her on her toes.



DIRECTOR: Jan Eilhardt

Jan Eilhardt studied film and performance at the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg, and during this time worked under Heiner Müller in the theatre. In 2001, he received the renowned Government

arts grant from the Kunstfonds Bonn, and in 2004 featured *Quasar* at the Art Film Biennale Museum Ludwig, Cologne. Since then his features, shorts and music videos have been shown at film festivals, in cinema as well as museum and gallery throughout the world. His award-winning short film *The Last Night of Baby Gun* was narrated by Eva Mattes (famous for films by Rainer Werner Fassbinder & Werner Herzog). In 2013, Jan premiered his first feature length film *The Court of Shards* at the Oscar®-qualifying Slamdance Film Festival in Park City. He recently finished his second feature film *The Real Court of Shards*, a sequel to his first. His third feature is in development right now.

Shoot Your Shot

UK/India

2023

12 min

English

7:55-8:10 PM | 4 aug 2023



Shoot Your Shot is a short film about teenage best friends Ronit and Brennan, as they struggle to reach the same emotional support page on a scorching afternoon in the summer. Ronit's got an aching crush for Mike and doesn't know if it's too late, and Brennan is baffled by that fuzzy feeling all together. A coming-of-age story about masculinity between immigrants. It's intimate, it's a little out of their comfort zones, but inevitably...



DIRECTOR: Mishaal Memon
Mishaal Memon is a writer-director with a passion for telling stories that are injected with creativity and a new perspective on the world and how we see it, and with a particular emphasis on South-Asian representation. He

is a BFI Film Academy Craft Skills (NFTS) alum. A Westminster Film School graduate with a background in Visual Effects, he has credits working on *Cruella* and *Pinocchio*.

TAPS

India

2023

15 min 25 sec

English, Hindi

10:20-10:40 AM | 4 aug 2023



A simple misunderstanding puts Akshay and Rohan's domestic idyll on shaky grounds. Set over the course of an evening, *TAPS* offers an intimate look at how the couple navigates their way back to each other.



DIRECTOR: Arvind Caulagi
Arvind Caulagi is an independent filmmaker based in Mumbai. *TAPS*, a film written and directed by him, won the KASHISH QDrishTi Film Grant 2022, awarded to queer filmmakers in India annually.

In 2021, Arvind wrote, directed, shot, edited, and produced *Nishaan* (Traces), a narrative short that was officially selected to compete at the 15th Edition of SIGNS Festival Kerala. A solitary project, the film is a queer interpretation of O. Henry's short story "The Furnished Room". Currently, he is writing his first feature film.



The Cutest and Funniest Animals in the World

Brazil

2023

23 min 42 sec

Portuguese

6:20-6:45 PM | 6 aug 2023



Jorge is 70 years-old and is one of the most capricious and dedicated janitors at the Paradise Motel, except for a single detail: He secretly records the sounds coming from the rooms' guests.



DIRECTOR: Renato Sircilli
Renato Sircilli (Brazil, 1989) is a director, screenwriter and editor. His latest works alternate between cinema, theatre and performance. He has directed seven short films, including *The Face of the Woman in Debt* (2015) and *The Remaining* (2018), and a hybrid feature film, *Fôlego* (2018).



The Demons of Dorothy

France

2021

29 min

French

7:15 - 7:45 PM | 6 aug 2023



Dorothy's a film director and a bit of a loser... Alone and fueled up on Heineken, she lets loose on her script, *BIKER CHICKS IN LOVE*. But a call from her producer kills her buzz: enough already with the queer comedies, it's time to start making mainstream films. Slumped in her pyjamas in her tiny studio apartment, Dorothy sinks to the deepest depths of paranoia and despair. Frozen by self-doubt, she seeks comfort in her favourite TV show *Romy the Vampire Slayer*.... Unfortunately for Dorothy, her own demons have decided to come out of the woodwork and it's going to be a night to remember!



DIRECTOR: Alexis Langlois
After studying at Paris 8 and at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts of Paris-Cergy, Alexis Langlois directed with the G.R.E.C. In 2012 he directed his first short film, *Mascarade*, and in 2016 *Trinkets* and *Dark Thoughts*, in which he films partygoers and performers in underground Paris. He shot the musical *Your Young Years Will Dry Your Tears* (2017) and *Terror, Sisters!* (2019) with the same group. His fourth short, *The Demons of Dorothy*, premiered in Locarno 2021. Alexis is currently developing his first feature film *Drama Queens* and a burlesque sitcom named *Body Positive*.



The Quiet Solace of Sunset

Tibet
2021

7:10 - 7:35 PM | 4 aug 2023

21 min 27 sec
Tibetan/English



The Quiet Solace of Sunset captures the delicate nuances of friendship, self-discovery, and the power of acceptance in the face of personal challenges. Through its visually captivating narrative and heartfelt performances, this film invites audiences on an introspective and emotionally resonant exploration of identity, homecoming, and the enduring bonds of true friendship.



DIRECTOR: Tenzin Choedon

Tenzin Choedon is an aspiring Tibetan filmmaker based in India, dedicated to using the power of storytelling to address social issues. With a strong background in gender justice organisations, she brings a nuanced understanding of the struggles faced by marginalised communities. Her primary focus is on sharing the stories and experiences of the queer community, aiming to create empathy, challenge societal norms, and drive positive change. As a female filmmaker, Tenzin Choedon is committed to highlighting the resilience and beauty of the human spirit through her thought-provoking narratives, leaving a lasting impact on audiences and the cinematic landscape.

tu m'as fait craquer
comme une pipas (you made me
crack like a sunflower seed)

Switzerland
2022

12:45-1:00 PM | 4 aug 2023

13 min 37 sec
French



Still shot, voice-over, wood, sunflower seeds. *tu m'as m'a fait craquer comme une pipas (you made me crack like a sunflower seed)* addresses the transformative power of love and writing through a text co-written by the duo of artists, which takes the form of a voice-over. It translates the flow of their thoughts, like an open heart diary, which generates reflections on the notions of safety, intimate space and vulnerability.

DIRECTOR: jpp & Alexandra Sheherazade Salem

jpp and Alexandra Sheherazade Salem are artists based in Geneva, Switzerland. Both have individual artistic practices involving writing, video, performance and installation. Sharing common interests and research, they began collaborating alongside their individual practice. Their work as a duo essentially explores issues related to love. The question of the proximity of their bodies in public space — as a non-normative couple with traditional backgrounds — is at the heart of their collaborative work, which is built on a series of micro-situations revealing expressions of love during encounters. Glances and diverted gestures are transformed into attempts at proximity, playing with the limits of the closeness of their bodies to allow their love to exist in public space.

ings every sun

Two Souls

Myanmar

2023

17 min 03 sec

Burmese

2:00-2:20 PM | 5 aug 2023



After the 2021 military coup in Myanmar many artists had to run away to neighbouring Thailand. There, most are stuck at the Thai-Burmese border while some are waiting for political asylum in the West. This film was made under such difficult circumstances in the Thai-Burmese border area. The two professional actors featured in this film are real life exiles, having left Burma to avoid political persecution. Most of the crew members are also political exiles. So the story resonates with all of them and the film is dedicated to these brave individuals who sacrificed so much for their country, Burma, “a bloody great country”.



DIRECTOR: Myat Noe
Alumni of such film festivals like Oldenburg, Another Hole in the Head, Canberra Shorts, McMinnville Shorts, CAAM, aGliff, and many others, Noe works as a part-time filmmaker. He left Burma after the military coup of 2021.

Wait Your Turn

Germany

2023

14 min 25 sec

English, German

10:35-10:50 AM | 6 aug 2023



A young man tries to bear with his intense menstrual pains while stuck in the waiting room of a medical establishment. He feels exposed, until his own gaze takes over the screen, turning his need for pleasure and care into a common cause, a collective fantasy. *Wait Your Turn* is an invitation inside the subjective perspective of a trans man navigating pleasure and pain in public space.



DIRECTOR: João Carvalho
João Carvalho (b. 1994, Paris) is a transmasculine filmmaker and visual artist based in Berlin. After an MA in multimedia arts, he came to filmmaking with pong Film Berlin, and worked as Assistant Director for Philip Scheffner's film *Europe* (Berlinale 2021). His short film *Wait Your Turn* (2023) has received the Short Film Fund prize at Queer Xposed Berlin. He is currently developing his first feature documentary, in the frame of the post-graduate program at KHM (Cologne). His work seeks to translate the physical experience of individuals experiencing space and time in the in-between of social norms.

DOCUMENTARIES

5 nanomoles - the Olympic dream of a trans woman

Italy

2023

1 hr 20 min

Italian

9:00-10:20 AM | 4 aug 2023

Valentina Petrillo is a visually impaired trans gender athlete. In 2019 she started a difficult battle, asking Italian sports federations to give her permission to compete in the female category. Today, after a long struggle, she is the first Italian transgender athlete competing internationally in the women's category. Her story was featured in hundreds of articles and tv appearances in Italy and abroad. Her choice to challenge unscripted societal rules is an inspiring example across continents. Despite all odds, her dream to participate in the Paralympic Games continues to drive her forward.



DIRECTORS: Elisa Mereghetti and Marco Mensa

Elisa Mereghetti began her professional career at RAI Corporation in New York.

She has directed dozens of documentaries and several social communication campaigns with her company Ethnos, including productions for RAI - National Italian Television, various international broadcasters, NGOs and for UNDP - United Nations Development Program. Her films, shot mainly in Africa, Asia and South America, focus on cultural and environmental issues, women's stories, social, anthropological and development subjects. Marco Mensa, director and director of photography, has been active in the audiovisual industry since 1980. He has directed and photographed several reportages and award-winning documentaries for RAI National Italian Television, for the United Nations Development Program and many associations and non governmental organisations, filming in numerous countries around the world. He has also photographed short and medium length fiction films. His photos were exhibited in exhibits in Italy and abroad.

Day Dream

France

2023

54 min 49 sec

French

9:30-10:25 AM | 5 aug 2023



A drag queen in Quebec, Julien becomes DREAM at night. A job of passion. A difficult life. A world that consumes him. For ten years, Julien will try to distance himself from this universe which nevertheless represents his only reason for existing.



DIRECTOR: Mael Cabaret

Mael Cabaret is a writer, director and producer. Through work that involves immersion over several years, Mael Cabaret builds films that speak about our societies. Stories of men and women on whom he casts a sensitive eye, to make them characters of cinema. He is interested in questions of identity and territory, but also in youth and art. His first documentary *Oyapock* (2011) was filmed on the border of Guyana and Brazil. He also co-directed the documentary series *OPE* (2013) between London and New Delhi.

Mael Cabaret is currently preparing a new documentary project, *Immense Absence*, a cross portrait of two Guyanese models.

Diva

Switzerland/Vietnam

2022

29 min

Vietnamese

3:15-3:45 PM | 6 aug 2023

Diva is a fan letter to Diva Cat Thy, a Vietnamese trans woman, street food vendor, and performer, who openly shares her life and struggles daily on social media. Trying to bridge distances of both geography and language, Nicolas Cilins uses found footage posted online by Diva and her community to get in touch with her. He has never met her, cannot travel to Vietnam due to COVID-19 restrictions, and relies on his boyfriend, an Australian of Vietnamese origins, who helps translate the footage and acts as an intermediary. In a conversation constructed through subtitles and supertitles, the film reveals the filmmaker's and his partner's process of understanding and making meaning of Diva's life as well as their own relation to it. Diva's life becomes a reflection about queer identity, distance, intimacy, and incoherent histories.



DIRECTOR: Nicolas Cilins

Nicolas Cilins (*1985, France) is an artist living in Geneva, Switzerland, working across the disciplines of visual arts, filmmaking, and performance art. He has shown works in museums, theatres and film festivals and won several awards including the Swiss Theatre Award (with Cie Yan Duyvendak, 2019) and Swiss Art Award (2018). His work is part of public collections including Arsenal, Institut für Film und Videokunst in Germany; Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland; FRAC Poitou-Charentes, France; FCAC & FMAC in Geneva, respectively the canton and city collections.



Divine Factory

Philippines/USA/
Taiwan
2022
2 hrs
Filipino

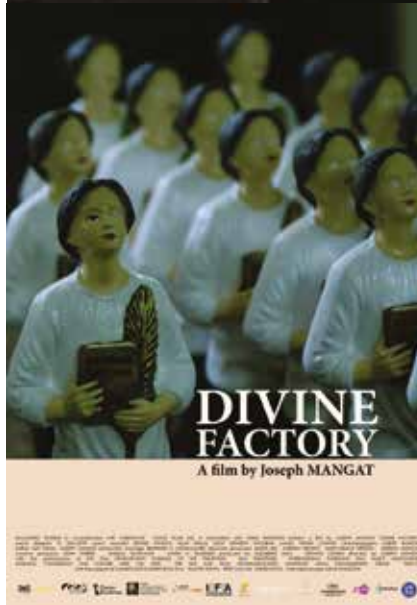
2:55-4:55 PM | 5 aug 2023

Divine Factory is a city factory in Metro Manila. Built as a labyrinth with multiple levels and buildings, it offers unsafe handicraft jobs to self-employed workers. There, the outcasts of Filipino society fill their lungs with chemicals. Chabi and Maja, a lesbian couple with an 8-year-old son, try to finance their new house. Chelsea and Rhea, two joyful lady-boys, deemed unlawful as online sex employees by the government, have become miniature painting experts. Their religious figurines will soon be bought, blessed and worshipped by Christians all over the world.



DIRECTOR: Joseph Mangat
Joseph Mangat is a Filipino filmmaker who shuttles back and forth between New York and Manila. He has written, directed and edited several short films that garnered

awards and were screened at various festivals. He was the recipient of the Uniondocs and Rockefeller Editing fellowship and was on the Creative Capital 2014 On Our Radar List. He has worked for numerous non-profit groups including Pacarts as a film programmer and film instructor, and at the Tribeca Film Institute producing and directing video content for their programs and events. A few years ago, he decided to explore his Filipino roots. His latest short film, *Patayan* (Killings), is a brutal glimpse at the ongoing drug war in the Philippines. *Divine Factory* is his first feature length film.



Jaagte Khwaab (Dreams Awaken)

India
2022

18 min 54 sec
English, Hindi

11:00-11:20 AM | 4 aug 2023

A jumbled mix of dreams and reality, *Jaagte Khwaab* (Dreams Awaken) is a film about queer desire silently breathing in the everyday, and the role of camera as it activates a negotiation of identity in the household. In this film, a dream is the central character. The dream represents the interior space – the subconscious where queer desire lies – while other strands offer the filmmaker's overwhelming response to heteronormativity. In the film it is the filmmaker's attempt to understand sexuality and to address a dilemma through her dream. The existential dilemma plays out in real life as she talks to her friends about a dream and to her family about marriage. This opens layers of a woman's sexuality, same-sex desire, ideas of companionship and monogamy in a middle-class family. This is a self-reflexive documentary where the filmmaker has turned the camera on herself.



DIRECTOR: Aprajita Gupta
Aprajita Gupta is a filmmaker, illustrator and artist, interested in exploring personal and political strands, experimental audio-visual narratives and

archival films. A recent graduate of the Creative Documentary Course, Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Communication, New Delhi, her diploma film *Jaagte Khwaab* is an exploration of identity and sexuality. With a particular interest in the lives of women, she continues her everyday inquiry on home and belongingness, family dynamics, gender, urban migration, and new artistic processes. She is working on her next documentary short, *Women and Their Fields*, under the reFrame Fellowship 2023.

My Film with Andrei Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Document a Sex Party

Germany

4:05-6:10 PM | 6 aug 2023

2021

2 hrs 5 min

English

A crypto-trader and an ex-clergyman travel to Berlin to throw a sex party. Filmmaker Ayoto Ataraxia documents them and their sex-positive community with a phone during the week leading up to the event, discussing sex and life. But will they cum?



DIRECTOR: Ayoto Ataraxia

Ayoto Ataraxia was born on 23 August 1985 in Kaohsiung. He is the only son of the eldest son, descendants of also known as Koxinga or the Prince of Yanping. In 1992 his

family immigrated from Taiwan to Australia and he took on the name of Paul Po-Jung Cheng until 2011, as part of his assimilation into white Australia. He attended Istituto Europeo di Design in Milan, Italy, and graduated in 2009 with his bachelor's degree in Graphic Design.

Ataraxia then moved to Shanghai before moving to Beijing shortly after and began working as a fashion photographer. In 2011 he changed his name to Paul Jung and moved to New York in 2012. He earned his Master's degree in Fashion Photography and continued to work as a photographer, starting a brand with fashion designer Melitta Baumeister. In 2017, Ataraxia moved to Berlin. With the onset of COVID-19 and the rise of Anti-Asian hate, he stopped associating with his assimilation name and took on the artist name Ayoto Ataraxia.



Raja Bhau (Raja Bro)

India

2022

25 min

Hindi, Marathi

11:25-11:55 AM | 5 aug 2023

Raja Bhau is a sensitive heart-warming story of an Indian trans man's acceptance, by himself and his family. Merlin, assigned a girl at birth, felt right from his childhood that he was trapped in the wrong gender. But it took a lot of courage and determination for Merlin to transition to become a trans man. With unflinching support from his mother who has stood with him through thick and thin, and acceptance by his cousins, aunts and uncles, Merlin now is proud of his gender identity. Having had two transformation surgeries, Merlin is a fitness freak, and spends his non-office hours in the gym. He is now an inspiration to other younger persons struggling with their identity, and through his Instagram profile and regular meetings at the trans men's group, he advises them on the ways to go through transition. His grandmother living on the outskirts of Ratnagiri says with a chuckle, "I have always called him Raja Bhau (Raja Bro) right from his childhood!"



DIRECTOR: Sridhar Rangayan

Sridhar Rangayan wears many caps – of a filmmaker, writer, activist and festival director. His award winning films *The Pink Mirror*, *Yours Emotionally*, *Purple Skies*, *Breaking*

Free and *Evening Shadows* are at the forefront of India's emergent queer cinema movement. He won the National Award for Best Editing for his film *Breaking Free*, and his film *Evening Shadows* has won 27 international awards and screened at 80 festivals. He has been a strong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights for over three decades.



HYPOCOTIL MOVIES FILMS

Carmen

United States/
Venezuela
2023
4 min 36 sec
English

5:20-5:25 PM | 5 aug 2023



Carmen is an experimental short film in which the character tells the story through her body, creating new body language.



DIRECTOR: Carla Forte

Carla Forte incorporates dance, film and performance in her practice, focusing on the Latin-American community. She is the co-founder of the Bistoury Physical Theatre and Film. Her films and performances have been screened at prominent festivals and galleries around the world.

Exhibition

USA

2022

19 min

No dialogue

9:50-10:10 AM | 6 aug 2023



Pivoting between two stories of women and their relationships with objects—a Swedish woman's marriage to the Berlin Wall, and a suffragette's hatcheting of Velásquez's *The Toilet of Venus*—Mary Helena Clark's *Exhibition* is a maze-like tour through images and artefacts, a dense cryptography of the forms and objects that hold us in.



DIRECTOR: Mary Helena Clark

Mary Helena Clark is an artist working in film, video, and installation. Her work uses the language of collage to explore dissociative states through cinema, bringing together disparate subjects and styles that suggest an exterior logic or code. Using the conventions of narrative, language, and genre, her films explore shifting subjectivities and the limits of the embodied camera.

Home When You Return

USA

2021

30 min

English

6:45 - 7:15 PM | 6 aug 2023



Superimposing the stories of two women – the filmmaker's late grandmother and the amateur filmmaker Joan Thurber Baldwin – *Home When You Return* explores the psychogeographies of mourning through a variety of modes, from documentary to melodrama. Emptied and put up for sale following its matriarch's passing, the family home becomes the site of a winding tour through polymorphic representations of the past in media and memory.



DIRECTOR: Carl Elsaesser

Carl Elsaesser is interested in ways to frame their work through ritualistic and slow practices in order to think with a project – as something akin to skin or clothing that they can wear throughout the day, as they teach class, walk through the town late at night, or skype with friends and family halfway across the country. Their previous works have screened regularly at festivals and exhibitions including Berlinale, the New York Film Festival and Cinema Du Reel, to name a few.

No Stranger at All

India

2023

40 min

English, Hindi, Urdu

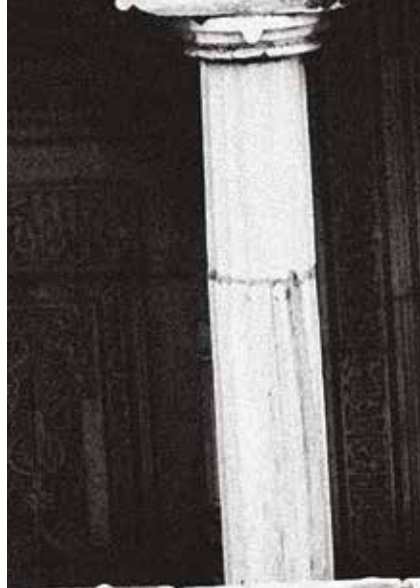
7:55-8:35 PM | 6 aug 2023

For two years starting in 2020, this work has been forming along the edges of disquiet and premonition, in fragments and intensities, through wandering and not-staying. It has tried to find language for, and ways across, the bizarre upheavals of social and political values with the rise of fascism here and a global pandemic. It has insisted on being amongst the things that keep from falling apart. Filmed in Delhi (and parts in Kolkata), these incomplete fictions are of the people, places and protests that keep the language of hatred at bay and absorb the city's grief and euphoria. In them are the continuous echoes of a violent and tenuous present. This video/essay composes a timeline of the city at an angle through the time of this work. There is a shadowy sense of a protagonist who un-dreams it all; a stranger, who it turns out, is no stranger at all.



DIRECTOR: Priya Sen

Priya Sen's films explore forms for tenuousness and ambiguity within realist documentary, and simultaneously play with narrative modes and cinematic gestures. *No Stranger At All* was commissioned by the 5th Kochi Biennale 2022, and was screened earlier this year at the 73rd Berlinale Forum Expanded, Experimenta Festival of Moving Image Art in Bangalore, and Prismatic Ground at the Anthology Film Archives in NYC. Priya Sen received the Radcliffe Fellowship 2023 - 2024, and will be a fellow at the Harvard Film Study Centre later this year.



Paternal Rites

USA

2018

1 hr 22 min

English

8:45- 10:10 PM | 6 aug 2023



A filmmaker retraces the 1974 road trip undertaken by his parents in order to confront deep seated family secrets. *Paternal Rites* is a first-person essay film that examines the secret underbelly of a contemporary Jewish American family as they grapple with the aftereffects of physical and sexual abuse on their present-day lives.



DIRECTOR: Jules Rosskam

Jules Rosskam is an internationally acclaimed filmmaker, artist, and educator. Through the use of autoethnography and hybrid forms, Rosskam's interdisciplinary practice investigates the means by which we construct individual and collective histories and identities.

Signal GPS perdu (GPS Signal Lost)

Belgium/France
2022
42 min 48 sec
French

5:20-6:05 PM | 4 aug 2023

A young man walks into winter, to try to overcome his own prohibitions: a love encounter with another man, and a search for the absolute and for a Christian spirituality. *GPS Signal Lost* tells us about his inner journey, combining Jura snowy landscapes, a mediaeval courtly novel, and a gay dating app on a smartphone.



DIRECTOR: Pierre Voland
Born in 1992 in France, Pierre Voland studied literature and cinema. Influenced by the lyrical aspect of French and American experimental cinema, he integrates autobiographical and literary elements into his work. Using image and sound shifts, his first film *Signal GPS perdu* tells of an inner journey between desire and spirituality.

(1) nouveau message
de Hot Now

The Mimicamimers

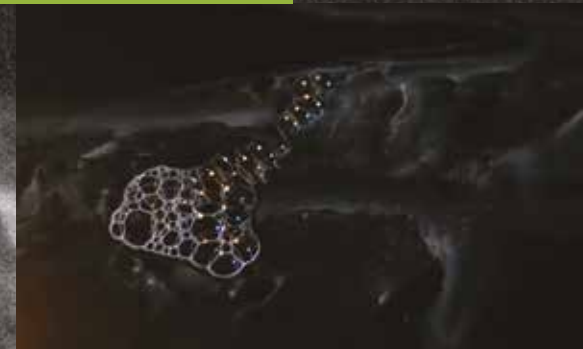
India

2019

2 min 31 sec

Silent

6:05-6:10 PM | 5 aug 2023



As it is what it is is a totally reasonable answer and a completely unacceptable one, *The Mimicamimers* is a stop motion video from a series that the filmmaker has been working on since 2014, exploring one of her most favourite areas of thought and play. One, where she experiments with the possibility of an ink coated bubble as a graphic medium bouncing it off paper and wet glass. Second, where she can engage in the curious joy of considering how (out of nowhere), the core stuff of life gurgles forth, gathering gangs and momentum to negotiate its path in the cellulo-galactic cosmos.



DIRECTOR: Malavika PC
Malavika PC is a visual artist & a performer. Supported by an interdisciplinary approach, her core focus is arriving at strong graphic abstractions. Her mediums are painting, paper, photography, word, video and performance. She takes inspiration from nature and the condition/ing/s of this human cognitive existence to inform her practice and search. Her preoccupations as an artist are to discover where matter and life are poised. She seeks to express the source and centres of movements, time and bodies both animate and inanimate within and around her.

Tween Peek

Switzerland

2023

8 min 07 sec

English

5:10-5:20 PM | 5 aug 2023



Tween Peek is a sensual poetic dream about dissolving into the other while piercing reflections of gender binarity and incorporating the space in between.



DIRECTOR: Ayla Pierrot Arendt, Alina Kopytsia & Coco Schwarz
Coco Schwarz & Alina Kopytsia are visual artists based in Zurich/Switzerland who started to collaborate in 2016. Together they constantly push the boundaries of gender identity, body perception, and physical interactions. Their artistic expression finds resonance through various mediums such as video, sculpture and sound. Their



artworks have been shown in selected festivals and exhibitions in Europe, America and Asia.

Ayla Pierrot Arendt is a performance director and video artist based in Frankfurt am Main. Ayla challenges societal stereotypes and amplifies marginalised narratives through multi-layered storytelling in the form of multimedia operas, video art, and installations. Ayla's work has been showcased at prestigious theatres and featured in festivals worldwide.

Warm Spell

China/Britain

2018

32 mins

English, Thai

6:25 - 7:00 PM | 4 aug 2023



Warm Spell (2018) is a complex exploration of bodies and cultures, set amidst the environmental change caused by global warming. Shot on the Thai tropical island Ko Yao Yai, Xin explores the economic and cultural challenges the island faces as it shifts from a predominantly farming community to one dependent on tourism. While the environmental instability underlining *Warm Spell* unfolds, Xin constructs a dreamlike backdrop for more personal explorations of the island and its influence on the body.



DIRECTOR: Shen Xin

Shen Xin practises languages of returning, where one imagines, articulates and creates unhurt spaces of belonging through songs and stories. Their engagement with moving image, video installation, performance, painting and collective processes are held in reciprocity of relations, and the depth of the polyphonic. Active commitments are placed in the learning and engaging with land-based patterns of thoughts and actions, while bearing witness to forms of governance. They received the BALTIC Artists' Award (2017) and held the Rijksakademie residency in Amsterdam (2018-19). Shen Xin practises on *Miní Sóta Makhóche* (Minnesota), the land of the *Dakhóta Oyáte*, as well as on *Lënapehòkink* (New York City), the land of the Lenape peoples.

Yek Nameh Be Madaram (Letter to My Mother)

Germany-Iran

2019

19 min

Persian, English,
German

5:45-6:05 PM | 5 aug 2023



A heartfelt letter to tell the mother the most painful of secrets. Amina, who in 2002 was the small protagonist of *Ten* by Kiarostami is now a trans gender director who tries to make her voice heard and be understood.



DIRECTOR: Amina Maher

Amina Maher (b. Tehran, 1992) is a queer woman filmmaker whose works train her unblinking gaze on the breakdown of the family structure, shame culture, and patriarchal myths. She deconstructs and criticises traditions, media, culture and norms. The daughter of a war veteran, she started writing poems and short stories at a very early age. Her short films have been internationally well received with over 200 festival participations and over 50 awards from festivals. Her creative work is rooted in exploring childhood memories, mental health and self-realisation, with a mission to amplify trans and queer storylines. Having grown up painfully confused about gender, love, abuse, and sex, Amina strives to navigate stories that unmask some of the most commonly messy human beliefs, emotions, and desires.

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ARSENAL
Institute for Film & Visual Art

Between

West Germany
1989
10 min
Silent

5:25-5:35 PM | 5 aug 2023



Transferred to film from tape, and beautifully lit, shot and edited, *Between* consists of a rapid sequence of moments of sexual activity. The recurring image is of a naked woman with a strapped-on dildo, which she caresses in mock masturbation. In her gyrations in front of the camera, the familiar image of the gogo dancer is utterly subverted and transformed by the presence of the false penis. In subsequent scenes she caresses, fucks and buggers a variety of partners whose gender is never firmly established. At one point we think we see a man, his penis just visible in shadow at the extreme edge of frame, and yet... (Nicky Hamlyn, "Exploring Sexuality Anew, Erotic Films by European Women Film-makers", Performance No 61, September 1990, London).

DIRECTOR: Claudia Schillinger

Born in 1959 in Baden-Württemberg, Claudia Schillinger studied fine arts with an emphasis on experimental film, at the art colleges in Bremen and Brunswick. She lives and works as a freelancer in Berlin. Her films have been shown at the Internationales Forum des jungen Films, Berlinale; the short film festival in Osnabrück, European Media Art Festival in Osnabrück; and in London, Tokyo, Paris and Vienna. They are also part of collections owned by the Goethe-Institut, ICA-programme London and the Filmmakers-Coop London.

Mondial 2010

Lebanon
2013

11:40 AM - 12 PM, 4 aug 2023

19 min 30 sec
Arabic



Mondial 2010 is a discussion of institutional borders in modern-day Middle East. It uses video as an apparatus to transgress boundaries that are inflicted on people in spite of them. It is a travel film in a trajectory that doesn't allow travel, starring two male lovers, in a setting where homosexuality is a punishable felony. Shot with a hand-held camcorder, *Mondial 2010* borrows the aesthetics of a travel video log. It normalizes the abnormal, and by doing so creates its own universe of possibility. It is a shift from the mainstream passive view of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict that places the victim/oppressor in the forefront of the produced imagery. This video glides over this conflict with an upper hand.



DIRECTOR: Roy Dib is an artist and an art critic. He co-founded the theatre group Zoukak (2006–2009). He has presented works at venues and events such as Video Works (Beirut), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Home Workspace Program, Ashkal Alwan (Beirut), and Videobrasil (Sao Paulo). He currently writes for the cultural section of Al-Akhbar newspaper, in Beirut.



Let's just leave.

Sexparty

Netherlands/
West Germany
1987
10 min
No sound

5:35-5:45 PM | 5 aug 2023

Almost two thirds of the material was “lost“ in the Kodak development lab, thus remaining incomplete, a fragment and, as such, one might say, a testimony to the precariousness of queer culture. (Marc Siegel)



DIRECTOR: Angelika Levi
Angelika Levi, born in 1961, studied at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin from 1985 to 1991. Her work has been shown at international film festivals, in cinemas and exhibitions. *My Life Part 2*, her first feature length documentary, won several awards and had its premiere at the Berlinale Forum in 2003. Apart from her directorial work, Levi is also an editor and dramaturg and a guest lecturer at various media and art schools.



Untitled Sequence of Gaps

Germany
2020
13 min
English

9:10-9:25 AM | 6 aug 2023

Composed of vignettes in different techniques and materialities, *Untitled Sequence of Gaps* uses the form of an essay film to approach trauma-related memory loss via reflections on light outside the visible spectrum – on what is felt but never seen. Shifting between planetary macro scales, physical phenomena, and individual accounts of affective subject formation, the film considers violence and its workings, class and queerness not through representation but from within.

The montage is slow and rhythmic, yet uneven. The flow of images is interrupted by gaps no less significant than the imagery itself. Footage in which public memory stands in for personal remembrance stands along sequences recorded via infrared imaging, under ultraviolet light or microwave radiation. While pondering the effects of the invisible and the power inherent in shifting violence beyond visibility, the piece reflects digital archives and technologies that help shape the relation to past, present and future. Ghosts appear from holes ripped into time by an unremembered childhood, and a witch-burning ritual in the artist’s rural hometown serves as a foil against which to question the politics of visibility.



DIRECTOR: Vika Kirchenbauer
Vika Kirchenbauer, born in 1983, is an artist, writer, and music producer based in Berlin. In her work she explores opacity in relation to representing the “othered” and discusses the role of emotions in contemporary art, labor, and politics. She has given lectures at various universities and art schools. Her award-winning works have been shown at art institutions and film festivals worldwide.



THANK YOU...

With every edition of the film festival, some things get harder and a whole lot seems to get harder still. But the people thanked here make it all so much easier.

We're immensely grateful to Dr. Michael Heinst, the present director of the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan for his continued support of the festival. Much thanks and gratitude to Maureen Gonsalves, the cultural coordinator of the Institut for being endlessly patient, resourceful and still happy to see us each year. Thank you to Riya Matthew and Nandita Nirgudkar for their gently nudging emails and prompt replies. And to Amal Jose in the projection room for his cool, calm and collected attitude.

Thank you to Christian Randrianampizafy, the director, Alliance Française de Bangalore for the auditorium. And thanks to Komala and Dilip at the AFB office for their help with fixing the auditorium for us. And to Aslam and Kantharaj for their attentive care.

Films

First off, a huge thanks to all the filmmakers who sent us their films!
heart

Ayoto Ataraxia, for *My Film with Andrei Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Document a Sex Party*

Lya and Emilie (Asian Shadows), for *Divine Factory*

Natalia for *Wolf and Dog*

Teresa Braggs for putting us in touch with Amina Maher and Jules Rosskam

Amina Maher for *A Letter to my mother* and Jules Rosskam for *Paternal Rites*

Shai Heredia for linking us with Arsenal – Institute for Film and Video Art E.V and for suggesting films and in particular for Carl Elsaesser, for *Home When You Return*

Arsenal Institut for a package of four films from their collection, and a special thanks to Angelika Ramlov.

Also thanks to Ulrich Ziemons for putting us in touch with Mary Helena Clark

Mary Helena Clark for the film *Exhibition*

Ektara Collective for *Ek Jagah Apni*

Priya Sen for *No Stranger at All*

Malavika PC for *The Mimicamimers*

Alexis Langlois, Inès Daïen Dasi and Fanny Laval, for *The Demons of Dorothy*

Judy Jeon (Central Park Film Distribution Agency), for *My Heart is Going to Explode!*

Ratheesh Radhakrishnan and Vibhushan Subba, for our horror oldie

Son Jeongan, for *Daddy in the Refrigerator*

Yashaswini Raghunandan for putting us in touch with Shen Xi

Shen Xi, for *Warm Spell*

Jean-Marie Villeneuve, for *La Reproduction*

Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, for their support with the film package from Arsenal – Institute for Film and Video Art E.V

All Our Volunteers

You make the festival tick and tock! Thank you so much! Hugs!

Design

Pallavi Agarwala, first off, thanks for your most wonderful design – it's absolutely beautiful. And also for your long hours and quick turnarounds.

Website

Thank you Akriti for all your quiet, important work.

Printing

Thank you to John at National Printing Press for always accommodating our crazy schedules with a smile and an unruffled attitude.

Funds

ASQ and Kritika, for their thoughtful annual BQFF fundraiser, and for always remaining invested in the festival

All our online donors, for their generosity and love – this festival is not possible without you!

Mr. Thimmareddy, for all his accounting assistance and support

Directory of Films

FEATURE FILMS

Ek Jagah Apni (A Space of Our Own)
Director: Ektara Collective
Contact: ektaracollective@gmail.com

Obsesiones (Obsessions)
Director: Isaías Gómez May
Contact: icarrum@hotmail.com

Valentine @ 3
Director: Mani Shankar Iyer
Contact: manishankariyer610@gmail.com

Wolf & Dog
Director: Cláudia Varejão
Contact: natalia@mpmpremium.com

SHORT FEATURES

Day Dream
Director: Mael Cabaret
Contact: mael.cabaret@gmail.com

Lailaa Manju
Director: Kamyá Nair
Contact: nairkamyá@gmail.com

Riptide
Director: Afrad VK
Contact: afradvk@gmail.com

SHORT FILMS

Aalapanam
Director: Niketh Manulal
Contact: nickmanulal@gmail.com

Aching Hearts
Director: Renée van Zadelhof
Contact: r.vanzadelhoff@icloud.com

Amar
Director: Anshul Kumar
Contact: anshulelectro24@gmail.com

Amôr - the Tune of Love
Director: Jijo Kuriakose
Contact: jijkuriakose2000@gmail.com

Apaar
Director: Abison Yumnam
Contact: abison.yumnam@gmail.com

Ang Alamat ng Munting Prinsipe at Mandirigma (The Legend of the Prince and the Warrior)
Director: Jake Collado
Contact: kazukicollado@gmail.com

Bad Behaviour
Directors: Bhavana Rajendran, Rency Philip and Sharanya Ramprakash
Contact: rencyphilip@gmail.com

Beach
Director: Anisha Sharma
Contact: suhail@humsafar.org

Bóng Xà Bông
Director: Phạm Nguyễn Anh Tú
Contact: flameboi97@gmail.com

Chummy Matrimony
Director: Tamjeed Elahi Khan
Contact: tamjeedkhan7@hotmail.com

Closeting
Director: Kurnia Alexander
Contact: kurniacputra@gmail.com

Daddy in the Refrigerator
Director: Jung In-hyuk
Contact: centralpark.co@gmail.com

Dead Mother's Mud
Director: Camilo Pellegrini
Contact: camilopellegrini@gmail.com

Ekka Dokka Tekka (One Two Three)
Director: Tirthankar Guha Thakurta
Contact: tirthankar.guhathakurta@gmail.com

Fender Bender
Director: Caroline Biagi
Contact: matheus@estudiogiz.com.br
Forty
Director: Sreelakshmi M
Contact: sreelakshmim0310@gmail.com

Iyaan Paatta
Director: Fabin Thomas
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K.G.B (Kadamba Geleyara Balaga)
Director: Mahishaa
Contact: mahesho.babu27@gmail.com

La Reproduction (The Reproduction)
Director: Jean-Marie Villeneuve
Contact: jvilleneuve2@gmail.com

Malwa Khushan
Directors: Preeti Kanungo & Sourav Yadav
Contact: preetikanungo25@gmail.com / yadav.sourav04@gmail.com

My Heart is Going to Explode!
Director: Jung In-hyuk
Contact: centralpark.co@gmail.com

Nhím (Porcupine)
Directors: Trương Minh Quý & Nicolas Graux
Contact: distribution@kinorebelde.com

Oranges in the Winter Sun
Director: Anureet Watta
Contact: anureetwatta.work@gmail.com

Sanaa, Seductress of Strangers
Director: Jan Eilhardt
Contact: janeilhardt@gmail.com

Shoot Your Shot
Director: Mishaal Memon
Contact: cs@theopenreel.com

TAPS
Director: Arvind Caulagi
Contact: arvindcaulagi@gmail.com

The Cutest and Funniest Animals in the World
Director: Renato Sircilli
Contact: renatosircilli@gmail.com

The Demons of Dorothy
Director: Alexis Langlois
Contact: alexislanglois@hotmail.fr

The Quiet Solace of Sunset
Director: Tenzin Choedon
Contact: tenchoe1995@gmail.com

tu m'as fait craquer comme une pipas (you made me crack like a sunflower seed)
Directors: jpp & Alexandra Sheherazade Salem
Contact: lamessageriedejpp@hotmail.com / alexandra.salem@hotmail.com

Two Souls
Director: Myat Noe
Contact: kurosawabrick@yahoo.com

Wait Your Turn
Director: João Carvalho
Contact: joao-carvalho.contact@gmail.com

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

5 nanomoles - the Olympic dream of a trans woman
Directors: Elisa Mereghetti & Marco Mensa
Contact: ethnosfilm@gmail.com

Diva
Director: Nicolas Cilins
Contact: nicolas.cilins@gmail.com

Divine Factory
Director: Joseph Mangat
Contact: lya@chineseshadows.com

Jaagte Khwaab (Dreams Awaken)
Director: Aprajita Gupta
Contact: aprajita.cine@gmail.com

My Film with Andrei Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Document a Sex Party
Director: Ayoto Ataraxia
Contact: aa@ayotoataraxia.com

Raja Bhau (Raja Bro)
Director: Sridhar Rangayan
Contact: sridhar.rangayan@gmail.com

EXPERIMENTAL FILMS

Carmen
Director: Carla Forte
Contact: carlafortefilmmaker@gmail.com

Exhibition
Director: Mary Helena Clark
Contact: maryhelena.clark@gmail.com

Home When You Return
Director: Carl Elsaesser
Contact: elsaesserfilms@gmail.com

No Stranger At All
Director: Priya Sen
Contact: senpriya@gmail.com

Paternal Rites
Director: Jules Rosskam
Contact: julesrosskam@gmail.com

Signal GPS perdu (GPS Signal Lost)
Director: Pierre Voland
Contact: pierre.voland@orange.fr

The Mimicamimers
Director: Malavika PC
Contact: malavika.pc@gmail.com

Tween Peek
Directors: Ayla Pierrot Arendt, Alina Kopytsia & Coco Schwarz
Contact: coco.schwarz1@gmail.com

Warm Spell
Director: Shen Xin
Contact: shenxinstudio@gmail.com

Yek Nameh Be Madaram (Letter to My Mother)
Director: Amina Maher
Contact: aminamaherfilm@gmail.com

Package from ARSENAL
Institute for Film & Visual Art
Contact: ab@arsenal-berlin.de / gk@arsenal-berlin.de

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