

THE B'LORE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

AUG 23 - 24 - 25
MEDAI - THE STAGE
KORAMANGALA
14TH EDITION

#BQFF 2024





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Babydolls! Beauties! Bois!

It's always wonderful to have you back at the Bangalore Queer Film Festival! #BQFF2024, baby! We're at a new spot this year - just trying something out, seeing if it fits! But don't worry, darlings - these batty bloodhounds haven't lost their nose for seeking out films from across the country, the world, and the many universes. And so, yet again, the films at our 14th edition are a treat, a thrill and a thoroughly good time! And as always, our schedule is packed to the last call!

We've got films from across India - they've been delightful, delicious and divine. [Send us more, please!] For the first time we have feature films in several Indian languages - one about the life of a female-impersonating Yakshagana actor; another about six siblings, the Kardashian kind but based in Baroda; there's one about a friendship over fish curry on the banks of river; and we've got our first Meitei-language film from Manipur that speaks to the tussle between religion and sexuality. Besides the features we have many many short films, documentary and experimental films that play with storytelling.

Our international selections take us to a queer bar with different generations hanging out. We wander with James Joyce's *Ulysses* except it's painted all queer. We shuttle through the memories of a former mathematics teacher and LGBT activist revisiting her life. We run behind Rosa



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(never Lucas) trying to build her own shack in Brazil. And we spend time with a traditional sexologist at a bachelorette party in Kenya. We dip, dive and duck into so many weird and wonderful worlds through these films.

We're living on a planet we're hell bent on destroying and the wars and daily violences are overwhelming - but the Arts have allowed for other ways to reframe the narrative, to give voice to the unheard. We've tucked into the schedule films that tell of youth resistance through music, that challenge mainstream ideas through remixing footage, and that trace history through secretly taken photographs.

Also, pssst, there are little subtle connections that spring forth between some of the films on the schedule. So, put on your detective hat, open your eye for drama, and see if you can trace these trajectories. Give yourself over to experiencing different people telling the same story - while our struggles feel individual, there are always people out there who are able to understand those troubles perfectly. That comfort can come from near or far!

Films will always be magical - the lights, the sounds, the action! We're happy that each of the films that come through the open call continue to surprise and satisfy. And we're so thrilled that you continue to return each year to share in all of this excitement.

Happy movie watching! See you next year, sweetie-darlings!

*Love,
The BQFF Organising Committee*

Schedule 08

Features 11

Documentary & Experimental Films 24

Short Fictions 51

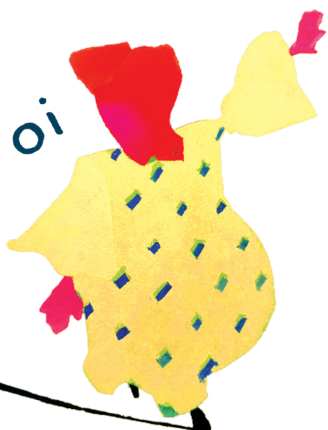
Thank You 118



SCHEDULE

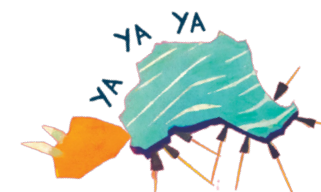
FRI,
Aug 23rd

09:30 am	<i>Love+ (Love Positive)</i>
09:50 am	<i>One Night at Babes</i>
10:20 am	<i>Sifar</i>
10:40 am	BREAK
11:00 am	<i>BALDIGA - Entichertes Herz</i> <i>(BALDIGA - Unlocked Heart)</i>
12:35 pm	<i>Departures</i>
01:00 pm	LUNCH
02:00 pm	<i>Samlingi</i>
02:40 pm	<i>Dvamdva</i>
04:30 pm	BREAK
04:45 pm	<i>ജനലുകൾ / Windows</i>
04:55 pm	<i>Jalsa: The Name Day</i>
05:20 pm	<i>Sutti, Chowndki and Taal...</i>
05:35 pm	<i>Pari</i>
06:05 pm	<i>Make-up Majhi Dhaal Ga /</i> <i>The Shield</i>
06:10 pm	<i>Mehroon</i>
06:20 pm	BREAK
06:35 pm	<i>We Are All Here</i>
06:55 pm	<i>Pink Ulysses</i>



SAT,
Aug 24th

09:00 am	<i>Astaraag / Afterglow</i>
09:30 am	<i>Beyond Hatred and Power,</i> <i>We Keep Singing</i>
11:15 am	BREAK
11:30 pm	<i>Aster</i>
11:50 pm	<i>Menu</i>
01:00 pm	LUNCH
02:00 pm	<i>Heart Murmurs</i>
02:10 pm	<i>Chitthi</i>
02:20 pm	<i>Velipādu: "The Revelation"</i>
02:45 pm	<i>Housewife</i>
02:55 pm	<i>Kuuk Aah?</i>
03:30 pm	BREAK
03:45 pm	<i>Katlaa Curry</i>
05:45 pm	BREAK
06:00 pm	<i>Memoirs of My Camera</i>
06:30 pm	<i>Circle</i>
06:40 pm	<i>L'Armari Vivent /</i> <i>The Living Wardrobe</i>
07:00 pm	<i>Then I Went To Life</i>
07:15 pm	BREAK
07:30 pm	<i>Oneness</i>



SUN,
Aug 25th

09:00 am	<i>Lo non sono nessuno / I'm not a nobody</i>
11:05 am	BREAK
11:20 am	<i>City of Mirage</i>
11:30 am	<i>It's all in your head</i>
01:00 pm	LUNCH
01:45 pm	<i>Mélange</i>
02:00 pm	<i>I don't wanna know your name</i>
02:10 pm	<i>That Doesn't Fit</i>
02:15 pm	<i>Little Men</i>
02:35 pm	<i>Making Up</i>
02:50 pm	<i>On Sundays</i>
03:00 pm	<i>Knob</i>
03:10 pm	BREAK
03:25 pm	<i>Sirens</i>
04:45 pm	BREAK
05:00 pm	<i>Vafanila</i>
05:25 pm	<i>Sifr</i>
05:35 pm	<i>Unex-text-ed Encounters</i>
05:50 pm	<i>If</i>
06:20 pm	<i>While I'm Still Breathing</i>
06:35 pm	<i>Dancing Bodies</i>
06:40 pm	<i>Neo Nahda</i>
06:55 pm	<i>Sungura</i>
07:15 pm	BREAK
07:30 pm	<i>Photo Booth</i>

FEATURES



DVAMDVA

India | 2023 | 1 hr 50 mins | Kannada

Director: **Kling Johnson**

Dvamdva revolves around the life of Chukki, who lives in a coastal town of Udupi, where he is famous for playing characters in Yakshagana, a traditional art form. He seems trapped in society, falls in love and decides to leave the town. Chukki's life decisions turn out to be grave when the very people who applauded his performance on stage now ridicule him. His life turns miserable under the deep blue night sky, with not knowing where to head on a caliginous path. *Dvamdva* showcases the colourful, subtle journey of the coastal art form and Chukki's struggles in different sphere of life, struggles which affect many lives surrounding him.



Kling Johnson a civil engineer by profession and a filmmaker by passion.

klingjohnson@gmail.com



IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD

India | 2023 | 1 hr 23 mins | Marwadi, Hindi, English

Director: Dhruv Solanki

What if Kardashians were born in a rural Rajasthani family and lived in Baroda on a budget? 6 Siblings. 6 Problems. 1 Day.



Dhruv Solanki is a Vadodara-based writer-director. He has co-written and directed *Blah Blah Blah*, an indie comedy/road trip miniseries currently in production. He developed *The Rebels of Shakambhari*, a period action feature drama, at the Writers Ink Screenwriting Lab. He has written & directed five short films which have played in several film festivals. He was one of the finalists (Top 20) of *Take Ten*, organised by Netflix India and Film Companion. *It's All in Your Head* is his debut feature.

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KATLAA CURRY

India | 2024 | 1 hr 50 min | Gujarati

Director: Rohit Prajapati

Set in the sleepy fishing village along the banks of the river Narmada, a local fisherman (Raaymal), pulls a young man (Ratan) up from the water in his fishing net, setting off a journey of profound love and self-discovery. As Raaymal discovers Ratan's hidden struggle, he extends a helping hand to build a new home and katlaa curry, a local fish delicacy, becomes a symbol of their differences and what ties them together. *Katlaa Curry* represents all the delicious connections that bind us together, transcending the limitations of tradition and prejudice.



An alumnus of Theatre Studies at Maharaja Sayajirao University, **Rohit Prajapati** began as a theatre practitioner and coach, and has directed and produced theatre productions in Gujarat. Lately, he has moved into writing, directing and production with ad films and later with features. His debut Gujarati feature film *Kundaalu* received acclaim at many film festivals. *Katlaa Curry* is Rohit Prajapati's second Gujarati language feature film.

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LO NON SONO NESSUNO / I'M NOT A NOBODY

Italy | 2024 | 2 hrs 3 mins | Italian

Director: **Geraldine Ottier**

In a powerful retrospective bridging past and present, an elderly former mathematics teacher and LGBT activist revisits her life of passion and struggle, from the revolutionary fervour of the 1970s in Rome to the devastating consequences of her fight for love and equality. Based on the true story of Maria Silvia Spolato.

Geraldine Ottier graduated in Arts and Media Entertainment at La Sapienza University in Rome. Amongst her work, the self-produced web series *LSB The Series* is of particular relevance, with more than 30 million views all over the world on YouTube. Her short films include *Sadok* (2018), which won the Reducing Inequality prize at ONU, and *The Library* (2020), which won Best Short at the Paris Award Film Festival and the Los Angeles Short Film Award. Geraldine Ottier has always been interested in social issues and has worked with the hearing-impaired community for many years.

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MENU

India | 2023 | 1 hr 11 mins | Malayalam

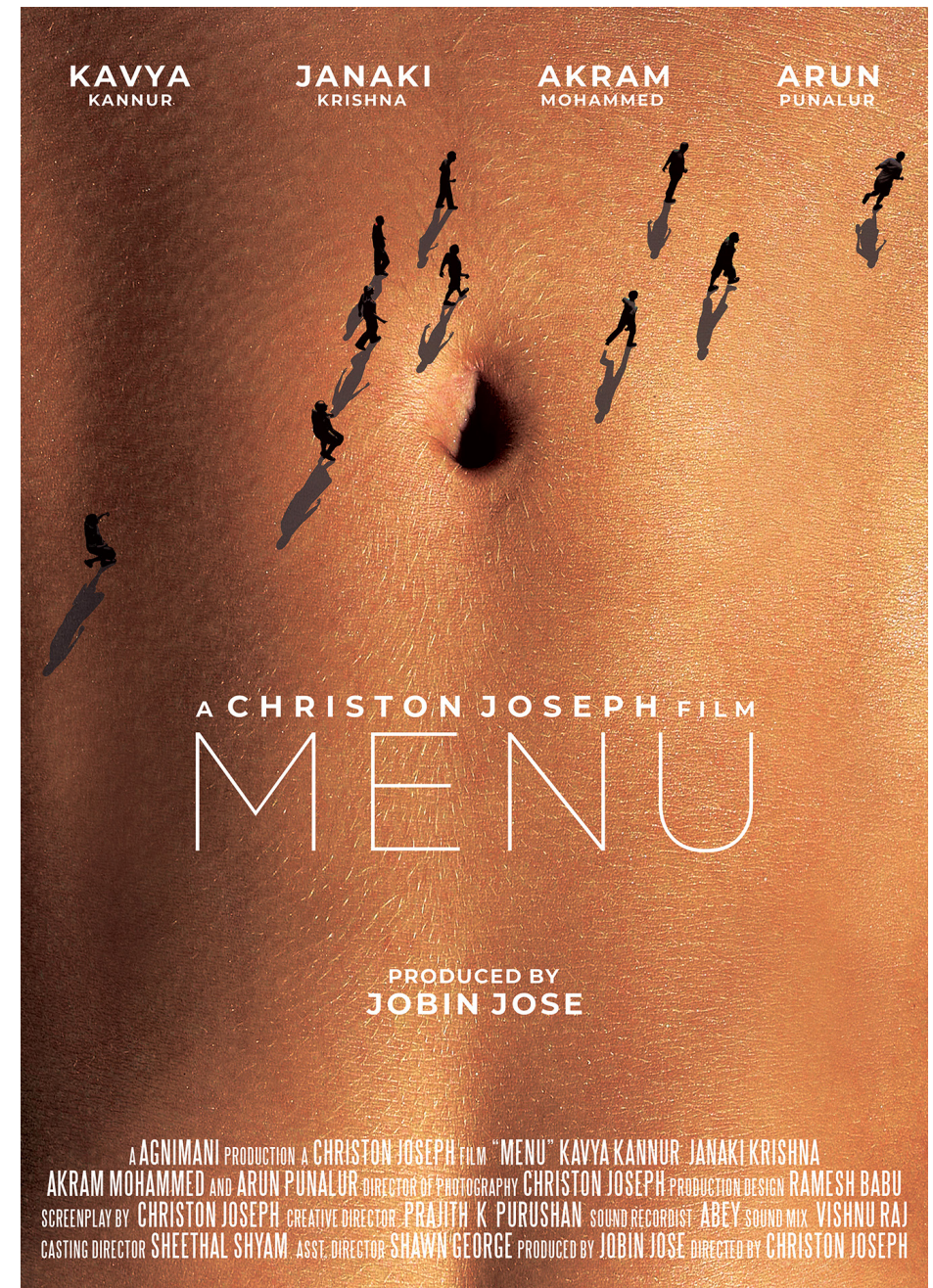
Director: **Christon M Joseph**

Unfolding in a single, unbroken shot, *Menu* takes us on a riveting journey deep into the lives of two trans women as their seemingly ordinary day spirals into a night fraught with complexity and turmoil.



From Kerala, **Christon Joseph** is an independent filmmaker experimenting with avant-garde techniques that veer away from conventions and norms. In 2011, he debuted his short film *Full Stop*, followed by *Decide* (2015) and then *Santas of Cochin* (2016), all while working in the Malayalam film industry. *Menu* is his first feature film, and it is shot in an uninterrupted raw single take.

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ONENESS

India | 2024 | 1 hr 54 mins | Meitei, English

Director: Priyakanta Laishram

Oneness revolves around Ivan Martin, a young boy hailing from a conservative Christian family in Manipur, India. In a society where homosexuality is still considered a sin and prohibited, Ivan finds himself developing feelings for Pamheiba, a boy from the Meitei community. Their relationship comes to light when they are both apprehended during a raid at a hotel. The film sheds light on the challenges faced by individuals who dare to love freely in a society constrained by prejudice and intolerance. It draws inspiration from an actual event that occurred in 2013.

Priyakanta Laishram is an actor, film director, film producer, screenwriter, film editor and television host from Imphal, Manipur. He started making children's films at the age of nine and won several titles including The Youngest Filmmaker 2009 from Nokia, and Manipur's Rising Star 2011 from Asian News International. His short films, including *It's Not My Choice*, *The Foul Truth*, *I am Special*, *Who Said Boys Can't Wear Make Up*, and *Spaced Out - Panthung Di Kadaaida!*, have garnered national and international awards. *Oneness*, Laishram's debut feature film, is the first Manipuri film centred around same-sex relationships.

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DOCUMENTARY & EXPERIMENTAL FILMS



BALDIGA – ENTSICHERTES HERZ / BALDIGA – UNLOCKED HEART

Germany | 2024 | 1 hr 32 mins | German

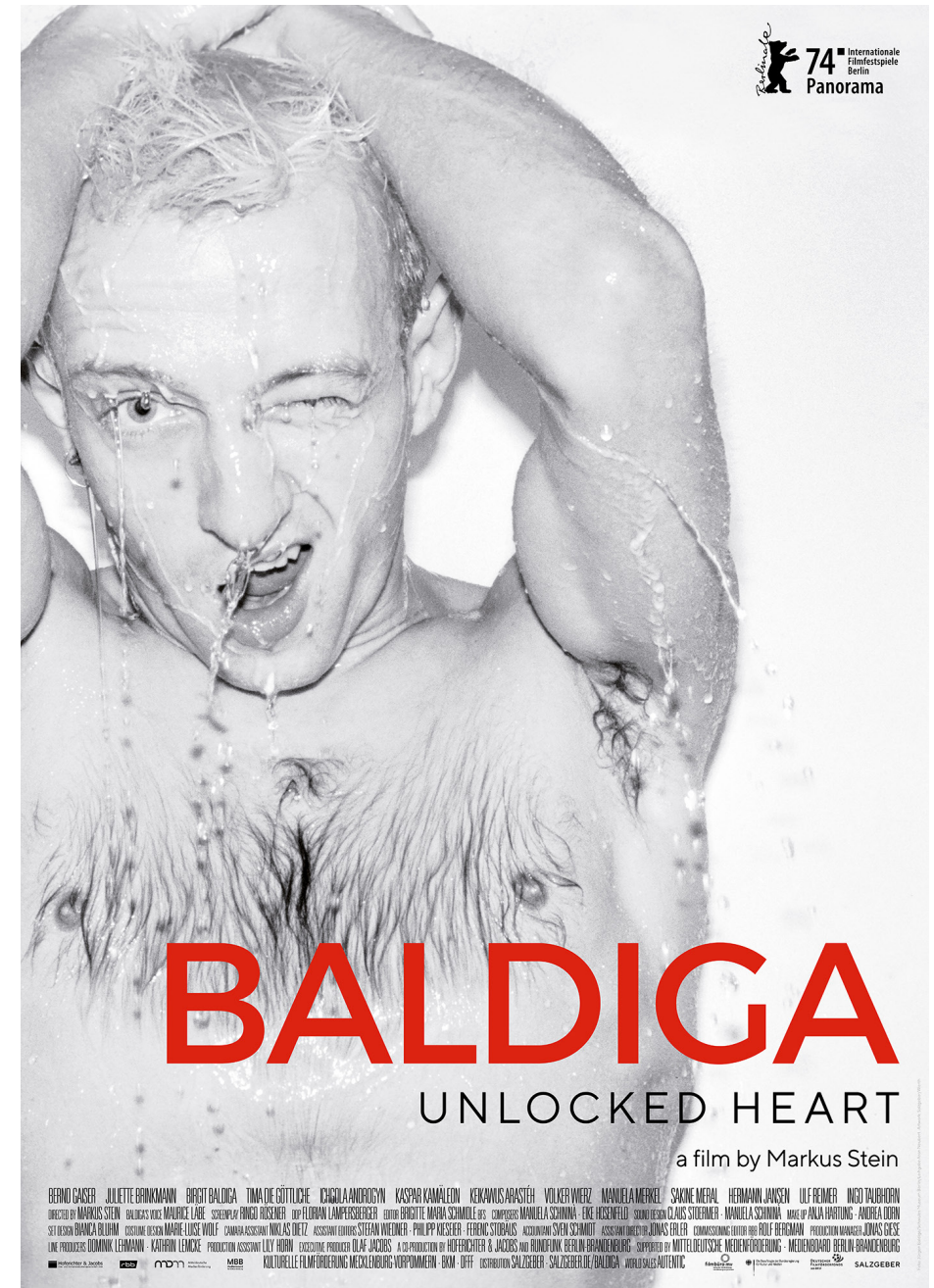
Director: Markus Stein

“Prostitutes, transvestites, alcoholics and the mentally ill. That’s where I feel at home. That’s the world that needs to be captured.” When the artist and photographer Jürgen Baldiga died of the consequences of AIDS in 1993, he left behind what was probably the most extensive body of work on AIDS, homosexuality and subculture in West Berlin in the 1980s and early 1990s. This includes thousands of photographs and 40 diaries, over 7500 pages, beginning with his arrival in Berlin and ending with his death. Based on his early art, his equally poetic and unsparing diary entries and, above all, his haunting photographs, the film tells the story of the artist in all his contradictions and provides an insight into a Berlin subculture that would have been forgotten without him. It is the portrait of a unique artist – at a time when an HIV infection was not only a certain death sentence but also led to a renewed stigmatisation of gay lifestyles.



Born in 1965, **Markus Stein** worked as a camera assistant and assistant director before studying directing at the Polish Film School in Łódź. He went on to work as a director, screenwriter, DOP and editor on numerous documentaries and feature films. The people portrayed are at the centre of the formal decisions in his work. Subjects, themes and genres are therefore diverse. He lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

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BEYOND HATRED AND POWER, WE KEEP SINGING

Germany | 2024 | 1 hr 32 mins | German

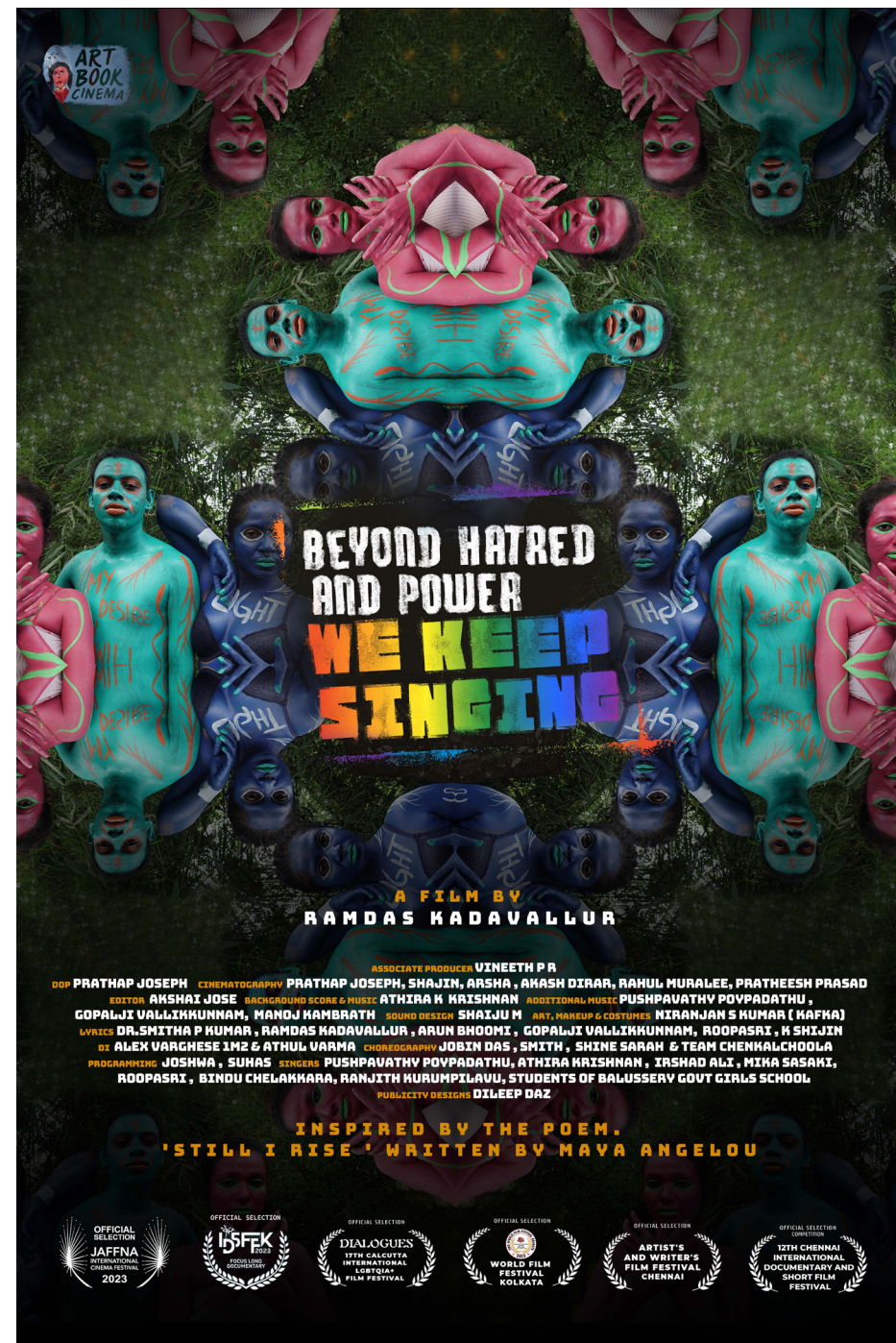
Director: **Ramdas Kadavallur**

In these times of authoritarian and patriarchal interventions that stifle democratic voices, constitutional rights and personal freedom, this film is about resistance through songs and lyrics. As eloquently put forth by Maya Angelou, these are the ballads of those who raised their voices against the power-wielding forces who spread hatred and animosity. The film has been carved as a collage of many non-hierarchical spaces that exist around us.



Ramdas Kadavallur is a filmmaker from Kerala, and one of the founder members of Clone Cinema Alternative, an independent film organisation based in Delhi. He started his career as a journalist and a news reader with All India Radio, Delhi, for more than a decade. A strong voice against human rights violations, his films have been widely screened in India and many other countries.

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CITY OF MIRAGE

India | 2023 | 5 mins | English

Director: Anjani Chadha + Niv

City of Mirage is a product of a series of conversations we had with Pratik, a genderfluid, tribal person from Assam who moved to Mumbai to pursue a Master's degree and then moved back to their village. The film reflects the lessons learnt while they lived their life in a metropolis and how they navigated their queerness in a crowded city like Mumbai.

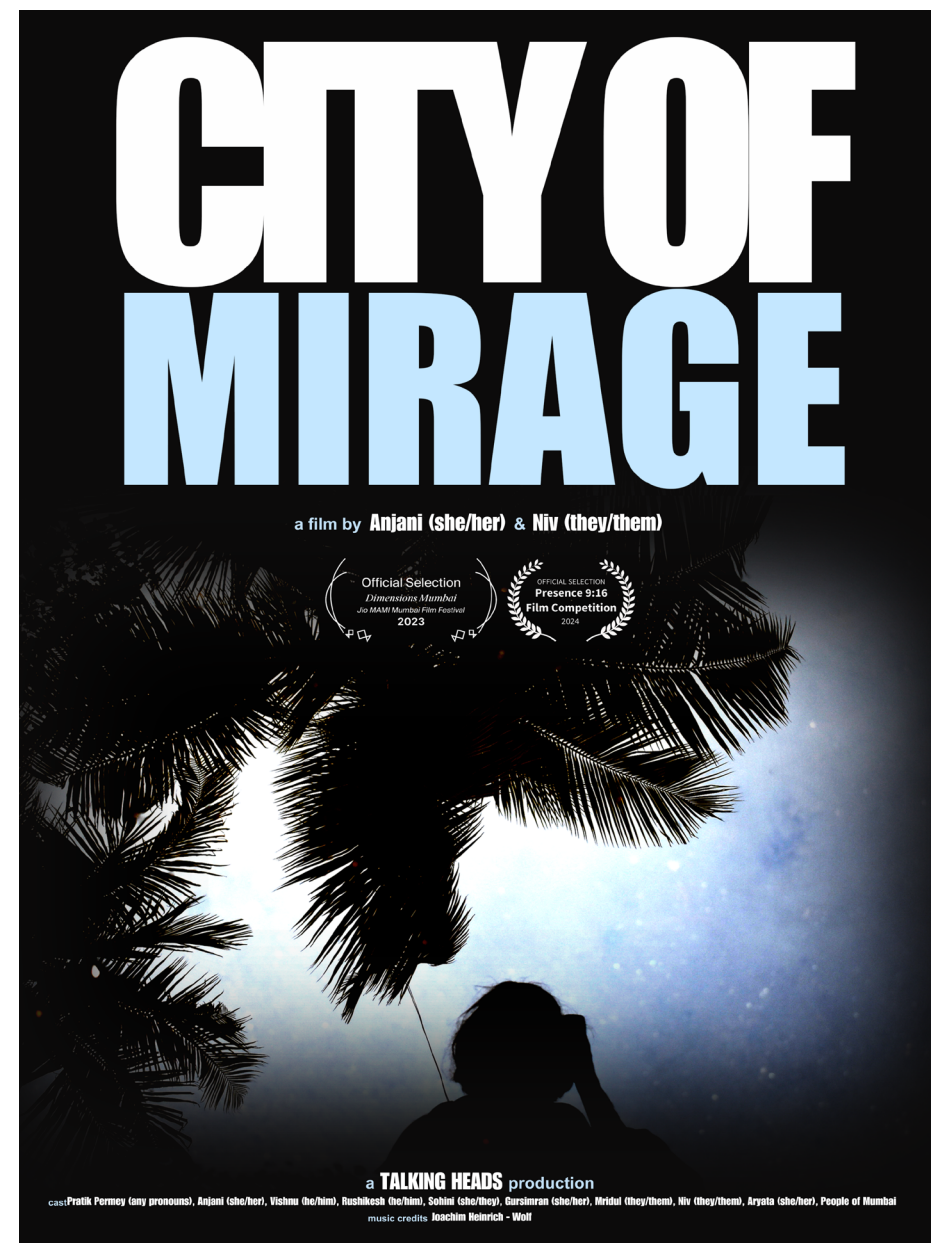


Anjani is a journalist turned filmmaker from Mumbai. Her inaugural short film, *City of Mirage*, premiered at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival. Eager to explore diverse narrative formats, she is dedicated to pushing the boundaries between performance and nonfiction storytelling.



Niv is a filmmaker and a video editor from Mumbai. Their previous work include two films *Grief (Un)locked* (2022) & *Together We Can* (2023).

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ESTAMOS TODOS AQUI / WE ARE ALL HERE

Brazil | 2017 | 20 mins | Portuguese

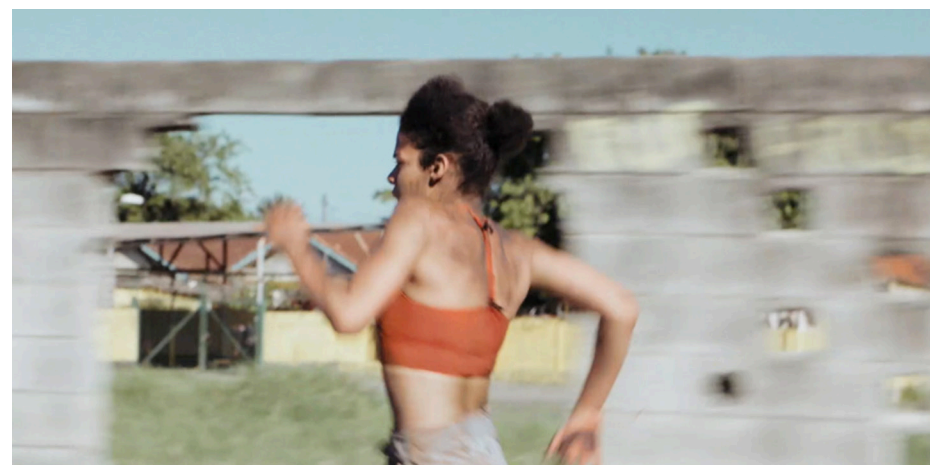
Director: **Chica Andrade** + **Rafael Mellim**

Rosa was never Lucas, and so she was expelled from her parents' house. Now she needs to find a place to build her shack, with her bare hands, in the favela where she was born. Time is pressing as a project to expand the area of Latin America's largest port will advance, not only on Rosa but on all residents. In *We Are All Here*, the filmmakers wish to bring up crucial discussions in the country: the struggle for a home and for LGBTI rights, highlighting in both battles the weight of the class struggle.



Film directors **Chica Andrade** and **Rafael Mellim** are part of the Coletivo Bodoque, a collective of artists in Brazil. They have directed 10 chapters of the TV series *Sala de Notícia* for the Futura TV channel, where they present experiences of social struggles in Latin America. And they invest in language research for a cinema of the oppressed. They also directed 10 episodes of the TV series *Curtas Canal Futura*, on social movements in Latin America, and have won awards at Valdivia's International Festival, Gramado, and 26 other festivals. *We Are All Here* is the couple's first experience of fiction filmmaking, and in Curta Cinema 2018 they qualified to compete at the Oscars with this short film.

chica@coletivobodoque.com.br



HEART MURMURS

Hong Kong, UK | 2023 | 9 mins | Cantonese

Director: Dorothy Cheung

Heart Murmurs is a poetic dialogue between the filmmaker and Dean, a young man living in Hong Kong. In reflecting on his experience living with a congenital disability and HIV during the first years of the COVID pandemic, Dean expresses his sense of self in the face of regular medical challenges.



Dorothy Cheung is a filmmaker and artist from Hong Kong. Her practice explores the notion of identities and home through a double perspective - personal and political, memory and forgetfulness. Her moving-image works are internationally exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Kunstinstituut Melly (formerly known as Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art) and EYE Filmmuseum, and selected for film festivals including International Film Festival Rotterdam, Leeds International Film Festival, Seoul Women's Film Festival, South Taiwan Film Festival and Queer Lisboa.

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ONE NIGHT AT BABES

USA | 2024 | 29 mins | English

Director: **Angelo Madsen Minax**

At a small-town dive bar called BABES, cribbage tournaments overlap with afternoons of karaoke and nights of raucous queer dance parties. When the ageing conservative townsfolk of Bethel, Vermont, and the younger queer leftists begin sharing the same watering hole, a delicate alliance flourishes.

Angelo Madsen Minax is a multi-disciplinary artist, filmmaker, and educator. His projects consider how human relationships are woven through personal and collective histories, cultures, and kinships, with specific attention to subcultural experience, phenomenology, and the politics of desire. Madsen's works have shown at Berlinale, Sundance Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, New York Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, among others, and dozens of LGBT and experimental film festivals around the world. Madsen is currently an Associate Professor of Time-Based Media at the University of Vermont, a current USA Artists Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow.

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PARI

India | 2023 | 31 mins | Hindi

Director: Priya Sen

Pari tries to to describe an event in the days of Pari and Praveen; a violent rupture that allowed in a life held by desire and not duty. In this film, they recount their love story against the undertones and backdrop of threat and violence. The present is both fraught and romantic; the disruption of a past moment finds momentary comfort in recall; the future is hopeful.



Priya Sen has a formally eclectic and itinerant video practice. Her work has screened at festivals and venues in India and globally. She received an MA from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, and an MFA in film and media arts from Temple University, Philadelphia, and was a fellow at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute, and Harvard Film Study Centre, 2023-24.

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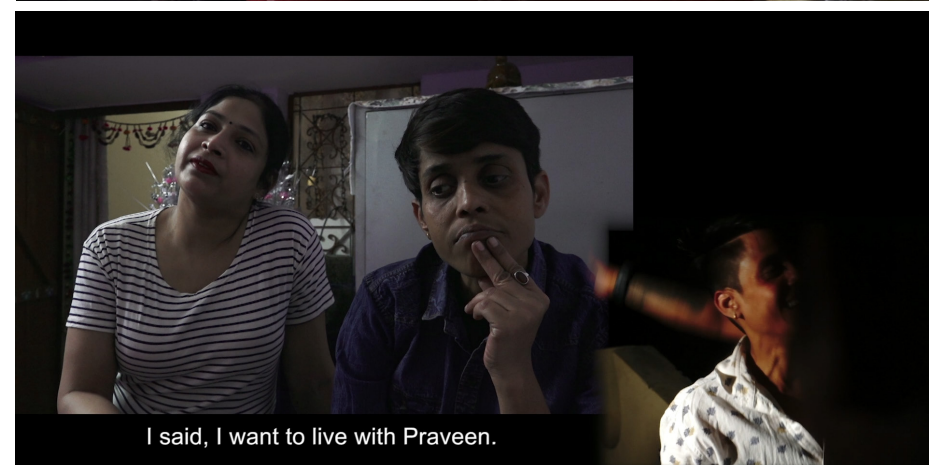
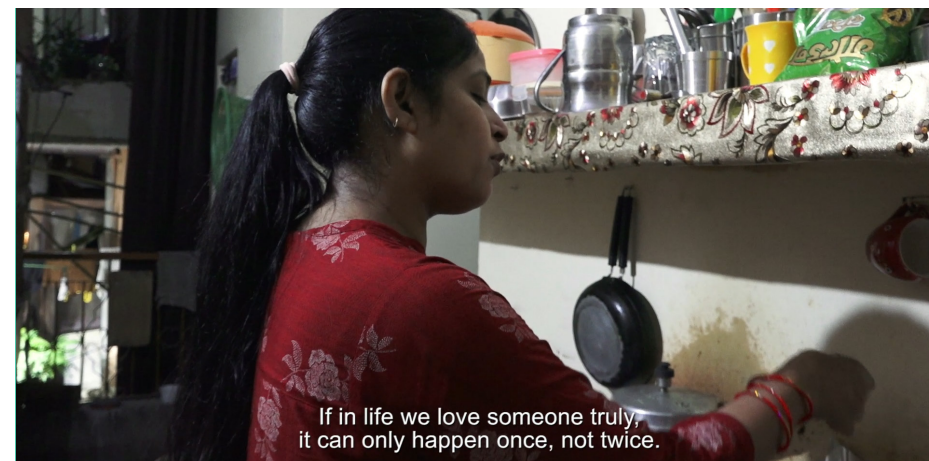
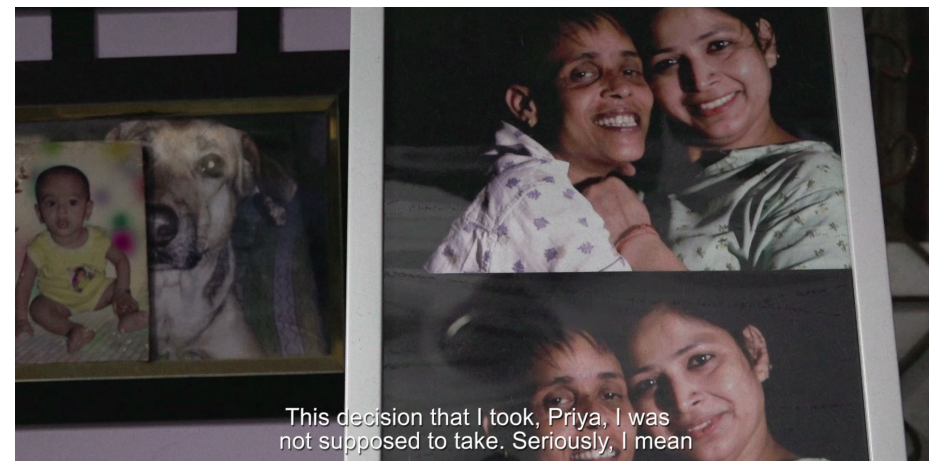


PHOTO BOOTH

Canada | 2022 | 1 hour 53 min | English, French, Arabic

Director: John Greyson

Outraged by the latest bombing of Gaza, Palestinian queer activists Hamza and Walid recruit queer novelist Jean Genet to help them sabotage the Eurovision song contest in Jericho. Their method? Secure the collaboration of Buddy and Pedro, Toronto's famous gay penguins. Recounting fifteen years of passionate activism in Toronto and worldwide, *Photo Booth* juxtaposes a surreal operatic narrative with documentary scenes that explore pride and pink-washing, gay soldiers and homo-nationalism, Queers Against Israeli Apartheid, and the accelerating weaponization of anti-Semitism. Queer activists Ghadir Shafie, Judith Butler, Ali Abunimah, and others recount the victories and set-backs of this emerging social justice movement. In his final performance, John Gilbert plays a bewildered Genet, attempting to engage with the digital queer activism of a new century, navigating the diverse challenges of megaphones and photo booths, twelve-tone and split-screen, frisbees and teargas, Gaza and Gaza.

John Greyson (writer/director) is a Toronto video/film artist. A pioneer of the new Queer Cinema, his many features, shorts, and transmedia works use humour and song to explore queer activist issues. The winner of 4 Teddies, 4 Canadian Screen Awards, and Best Film Prizes in over 30 international festivals, his works include: *Photo Booth* (2022), *International Dawn Chorus Day* (2021), *Mercurial* (2018), *Gazonto* (2016), *Murder in Passing* (2013), *Fig Trees* (2009), *Lilies* (1996), *Zero Patience* (1993), *The Making of Monsters* (1991), and *Urinal* (1989).

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PINK ULYSSES

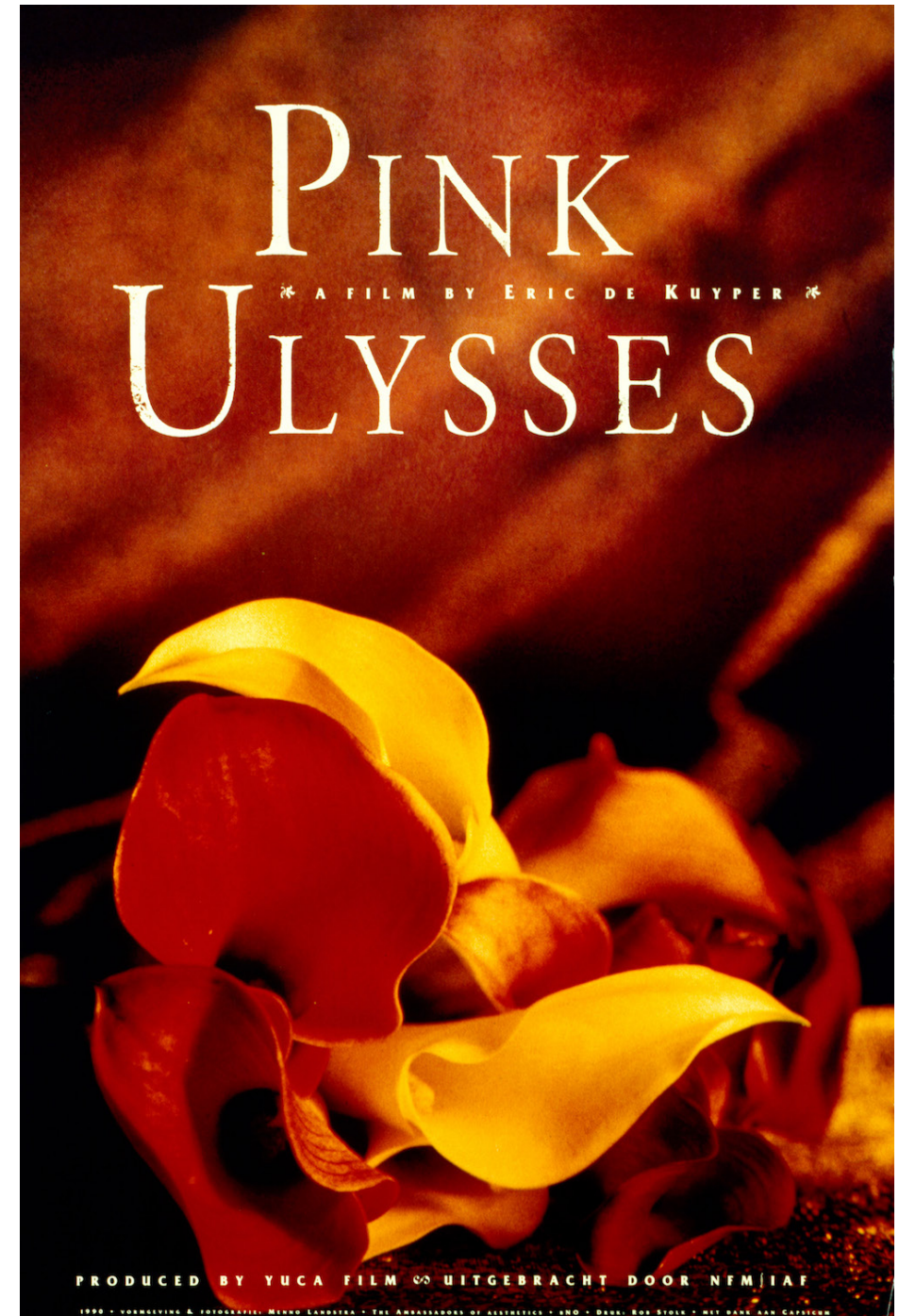
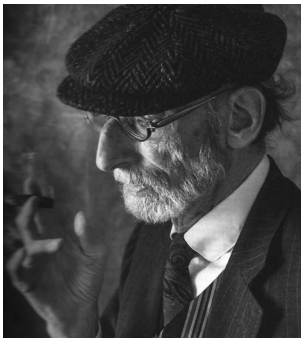
Belgium | 1990 | 1 hr 38 mins | English, German

Director: **Eric de Kuyper**

A homoerotic exploration of beauty to the rhythm of Richard Wagner, Zarah Leander and Sergei Eisenstein. Eric de Kuyper edited film and music clips, with Ulysses' peregrinations to guide him.

Eric de Kuyper graduated from the Brussels film school RITCS in 1966. Between 1965 and 1977, he worked as a producer for Belgian television. His filmography includes *Casta Diva* (1982), *Naughty Boys* (1984), *A Strange Love Affair* (1985), *Pink Ulysses* (1990) – all screened at the Venice Film Festival – and most recently *My Life as an Actor* (2015). De Kuyper was also a co-writer for several films by Chantal Akerman. Besides filmmaking, he is a film theorist and essayist. He has written numerous articles and essays on film, opera, dance and media for Dutch and French magazines (such as *Cinémathèque* and *Trafic*) and, together with Emile Poppe, published the film magazine *Versus* between 1982 and 1992.

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SAMLINGI

India | 2024 | 37 mins | Punjabi

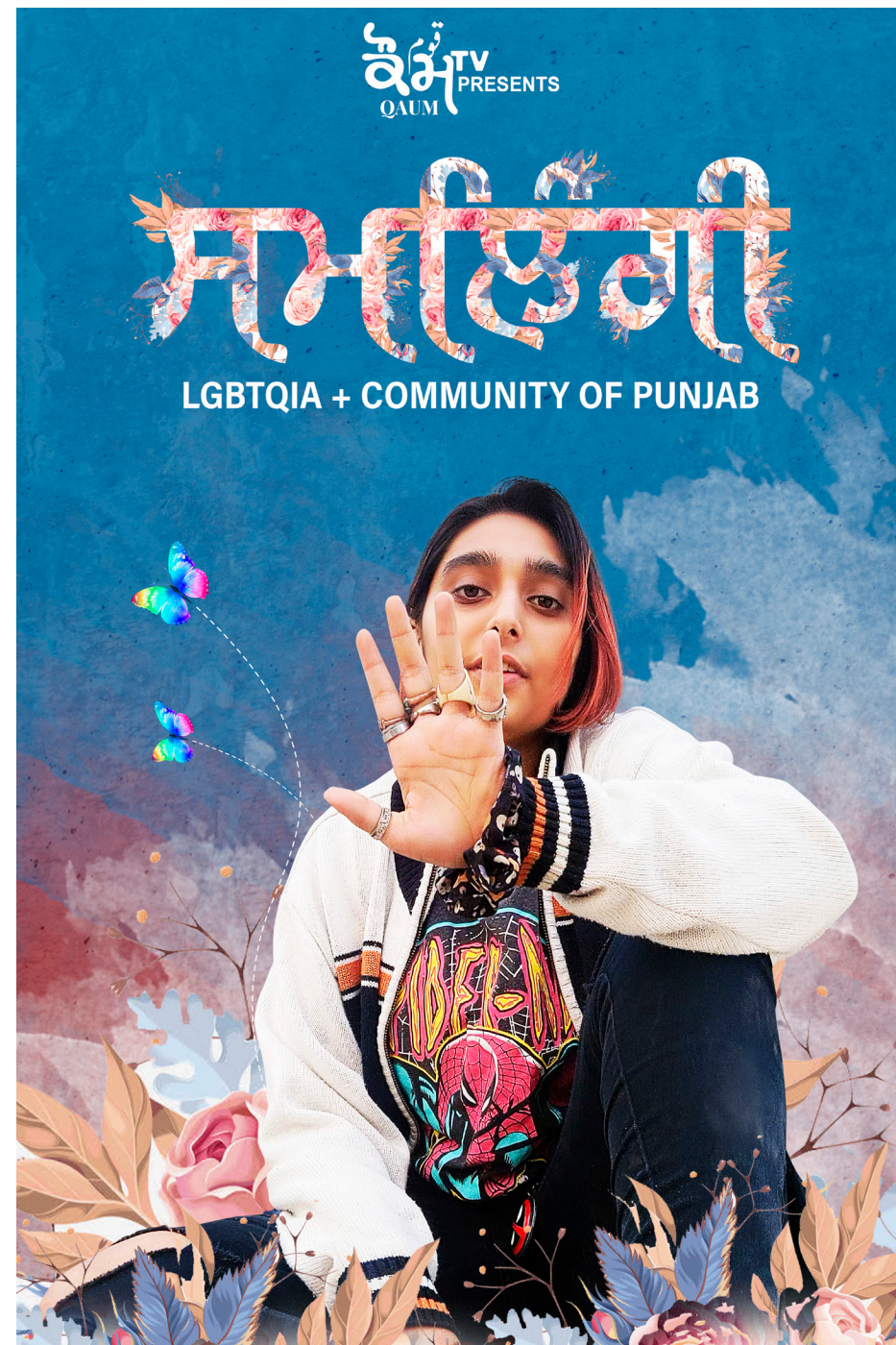
Director: Mohan Singh Aulakh

A homoerotic exploration of beauty to the rhythm of Richard Wagner, Zarah Leander and Sergei Eisenstein. Eric de Kuyper edited film and music clips, with Ulysses' peregrinations to guide him.



Mohan Singh Aulakh works as a director and writer, specifically in the domain of alternative cinema. The focal point of his work is to raise awareness on social issues and all kinds of discrimination in society, and cover the movements that have arisen to end discrimination so that a beautiful and equal society can be built through cinema.

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SIRENS

Lebanon, USA | 2022 | 79 mins | English, Arabic

Director: Rita Baghdadi

Sirens intimately chronicles the lives and music of Slave to Sirens, a band made up of five young metalheads whose burgeoning fame is set against the backdrop of the Lebanese revolution. Its members wrestle with friendship, sexuality, and destruction as their music serves as a refuge to Beirut's youth culture.

Rita Baghdadi is an Emmy award-winning Moroccan-American documentary filmmaker known for the intimacy of her bold, character-driven films. *Sirens* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and won the Grand Jury Prize at Outfest. In March 2024, Rita's film *Finding the Light*, about former conflict photographer Muhammed Muheison, premiered on Disney+. Rita is co-founder of the production company Lady and Bird Films, known for their ethical approach to documentary filmmaking. She is a proud member of Brown Girls Doc Mafia and an active mentor in the industry. Currently, she is completing several new films including *Stallions*, shooting in Morocco, and a doc series based on the hit podcast *Wild Boys*, for Hulu. When she's not behind the camera, she's always looking for a horse to ride.

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SUTTI, CHOWNDKI AND TAAL...

India | 2024 | 9 mins | Hindi, Marathi

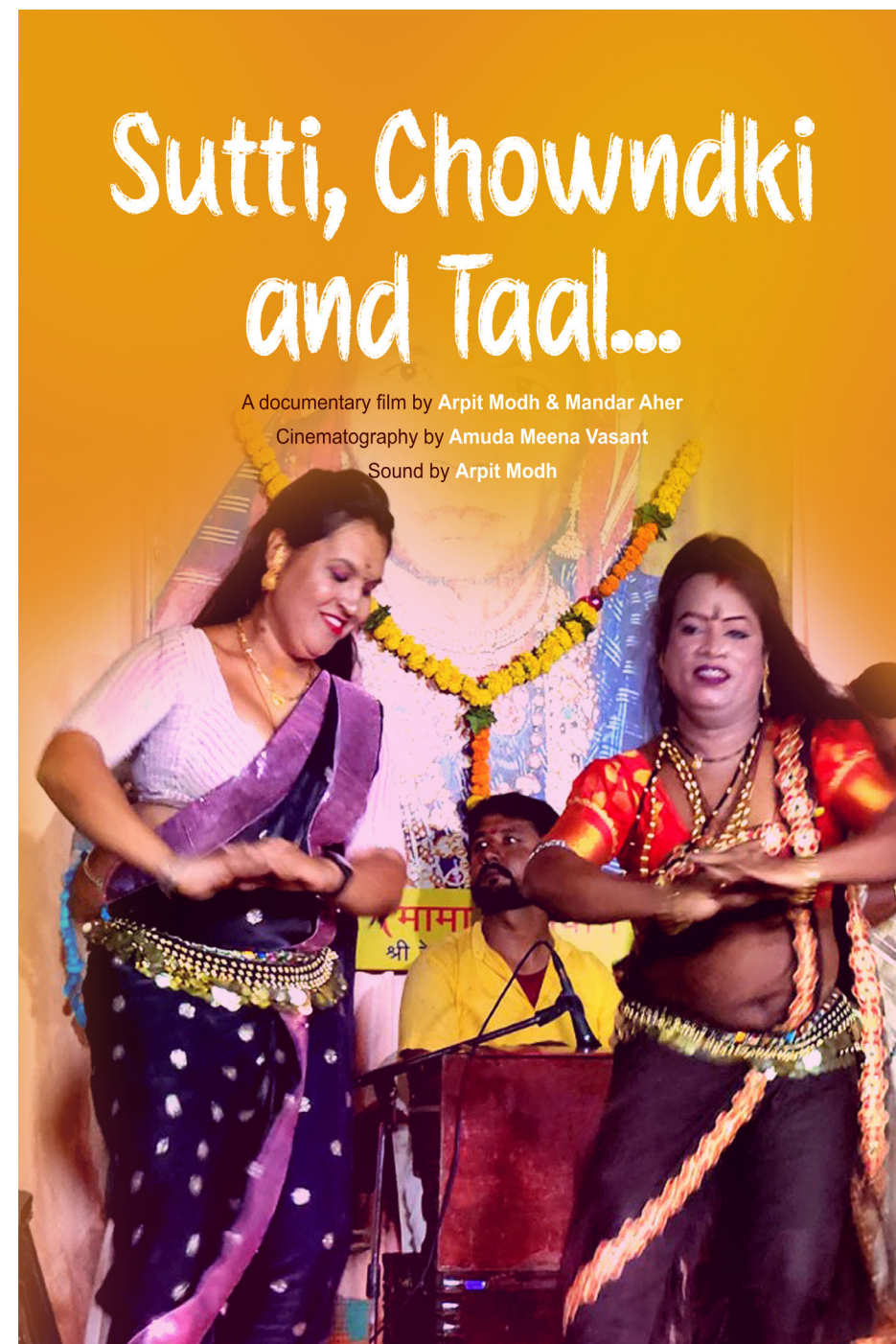
Director: Arpit Modh + Mandar Aher

Sutti, Chowndki and Taal... is an attempt to bring alive the realities of Jogappas and Devdasis from South Maharashtra and North Karnataka. Jogappas' lives are hidden and extremely complex. Living on the margins of a heteronormative society, they carve out their own normal. This narrative captures their unique music, musical instruments, their stories and their lives.



This film is shot by Amuda Meena Vasant and directed by Arpit Modh and Mandar Aher. **Amuda Meena Vasant** was brought up by Pandu Mama, now Resham Kavte, a Jogappa living in Sangli, Maharashtra. This pushed Amuda to want to capture Resham Mami's life, work, livelihood and friends, her religious practices. This is Amuda Meena Vasant's first documentary as a student of cinematography. **Arpit and Mandar** were her mentors during this process.

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SHORT FICTIONS



ASTARAAG / AFTERGLOW

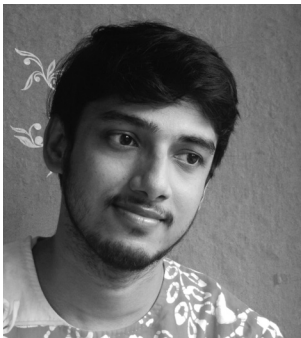
India | 2024 | 30 mins | Bengali

Director: **Rahul Biswas**

The mystic evening light dwells in the moments of afterglow. This afterglow appears as the messenger of the night to us, it sustains for just a short moment in time but gifts us a reddish heaven's hue. The protagonist, Aditya, is a sad child of a broken home, love having been created and destroyed in his lonely life. In the islands of his dreams the Mother symbol deepens. After separation from Som (his ex-lover) he binds himself to the illusionary fiction of life. In time those illusions are broken with the presence of Aviraj. In the Akhara of the Vaishnavis, Soma is a new member who has come there after her parents' death. Here she comes face to face with her past. In the midst of life's play, Tagore's song recites the truth ... the illusion ties us to pain, and when we try to get rid of it, it hurts.

Rahul Biswas works as a filmmaker, an actor and with festival management. The Ritu Rangam Film Festival is his brain child and curates independent films in Kolkata's suburban areas (for instance, in Barasat). He is also an actor, writer, dancer & elocutionist. Rahul has created several short films, documentaries, music videos & stage dramas. He completed a Film Appreciation course from the Federation of Film Societies of India (2019). Recently he joined Akashvani Kolkata (All India Radio) as a broadcast assistant. His notable films include *Antyamil*, *The Smoky Green*, *Torsha*, *Avisar*, *Suchetona*, and *Astaraag*.

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ASTER

India | 2023 | 20 mins | English, Hindi

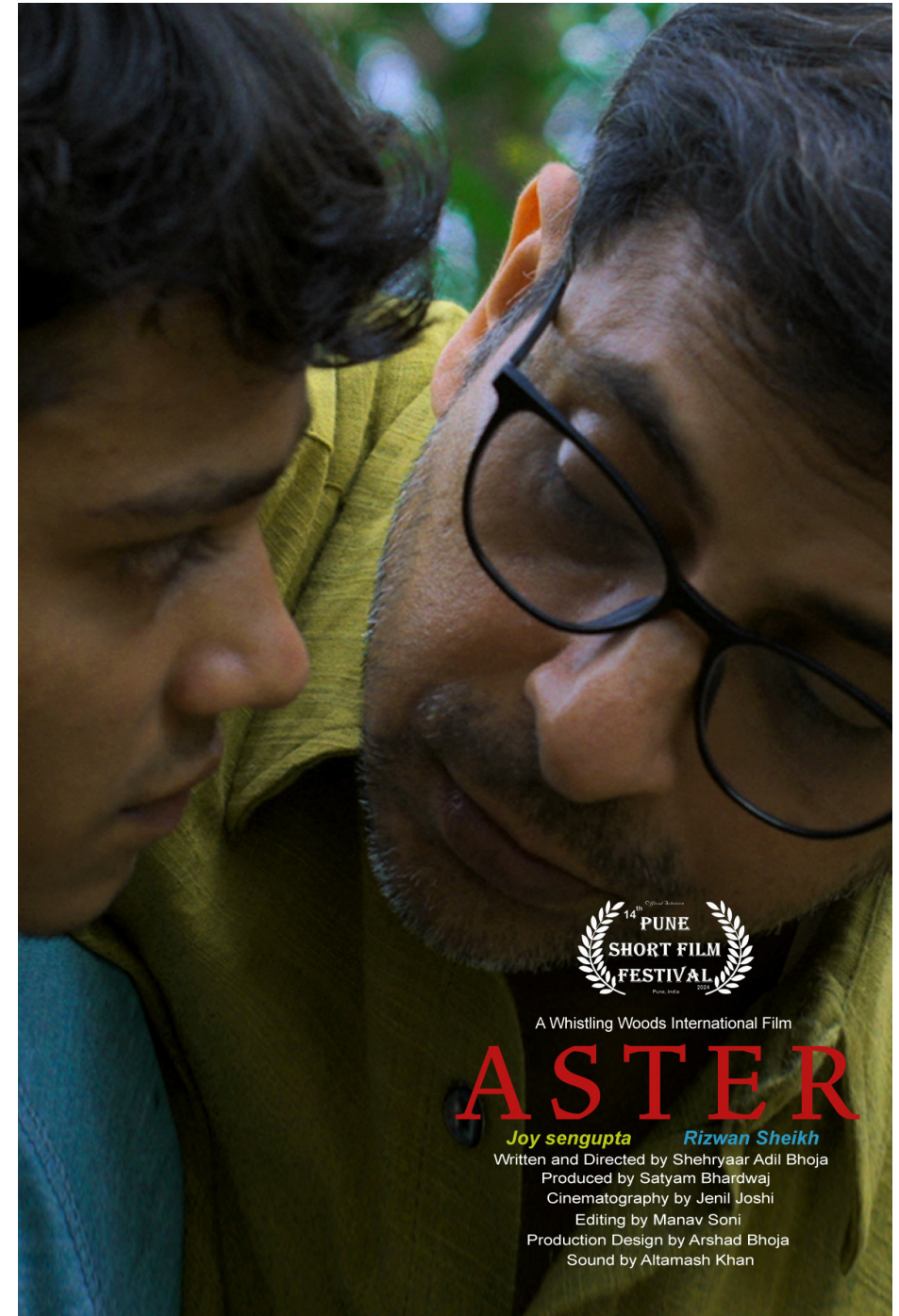
Director: Shehryaar Bhoja

An unlikely attachment to a 16-year-old student drives small town school principal Father Royston into a dilemma involving love, morals and faith.



Shehryaar Adil Bhoja is an aspiring filmmaker and a student of the medium. As far as he can remember he has always been attracted to visual mediums, especially films. For most of his life he has subjected himself to the pursuit of learning and mastering the true meaning of film and its craft.

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CHITTHI

India | 2023 | 10 mins | Pahari

Director: Sarthak Chauhan

Chitthi explores the idea of alienation through a queer lens, and delves into the consequences of such subordination. The story unfolds through a letter, where the protagonist (narrator) equates the loss of his lover with a man he sees in his dreams. Unaware of what has happened to his lover, whether he has gone missing or been a victim to a hate crime, he asks his mother how to cope with such a loss. Where should he go with all this grief and love? Roaming around a city that appears to be a safe space for queerness, he unveils the brutal reality of the heteronormative gaze and the scrutiny that comes with it. Delhi becomes an alienating force where a feeling of ‘not belonging’ is ever present. On failing to find his lover as well as a safe space for himself, his retaliation becomes an act of reclamation.



Sarthak is a Delhi-based award-nominated filmmaker originally from Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. His work explores themes of vulnerability, alienation and, primarily, the human condition, through a queer lens. *Chitthi* is his debut as a filmmaker, made on a shoestring budget and meant to explore the lived experiences of queer people migrating from marginalised locations to metropolitan cities that are assumed to be safe spaces.

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ÇEMBER / CIRCLE

Turkey | 2023 | 10 mins | Turkish

Director: Ferhat Ertan

The chador brought to the tailor's shop will once more confront Arif with his own reality.



Born in Turkey in 1998, **Ferhat Ertan** studied cinema at various institutions. There were various options behind the cameras of many short and long films. He shot his first short film *Mask* in 2021, and his second short film *Çember* in 2023. New studies are continuing.

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DANCING BODIES

France | 2019 | 6 mins | French

Director: Laure Giappiconi + Elisa Monteil + La Fille Renne

Dancing Bodies is a joyful and sexual ode to sorority.

La Fille Renne - photographer and tattoo artist, **Laure Giappiconi** - actress and author, and **Elisa Monteil** - sound designer and performer, form a film-making collective. Their research revolves around explicit representations of desire and takes various forms, at the crossroads of dissident poetry and visual performance. They are committed to highlighting bodies, identities and sexualities that are outside normative representations. They develop a singular aesthetic, shooting exclusively on film, LomoKino or Super 8, fixing timeless, feminist and queer images in these layers of chemistry. They have made six short films - *Vivante*, *Sirène*, *Amour*, *Tandis que je respire encore*, *Les corps dansants*, and *Fluidité* - which have been shown in festivals around the world, from Berlin to Montreal, including the Sundance Festival, the IFF in Rotterdam, Athens, Bogota, Chennai, Lahore, Istanbul, Warsaw.

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DEPARTURES

Indonesia | 2023 | 25 mins | Indonesian

Director: Kurnia Alexander

Indra is in a good position in his life. He's an academically gifted, graduate student working as a teaching assistant to Bagas, his lecturer. However, he can't help but feel that something is missing. Struggling to find out what that is, Indra seeks guidance from Bagas during one of their last days on campus.

Kurnia Alexander started making (though rarely finishing) films in elementary school using Windows Movie Maker and after college began his career as an independent filmmaker. Recently, Kurnia made an LGBTQ+ short film called *Dan Bahagia*, which was selected for national and international film festivals, including Jakarta Film Week 2022, Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival 2022, and the Bangalore Queer Film Festival 2023. It also received a nomination for Best Short Film at Piala Maya 2023. Kurnia currently works as a senior writer for a movie studio in Indonesia. With *Departures*, he is looking to further establish himself as a filmmaker with a heart.

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HOUSEWIFE

India | 2023 | 4 mins | No dialogue

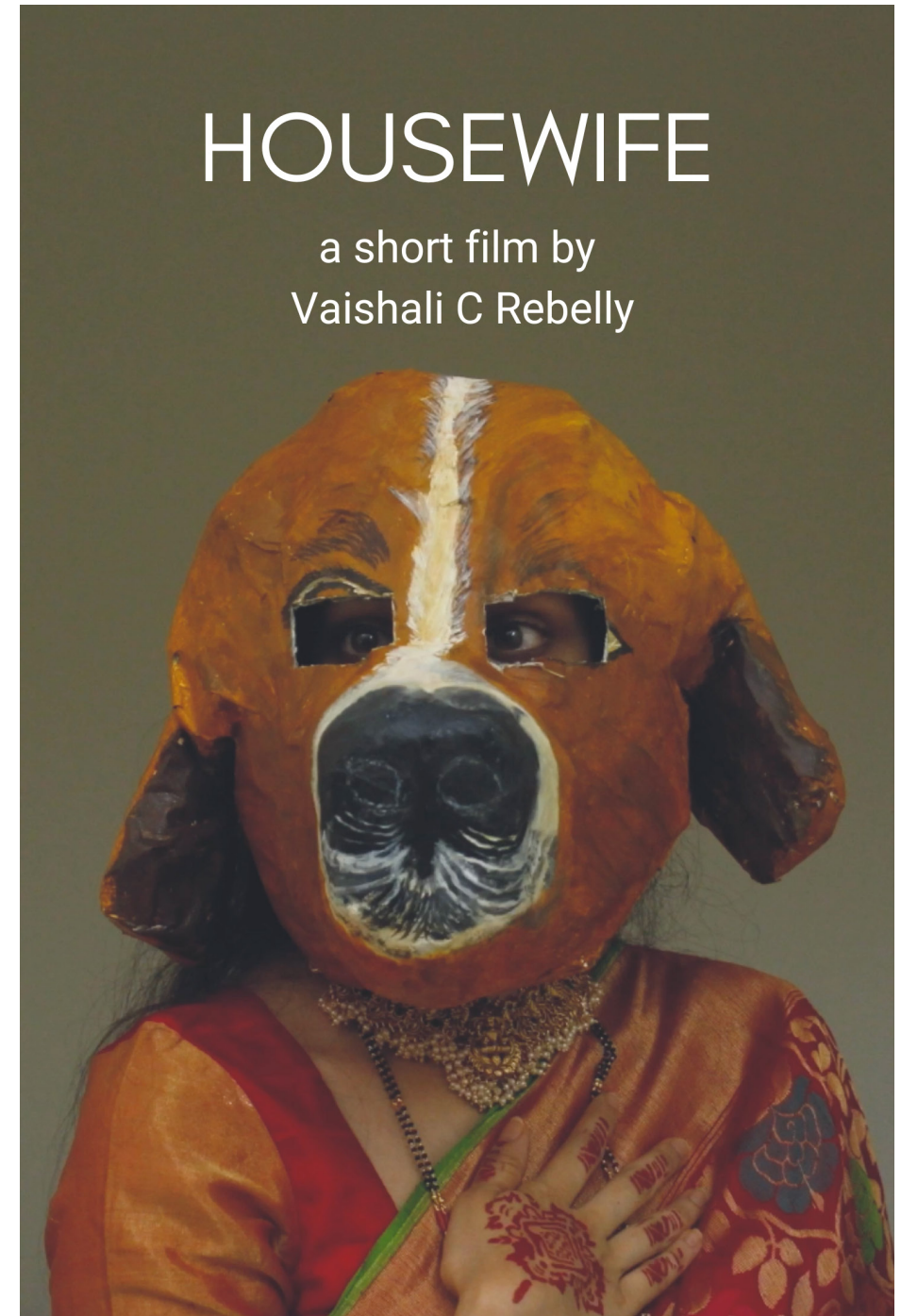
Director: Vaishali C Rebelly

The film revolves around a housewife whose basic necessity is to sleep a bit more. However, the house which the film takes place in constantly keeps her busy with the duties of a common wife in an Indian household. This AV experience sheds light on how married Indian women are treated. The story comes to an end when she realises these strict rules are being forced on her and she is being used to fulfil all these duties. So she takes a step to set herself free from the identity of a stereotypical housewife.



Vai is in her final year of an undergraduate degree at the Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology. She enjoys watching and making experimental films.

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I DON'T WANNA KNOW YOUR NAME

Brazil | 2024 | 10 mins | Portuguese

Director: **Vinicius Teixeira**

Guilherme seeks affection and company for the night on a gay hook-up app. Aren, who lives intensely in the sexual flow of the city, agrees to meet him. They don't exchange a single word throughout the encounter.



Vinicius Teixeira plays the protagonist in Allan Deberton's new film *The Best Friend* and is in the cast of the globoplay series *Justiça 2*. He recently shot the films *Carne Fresca* by Giovani Barros and *Ruas da Glória* by Felipe Sholl, and plays main characters in *Cinema de Enredo*, in the series *Rio Heroes*, in *Feras* and in *Carcereiros*. In cinema, he has played roles in *Anna*, by Heitor Dhalia, *The Tower* by Sergio Borges, *Turvo* by Murillo Sued (nominated for supporting actor MICINE 2022) and *Queima*, by Caio Scot.

vinistuart@hotmail.com



IF

India | 2023 | 26 mins | Bengali

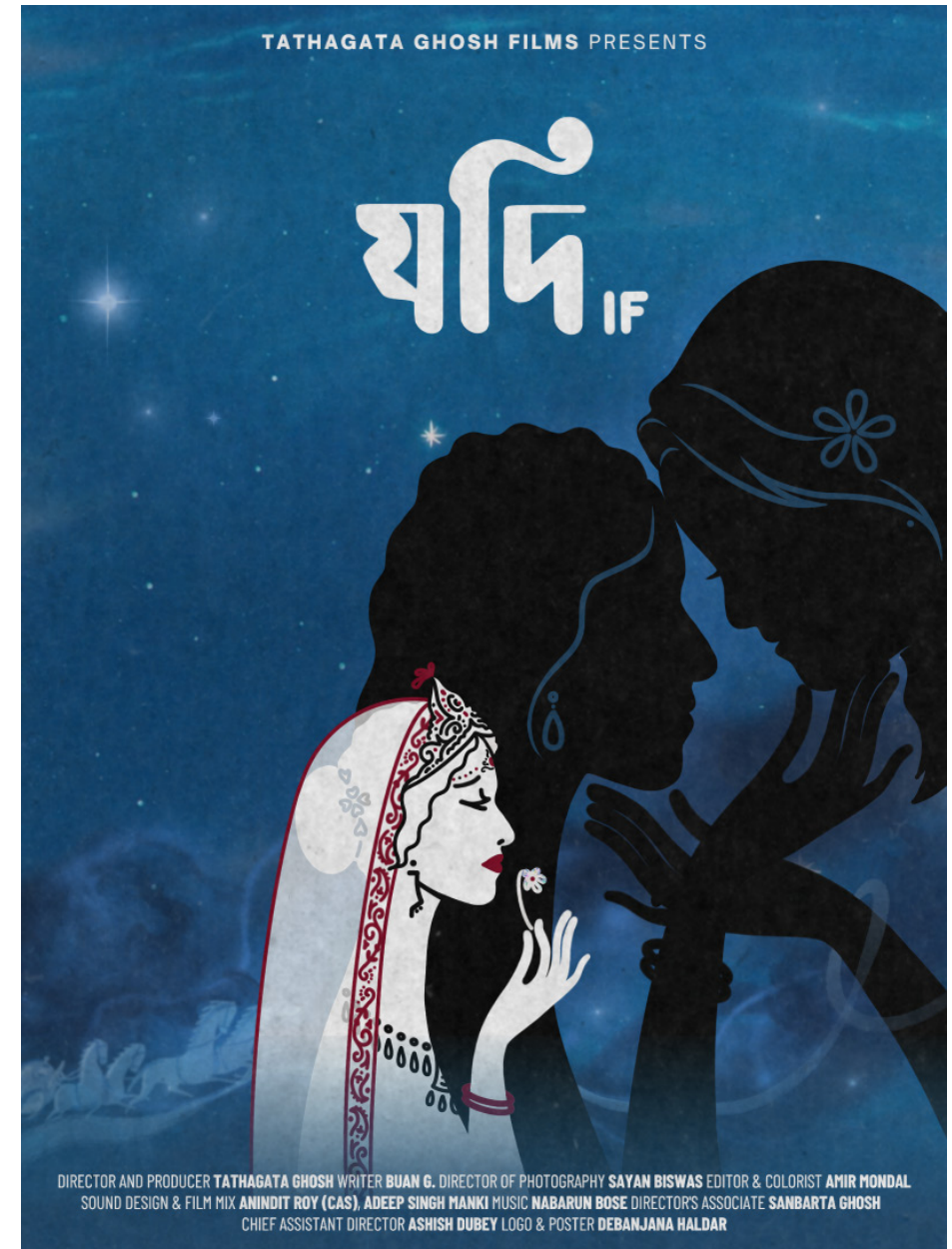
Director: Tathagata Ghosh

An arranged marriage tears a lesbian couple apart, but with a mother's love perhaps another future is possible.



A Berlinale Talents alumnus, **Tathagata** has always believed in telling stories of people from different social backgrounds. People who do not have a voice of their own. His short films *Miss Man*, *Footprints*, *The Scapegoat*, *The Meat* and *The Demon* have travelled to numerous prestigious international film festivals and won several awards.

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JALSA: THE NAME DAY

India | 2024 | 23 mins | Hindi

Director: Saikat Mondal

Suresh comes to the kinnar household to meet his brother Manish, coincidentally on the day of Jalsa, a day of celebration forty days from the day of Nirvan (castration). Initially Meneka refuses to meet her brother as the former has come after so many years. Latika, one of the kinnars, convinces her to talk to him. Suresh is uncomfortable with the changes in the person he knew as a brother. As the day passes, he slowly understands the essence of the household and their activities.



Saikat Mondal grew up in the lanes of Calcutta. Pursuing a Master of Design at the IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay, gave him the opportunity to sensitise society towards the transgender community. This film was his final project for a Communication Design course.

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ജനലുകൾ / WINDOWS

India | 2024 | 12 mins | Malayalam, English

Director: Ariel (works under Ariyilla)

On a hot summer day, a girl and her mother, united by not much more than a roof, are forced to sit by themselves and contemplate what people could be and what people are.



Ariyilla is a filmmaker who tries to make movies about the boring thoughts she has, in a manner that is slightly less boring for the viewer to watch. Her films are often reflections of whatever is on her mind, and explore intersections of class, caste and queerness. This is her fifth fiction short film.

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KNOB

India | 2024 | 7 mins | English, Hindi

Director: Mujeer Pasha

This film is an experimental, deeply personal exploration of the filmmaker's romantic relationship patterns and healing. It is based on a conversation he had with his therapist last year. The intensity of his experience overwhelmed him, so he turned to filmmaking as an outlet. Using a decade's worth of footage from his phone and camera, he has woven together an audio-visual narrative that mirrors his journey.



Born and raised in Bangalore, **Mujeer Pasha** identifies as a queer Muslim feminist man navigating a world where he often feels at odds with existing frameworks. He works as a screenwriter, editor, and director working across film, TV, and digital formats. He also uses music and dance as mediums to tell stories on stage. He enjoys documenting people and fictionalising realities to shift the collective narrative of what life and the world can be.

mujeerpashav1@gmail.com



KUUK AAH?

India | 2024 | 29 mins | Kannada

Director: MK Abhilash

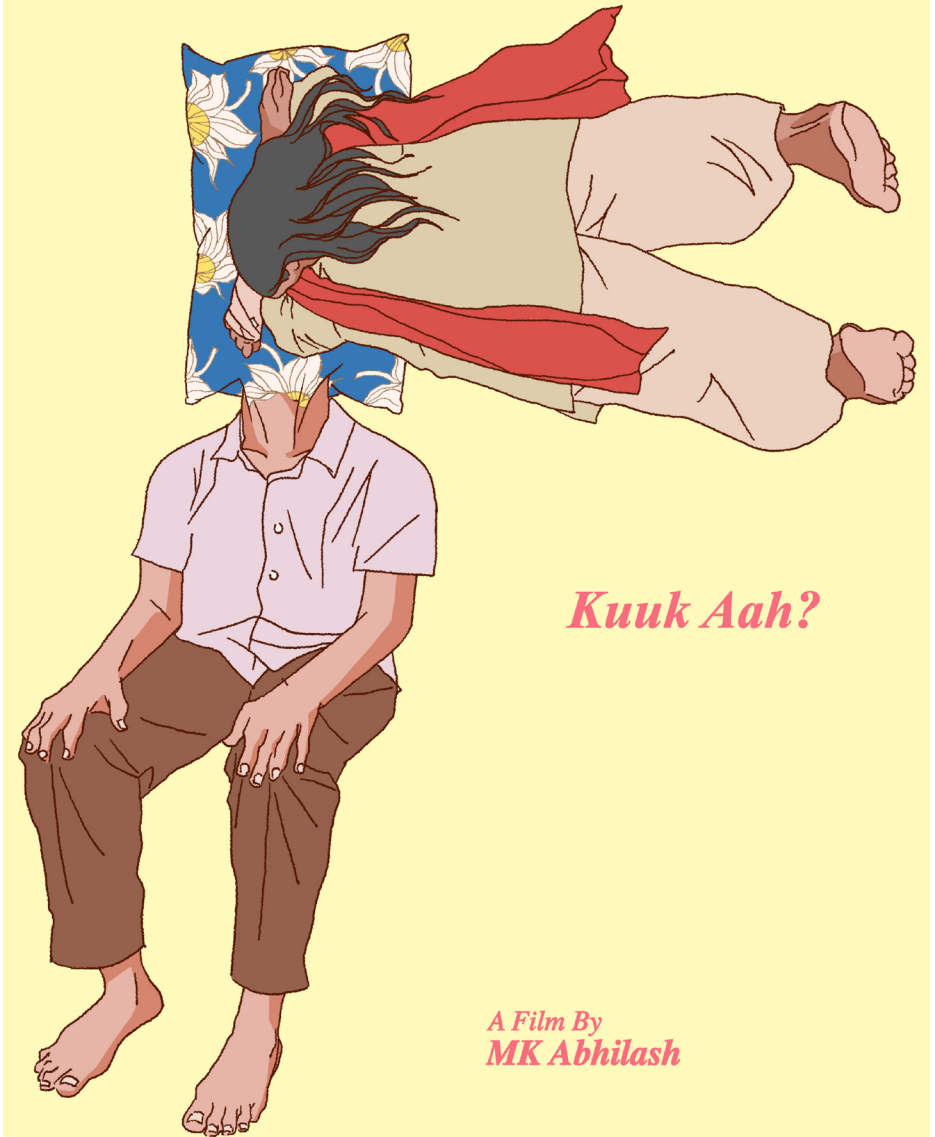
While cooking, Anjali realises that they have run out of salt. She asks Adarsh to fetch a packet of salt. Adarsh is the husband of Anjali. Anjali is the wife of Adarsh.



MK Abhilash, an audio-visual artist hailing from Bangalore, draws inspiration from the Y2K era for his music, delves into the micro-macro world for his poetry, and strives to blend both of these influences in his films.

muran3.athma@gmail.com

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Kuuk Aah?

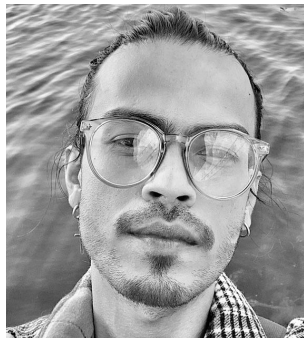
A Film By
MK Abhilash

LITTLE MEN

India | 2022 | 21 mins | English

Director: Aritra Sarkar

Little Men explores a space that is indifferent towards the queerness of being, in the midst of a crumbling, dilapidated society. In this space, two men, who have a seemingly deep but incomprehensible bond, try to coexist seamlessly while making space for one another to accept the inherent fluidity of human sexuality. As their exploration of the 'queer' within acts in sync with the space around them, their relationship goes through a silent but unrestrained struggle. Oscillating between exploring gender, nurture and looking at a queer image beyond sexual tendencies, *Little Men* often relies on abstraction to evoke the ambiguity in relationships, metaphoric or physical.



A film student at Pune's Film and Television Institute of India, **Aritra Sarkar** hails from Calcutta where he grew up getting inspired by Tagore and watching the films of Ritwik Ghatak and Rituparno Ghosh. His views about filmmaking were deeply impacted when he came to realise his queer identity and how it fits in the current politics and political representations in India. Taking inspiration from urban melancholia, feminist utopia and resistance in existence, he tries to look at films in a sensuous and personal manner that tries to explore more than it represents.

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LOVE+ (LOVE POSITIVE)

India | 2023 | 17 mins | Hindi, English

Director: Tushar Tyagi

Ajay wants his live-in partner, Utkarsh, to join him for a live social media interview, but Utkarsh wants to keep their relationship a secret. What they're concerned about seems bigger than the question of appearing together for the interview. Will this serodiscordant couple have a positive love story?

Tushar Tyagi is an award-winning filmmaker with a masters in film-making from the New York Film Academy. Tushar's last short film *Saving Chintu*, starring Adil Hussain, was selected in over 30 film festivals including the Oscar and BAFTA qualifying festivals. *Saving Chintu* also qualified under the 'Live-Action Short' category for the 93rd Oscars. He recently produced Pankaj Tripathi's first-ever short film *Laali*. Currently, Tushar's working on a show green-lit by Amazon. He's also developing a feature film and several web series.

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MAKE-UP MAJHI DHAAL GA / THE SHIELD

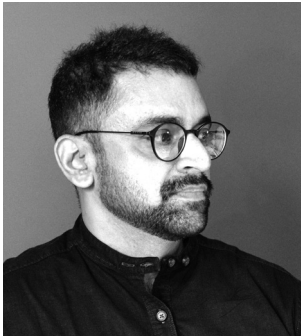
India | 2024 | 6 mins | Marathi

Director: Kunal Vijayakar

The music video follows an episode of loving banter between a transwoman and her cis-heterosexual brother when he accuses her of using excessive make-up and questions her masked identity. The video has been created within the tradition of Lavani, the Maharashtrian folk style of song and dance.

To kindle his multi-disciplinary interests, **Kunal** heads two art studios in Mumbai where he facilitates art, theatre and literature related events. He has widely photo-documented traditional Lavani artists and collaborated with several production houses to document theatre related events. He has directed a music video and besides being an actor, puppeteer, graphic designer and language trainer. Kunal also consults as a creative producer for B-Spot Productions, creating performances that enable communities to share their stories and facilitating the audience's exploration of sensory pleasures and initiating conversations on taboo topics.

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MAKING UP

United Kingdom | 2023 | 15 mins | English

Director: Ryan Paige

Making Up is set in the late 1980s, framed within the gritty drag scene of London's East End. The short film stars BIFA award-winning Dave Johns, Jessica Ellerby and Carey Thring. It follows Ted, who is diagnosed with a hereditary illness and must therefore reconcile with his estranged daughter, Cassandra. However, Ted's status as a celebrated drag queen, paired with the bitter feelings Cassandra harbours over their past, present a large obstacle for him to overcome.

Emerging from an artistic background and having studied film production at Bournemouth University's Media School, **Ryan** has since carved out a career on the editorial side of TV drama, working on various BAFTA, Emmy and Golden Globe-winning productions. More recently he has become a development executive at a major streamer, where he develops and creatively oversees a selection of productions. He most enjoys collaborating with others to breathe life into stories and engage an audience viscerally whilst introducing them to characters as well as worlds that they may not be so familiar with.

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MEHROON

India | 2023 | 10 mins | No dialogue

Director: **Abu Sohel Khondekar**

In the wake of her father's death, Mehroon is confronted with a will that holds her in a suffocating grip. Determined to break free from this oppressive force, Mehroon embarks on a journey of self-discovery and liberation, while navigating the expectations of society and her family.

Abu Sohel Khondekar is a filmmaker and writer. As a neurodivergent, non-binary trans person, Abu passionately advocates for LGBTQIA rights. Holding a Master's degree in Film Studies from Jadavpur University, they engage in leftist politics, raising their voice against oppression. Abu expresses their beliefs through documentary photography, fueled by passion for cinema and writing. Believing in cinema's transformative power, they aim to create impactful films inspiring change.

sohelwork89@gmail.com



MÉLANGE

USA | 2024 | 15 mins | English

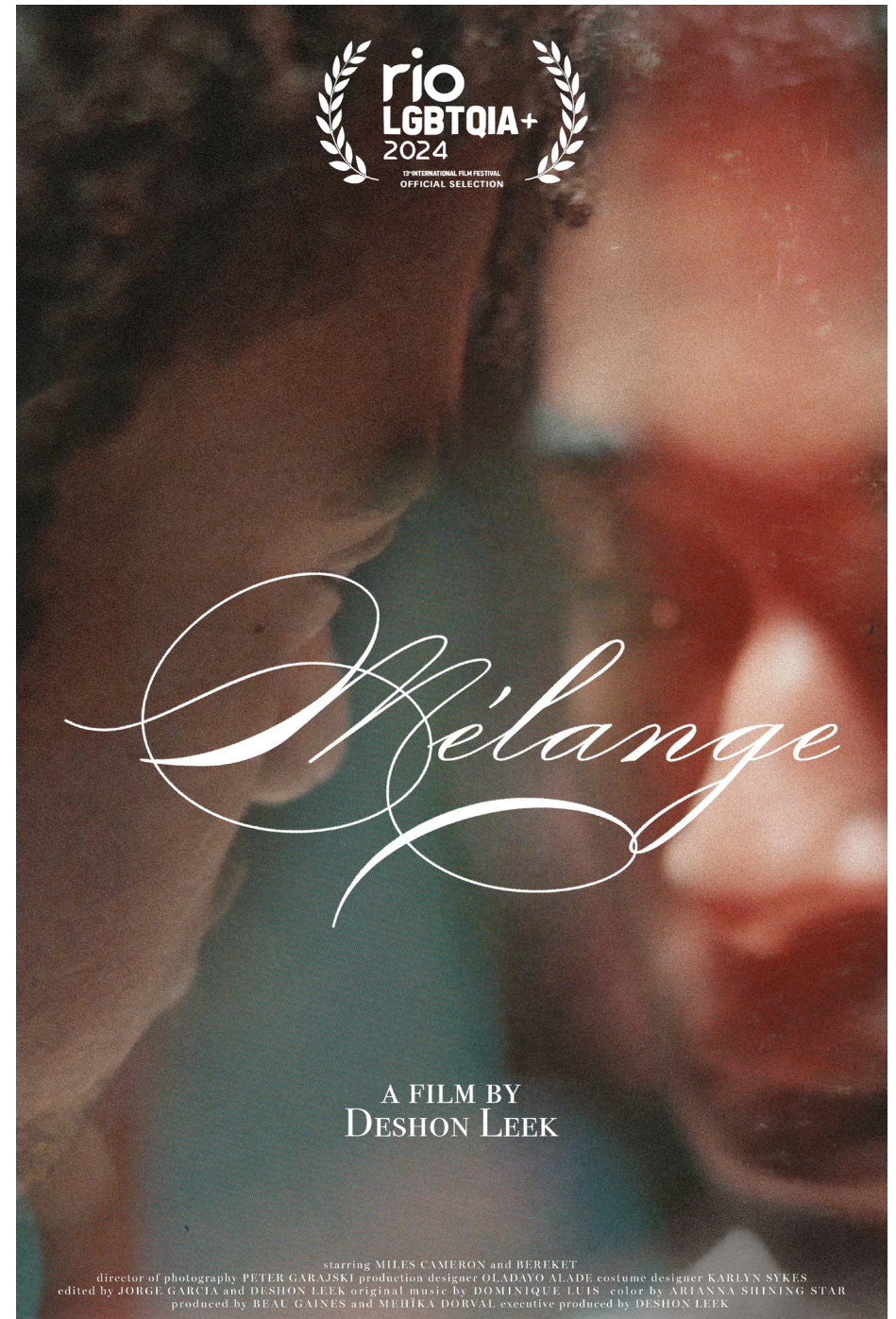
Director: **Deshon Leek**

Two estranged men reconnect in a neighbourhood jazz bar where they embark on a forbidden dance.



Deshon Leek is a Harlem-based writer-filmmaker and Emmy award-winning producer. He received his Bachelor's degree in Film at Morehouse College before relocating to New York City. Deshon's work often focuses on challenging conventional notions centred around black manhood, queer identity, and mental health. Deshon is a recipient of the 2024 En Foco Media Arts Fund.

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MEMOIRS OF MY CAMERA

India | 2023 | 26 mins | Hindi, English

Director: Neel Champaneri

Tanay is making a film on his beloved friend Milan. While Milan is struggling with his sexual identity, Tanay's film is asked whether it can bring any changes to Milan's life and reform patriarchal and gender norms.



Harlem-based writer-filmmaker and **Neel Champaneri** is an Indian film director and writer, born in Surat, Gujarat. He has studied film and TV production at the Parul Institute of Design, Vadodara. His student films have travelled to international film festivals including SWIFF New York, ISFA Vadodara and IMFFK Kerala. Neel has been selected as one of the 75 creative minds of tomorrow at the prestigious 54th International Film Festival of India, Goa. His film *Ankuran* bagged second prize in the 48-hour film-making challenge there.

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NEO NAHDA

United Kingdom | 2024 | 12 mins | English

Director: May Ziade

Mona, a young woman in London, finds archived photographs of Arab women cross-dressing in the 1920s. Somewhere between her fantasies and reality, she starts a feverish journey of uncovering lost histories and her own identity.



May is a French-Lebanese filmworker and filmmaker based in London. She is also the co-founder of Other People's Films, a production company that aims to create bridges between moving image artist work and conventional films with a strong artistic voice.

may@otherpeoplesfilms.com



OS FINAIS DE DOMINGOS / ON SUNDAYS

Brazil | 2023 | 8 mins | Portuguese

Director: **Olavo Junior**

Domingos, an elderly man with fragile health, follows his solitary routine on a Sunday afternoon, until he receives a visit from a past love.

Olavo Junior is a film director and film producer. His work includes the short film *I Never Said I Love You*, selected for the Los Angeles Brazilian Film Festival 2013 and International Film Festival of Cinematic Arts - IFFCA 2013. He also produced the TV series *NazAmérica* for Canal Brasil in Los Angeles. Back in Brazil in 2015, Olavo directed the web documentary *Abença, meu Santo*, a series of four episodes about the pilgrimages of Juazeiro do Norte and Canindé, Ceará. In his latest work, he co-directed a comedy short-film *French Guiana* (2017), selected for the Cine-Ceará 2017, Cardiff International Film Festival 2017 (in Wales, UK), XII Festival Curta Canoa and 7th FestCine Maracanaú (winner for Best Short Film and Best Lead Actor in December 2017).



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Produção Executiva | **ALYSON LACERDA** • Direção | **OLAVO JUNIOR** • Roteiro e Direção de Produção | **ALYSON LACERDA** • Produção | **ALYSON LACERDA, HELGI THOR, MOACIR BRASIL E OLAVO JUNIOR** • Co-produção | **KAMILLE COSTA, JOCÉLIA CARLOS, ÍSIS REBOUÇAS E LUCAS PLUTARCHO** • Direção de Arte, Cenografia e Contra-regra | **KAMILLE COSTA** • Assistente de Produção | **JOCÉLIA CARLOS** • Direção de Fotografia | **OLAVO JUNIOR, ÍSIS REBOUÇAS E LUCAS PLUTARCHO** • Operação de câmera | **ÍSIS REBOUÇAS E LUCAS PLUTARCHO** • Maquiagem | **JOCÉLIA CARLOS** • Montagem e Edição de Som | **HELGI THOR** • Captação de Som | **HYGOR LINHARES** •

COM **RODGER ROGÉRIO E OZ DIAS**

Os finais de
Domingos

GRIFO

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SIFAR

India | 2024 | 21 mins | English

Director: Eishita 'Edythe'

This experimental short film explores the themes of love, grief, acceptance, and resilience within queer identities. Through Inaaya, the narrative unravels emotions in the face of life-altering loss. It is a story of the many trans gender people lost to suicide every day, and what they leave behind. Inaaya wakes up every day, grieving the suicide of her partner, Shaayra, and the life she thought she once had.



Eishita 'Edythe' is a non-binary trans queer poet and filmmaker from Lucknow, India. Their creative endeavours are centred around delving into the nuances of queerness, gender, grief, and interpersonal relationships. Their debut short film, *Aadat*, made in collaboration with Gaysi Family, has been showcased at numerous film festivals and Indian educational institutions. Their second film, *Sifar*, is a self-funded queer-made film.

eishita2211@gmail.com



Written and Directed by Eishita. Starring: Ambar Himanshi Sanjay, Sumdisha Khanna, Mann Tarang. Cinematography and Lights: Keshavi Sethi. Editing: Samveg Chauhan, Prasad Namjoshi. Crew: Arundhatee Sharma, Maitreyee Sharma, Rasha kamaruddeen.

SIFR

India | 2023 | 11 mins | English

Director: JK/Jasleen Kaur

Sifr, which means zero. *Sifr*, which could be a love story. *Sifr*, which is a queer story. A lot of it is memory. Two young girls, away from home, in red-bricked walls, in long corridors of an all-girls college. Navigating self-hood, sexuality, desire, and spatiality through companionship and common ground. *Sifr*, which can also mean silence, absence, negative space. Infinity. Infinite possibilities, blank slate. *Sifr*, which divides the narrative, time and again, to capture ruptures within interpersonal relationships, and how the self experiences urban loneliness, heartbreak, intimacy, and ultimately, self-awareness.



JK is a communication designer with a passion for creative direction and cultural documentation. They are from Punjab, were born and grew up in Hyderabad and recently moved to Bangalore for work. Throughout their career, they have reflected the intersection of land rights, cultural sustainability, and bodily autonomy with art, design, and queer existence. *Sifr* is JK's first film.

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SUNGURA

Kenya | 2021 | 20 mins | Swahili, English

Director: Lydia Matata

Kemunto is struggling to fit in at a friend's bridal shower when Mama Asali, a traditional sexologist or Senga arrives and draws her into the fun. But it quickly becomes clear that Mama Asali's routine is not designed for Kemunto, who uses a wheelchair. This makes her increasingly frustrated and withdrawn.

Lydia Matata is a filmmaker from Nairobi, Kenya, who makes films about the people, issues and experiences that move her. She is also one of the writers of *Country Queen*, a drama series streaming on Netflix. Her latest documentary *Kenyan on Mars* is set to premiere on Al Jazeera's Africa Direct Platform in August 2024. Her other documentary short, *Utapata Mwingine*, received the Best Emerging Filmmaker Award at the UN Women's Global Voices Film Festival in 2021. *Sungura* has screened at various notable festivals including the Interfilm International Film Festival in Berlin and the Pan African Film Festival in Cannes, and has won several awards including the Best Women in Film Award at the Blackstar International Film Festival.

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THAT DOESN'T FIT

India | 2023 | 3 mins | English

Director: **Ackshaj Anand**

As an avid observer of humans, the filmmaker has come across many situations where people try to fit in too much. He has brought these thoughts to life in his film *That Doesn't Fit*, which creatively and humorously showcases scenes to point out societal obligations and bring out relatable moments in people's lives. It is a slapstick miscellany that's rife with satire and social commentary that challenges societal norms.



Ackshaj Anand is an enthusiastic animator and designer from the pleasant land of Bangalore, India. With a touch of whimsy, he has an avid passion for sketching and is interested in exploring all forms of storytelling, from animation and comics to tabletop and video games.

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L'ARMARI VIVENT / THE LIVING WARDROBE

Spain, United States | 2023 | 18 mins | Catalan, Spanish

Director: **Martí Madaula Esquirol**

The Living Wardrobe is an autofiction tale based on a personal experience the filmmaker had three years ago. During an art residency in Bilbao, he started dating a boy who, every morning after spending a night together at his place, would insist on leaving the filmmaker some of his clean clothes to go home. This dynamic, which at first amused Martí, began to disturb him when he realised that the boy never collected his garments. Using the image of a living wardrobe as its central metaphor, the short film grapples with the friction between keeping one's individuality and embracing new love.

Martí Madaula Esquirol published his first book, *Com conquerir l'espai* (*How to conquer space*), thanks to the Art Jove 2020 Creation Grant and the support of the Centre d'Art La Panera. He has shown his work in solo exhibitions such as *Tough, reliable and almost cuddly* (SITE 280 Gallery in Chicago, 2023), *To recover the bedsheets from Manchester* (Museum of Sabadell, 2021), *Stronger than air, thinner than ice* (Astronomical Observatory of UGent, 2019) or *How to conquer space* (Kolder Gent, 2019). In 2021 he was awarded a prestigious "la Caixa" Foundation fellowship to study an MFA in Film, Video, New Media, and Animation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he currently studies.

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THEN I WENT TO LIFE

Brazil | 2023 | 12 mins | Portuguese

Director: **Gabriel Borsatto**

By placing a mirror in front of desire, we follow five interviewees and six performers who engage in a dialogue about how the fine line between desire and compulsion is navigated. Considering the hyper exploitation of desire through applications, what is freedom within a capitalist system that “liberates” while also oppresses?

Gabriel is an actor with theatre training ongoing since 2007. Currently, he is in the process of staging his first theatrical monologue, directed by João Pedro Madureira, with original dramaturgy based on the work of Francisco Mallmann. In the audiovisual realm, he starred in *Depois Da Meia Noite*, by Mirela Kruehl, which was featured in several exhibitions and festivals such as the 24th Festival Mix Mexico and the 49th Gramado Film Festival, where he was nominated for the Legislative Assembly Award for Best Actor. Aside from acting, he is also a producer and director at Chance Productions, an independent production company involved in various projects at different stages of production and distribution, including animated series, documentary series, theatrical productions, and short films.

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UNEX.TEXT.ED ENCOUNTERS

United States | 2023 | 12 mins | English

Director: [Ria Mirchandani](#)

An unexpected romance, as told by the screen of an iPhone.



Ria is a Bombay-raised Brown University grad who has spent most of her life torn between places and passions – the past 13 years fluttering between the US and India while building a career as Product Manager in tech, and the past 31 years searching for what makes her come alive. It's coffee. Nothing makes her come alive more than coffee. But also, living a life inspired by art and creating art inspired by life. *Unex. text.ed Encounters*, her debut film that she wrote, directed, and produced with a small global team of animators and composers, embodies this spirit.

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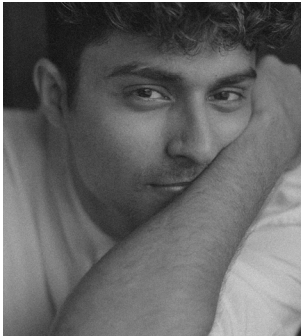


VAFANILA

India | 2024 | 26 mins | Malayalam

Director: [Arjun Prema Surendran](#)

Vafanila is the heartfelt story of Vafa and Nila, whose teacher-student bond blossoms into love. The film explores their deep bond through shared moments of intimacy and companionship, culminating in a heartbreaking twist of fate. It's a touching tale of love, loss, and the enduring power of memory.



[Arjun Prema Surendran](#) is a passionate director hailing from Kerala. With a deep-rooted love for storytelling and the visual arts, Arjun pursued his studies at LV Prasad Film Institute, where he honed his skills in filmmaking and direction. Arjun has recently made a significant mark in the industry with the release of a music video produced in collaboration with Saina Movies.

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VELIPĀDU: “THE REVELATION”

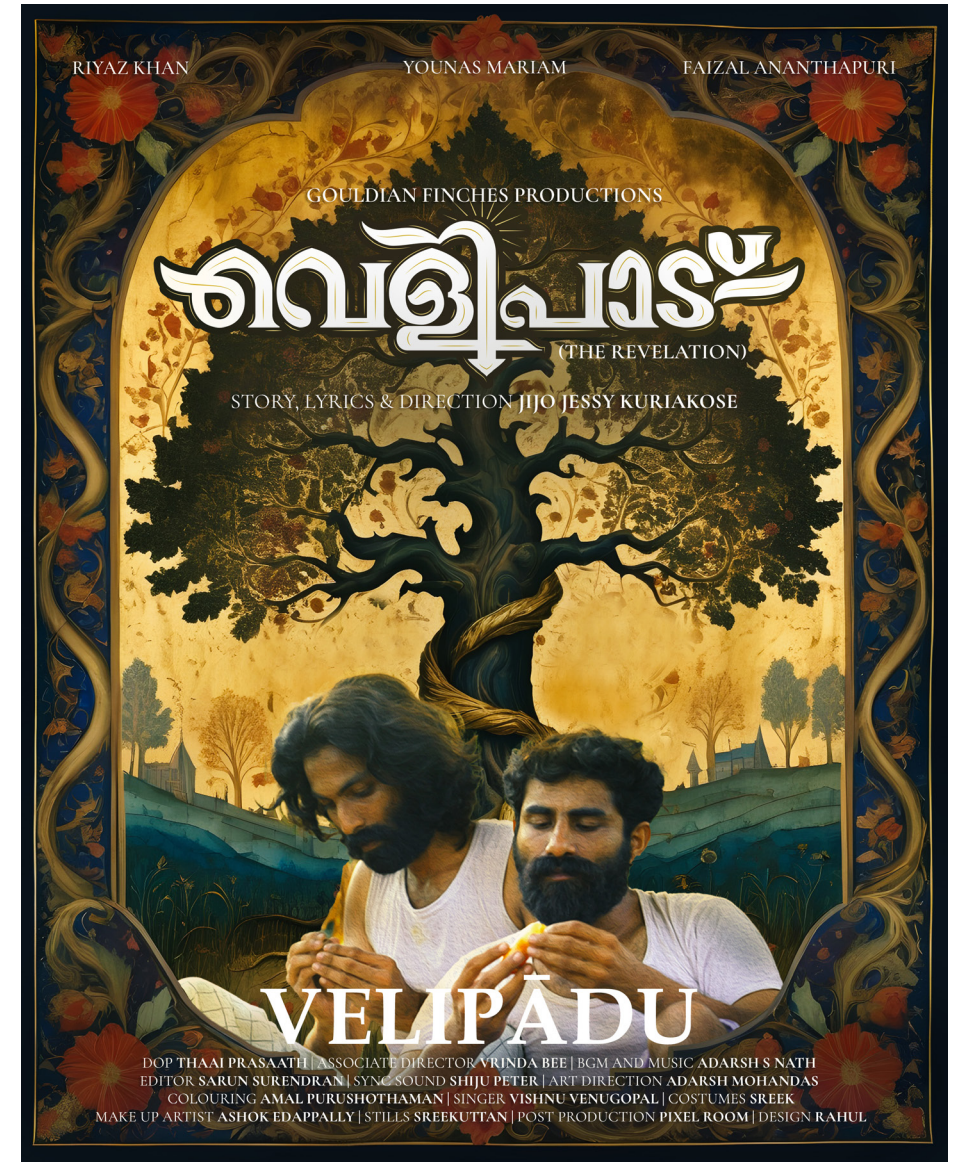
India | 2024 | 26 mins | Malayalam

Director: Jijo Jessy Kuriakose

Against the sensory landscape of Kottayam, Johnny, a soon-to-be priest, must navigate his way out of his dissonant life and towards self-discovery. The film reanimates Malayali gay desire through an expressionistic use of Christian music, intimate tastes and unabashed touches, while depicting delicate specifics of same-sex fondness. Resisting the popular narratives, the film discusses plural possibilities of romantic relationships. Interspersing semi-autobiography with fiction, *Velipādu: “The Revelation”* is a bitter-sweet rhapsody that sings of love and faith, both lost and regained like some Miltonic Paradise.

Jijo Jessy Kuriakose is an artist, photographer and filmmaker from Kerala. His previous works include *Njān Sānjo* (*I'm Sanjo*), a documentary film and *Amor-the Tune of Love* (a music video). He has curated a series of queer art exhibitions (2015 & 2018) titled *Homomorphism*, in Cochin, which focused on male bodies, same-sex intimacies and relationships among men. He also works on an ongoing photo series, *Androphilia*, which explores his subject of work - the male body and its diversity from the South Indian context. His artwork has been a part of several art exhibitions including *Living-Disobediently*, at the Queer Asia Conference, SOAS London (2017), *Between the Lines: a tribute to Manoj N'*, Gallery 7, Kerala (2019), and *Vichithra (Queer) Nation* by Engendered, New Delhi (2023).

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WHILE I'M STILL BREATHING

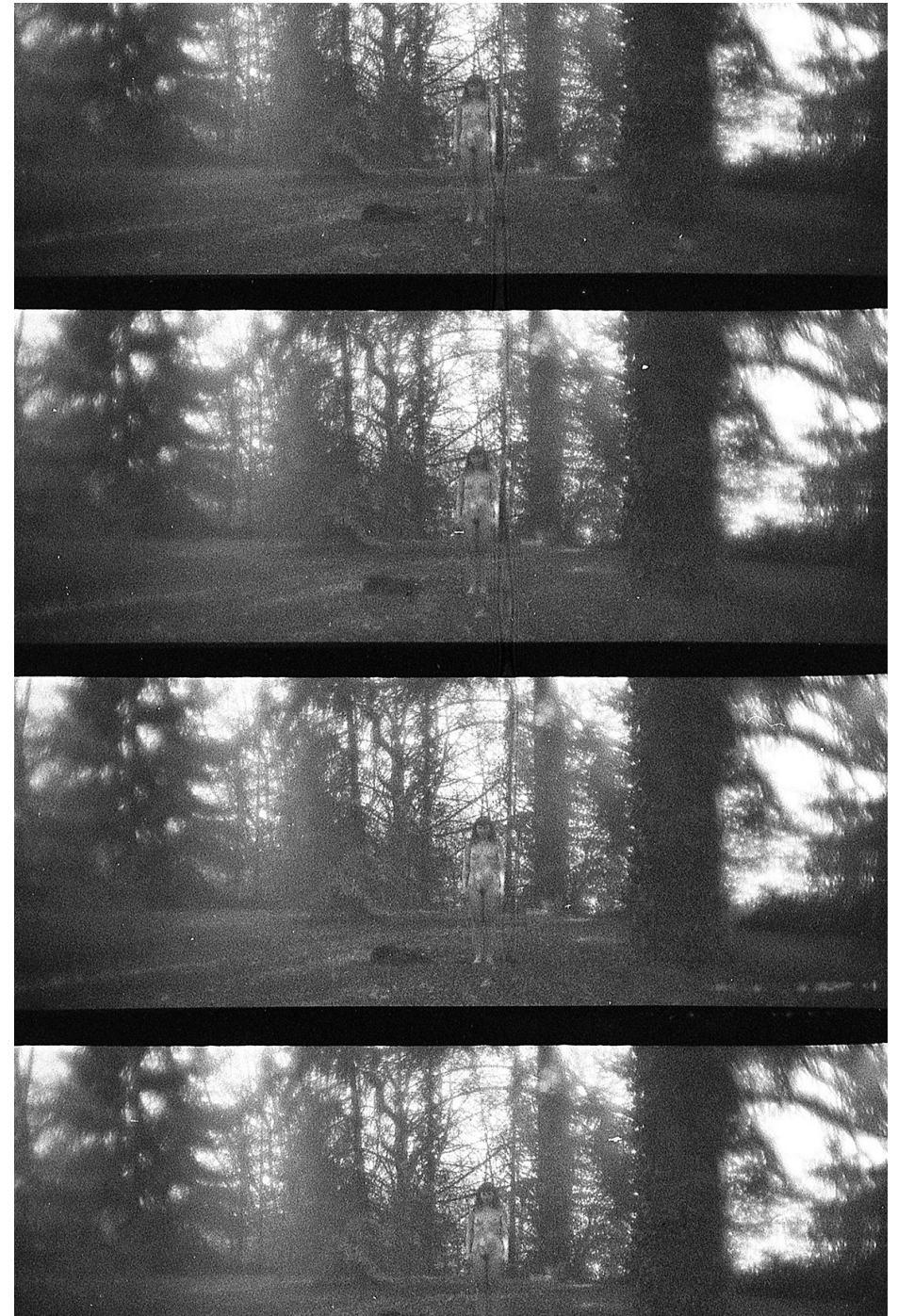
France | 2020 | 13 mins | French

Director: Laure Giappiconi + Elisa Monteil + La Fille Renne

In a three movement narrative, the film depicts the roughness and softness of the journey through a woman's sexuality. From that little girl inspired by the painted models of Paul Delvaux and Klimt, to her first sensual gestures as a teenager and her experience as a stripper, we gradually see a woman unfold. With great intimacy and sensitivity, she reveals herself through the sensual relationship to her own femininity and to those who once shared her intimacy.

La Fille Renne - photographer and tattoo artist, **Laure Giappiconi** - actress and author, and **Elisa Monteil** - sound designer and performer, form a film-making collective. Their research revolves around explicit representations of desire and takes various forms, at the crossroads of dissident poetry and visual performance. They are committed to highlighting bodies, identities and sexualities that are outside normative representations. They develop a singular aesthetic, shooting exclusively on film, LomoKino or Super 8, fixing timeless, feminist and queer images in these layers of chemistry. They have made six short films - *Vivante*, *Sirène*, *Amour*, *Tandis que je respire encore*, *Les corps dansants*, and *Fluidité* - which have been shown in festivals around the world, from Berlin to Montreal, including the Sundance Festival, the IFF in Rotterdam, Athens, Bogota, Chennai, Lahore, Istanbul, Warsaw.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the filmmakers for sending in their fantastic films and agreeing to be a part of this community-funded, volunteer-run festival. An extra shout out to our regulars!

Thanks to
Dhruv Solanki, for *It's all in your head* and Nithin Manayath, for his recommendation
Christon M Joseph, for *Menu*, and Afrad VK, for his recommendation
MK Abhilash, for *Kuuk Aah?*
John Greyson for *Photo Booth*
Autlook Filmsales for *Sirens*, and Vaishali Sinha, for connecting us with the film's director Rita Baghdadi
Lydia Matata for *Sungura*
Chica Andrade for *We Are All Here*
Marguerite de Saint André & Gilke Geeraerts, for *Pink Ulysses*

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Much love to all those who've donated their hard earned money towards keeping this festival going. It's what has helped us stay independent!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to our volunteers, who show up like bright pennies each year. You make things easy, breezy, lemon-squeezy!

And to you, our lovely audience for keeping this festival going, for showing up each and every year!

Take a bow, baby!



THE B'LORE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

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