

# QUEER

Film Festival Kathmandu



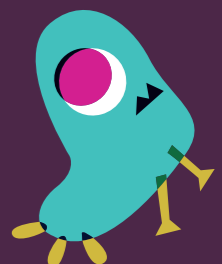
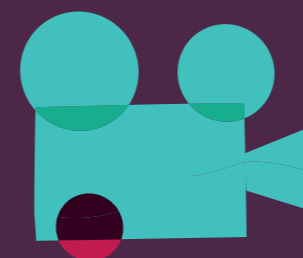
6-9 December 2024

Yalamaya Kendra | Documentary Open school



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## WELCOME

The multidisciplinary of cinema is most definitely best reflected by queer cinema. With call to action at the heart, queer cinema not only challenges the orthodoxy of cinema's pressing stagnancy all the while empowering as films of resistance.

A large selection of the films at Queer Film Festival Kathmandu are personal narratives told as oral histories. Stylised as animations, surreal film, multidisciplinary art works – they push the boundaries of storytelling in many fronts. From deconstructing heteronormativity of cinema to pushing decolonization of creative expression queer films generate significant punch oriented towards regeneration. It is our pleasure to present Kathmandu's first dedicated festival for Queer Cinema, a journey which Docskool has been on since 2011. The last year has been highly revigorating as so many queer campaigners, cultural workers from Nepal and filmmakers, film organiser's from across the world helped us bring this event to life. Our since acknowledgement goes to the bunch of collaborators at Something Like a Film Festival 2023 who encouraged us to design an independent festival dedicated to Queer cinema.

Seventeen programmed packages have been presented showcasing large variety of short and feature films. Short programmes are designed based on thematic similarities that emphase various attributed of LGBTQI+ culture, historical importance, collective history of LGBTQI+ community and celebration of the body. 'S/He is Still Her/e – The official Genesis P-Orridge Documentary' on the life of transgressive artist/ expressionist, Genesis P-Orridge and their art's emphasis on express with their bodies shown earlier (2024) at Sheffield Documentary Festival and Tribeca Film Festival is among many projects we find highly influential in countering notions of heteronormativity in art practice and cinema at large.

We open the festival with a Fawzia Mirza's 'Queen of my Dreams' (Canada/ Pakistan). The film opens wide spectrum of the queer dialog, pushing much needed frontiers of discussions on identity, race, social conditioning and sexuality in the South Asian diaspora.

Deeply appalled by the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the Zionist expansionism the world is being forced to accept - we close the festival with 'Fadia's Tree', a British Palestine film by Sarah Buckingham which unearths life in occupied spaces in Palestine and refugee camps in Lebanon.

Apart from pre-designed events the festival is an open space for art, dialogues, performances to unravel. We encourage all to participate and Thank You for tuning in.

## PEOPLE



Queer Film Festival Kathmandu is presented by Docskool (Documentary Open School). We are thankful for the support provided by Movies that Matter and LOOM to bring this festival to life.

The festival is for most part guided by volunteers whose unhinged dedication makes this possible.

Artistic Director of Festival – Kshitiz Adhiraj  
Head of Festival - Jyotsna Maskay

Selection Panel: Dia Yonzan, Bhumika Shrestha, Manisha Shrestha, Abhimanyu Dixit, Rinki Lama

Docskool BOD focal person - Pashupati Rai, Deependra BK  
Advisors - Gaurav Kandel, John Badalu

Management - Sashul Shrestha  
Communication - Sony Gurung  
Programming - Shreetej Ratna Tuladhar  
Logistics - Binaya Jung Nepali, Sujal Rijal  
Account - Kalpana Sah  
Festival poster design - Kazi Studio

Programming Collaborators:  
The Film Collaborative  
Square Eyes  
Outplay Films  
Chicken and Egg

**Docskool**  
Documentary Open School

**movies  
that  
matter**



# OPENING FILM

## The Queen of my Dreams

FRI | 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards  
Nepal Premiere

It is a long-established fact that a reader will be distracted by the readable content of a page when looking at its layout. The point of using Lorem Ipsum is that it has a more-or-less normal distribution of letters, as opposed to using 'Content here, content here', making it look like readable English.

Dir: Fawzia Mirza | Canada, Pakistan | 2023 | Urdu with English Subs. | 97 min.  
No content warning

Before the feature:  
Festival opening ceremony. Welcome Note. 30 min.



# CLOSING FILM

## Fadia's Tree

SUN | 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards | Docskool

While millions of birds migrate freely in the skies, a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon, yearns for the ancestral homeland she is denied. She challenges Sarah, the Director, to find an ancient mulberry tree that stands as witness to her family's existence - with only inherited memories, a blind man and a two-headed dragon as her guides. Along the way, Sarah meets with ornithologists whose observations on the homing instincts of the birds spell out the unresolved problems of the region. Spanning fifteen years, this story of a friendship that stays connected across a divided land and a fragmented people adopts a birds' eye perspective to reflect on freedom of movement, exile and the hope of return.

Dir: Sarah Beddington | Palestine, UK, Lebanon | 2023 | English | 82 min. | Documentary  
Includes: Discussions on death, killing, memory of losing loved one, Gun wounds

After the feature:  
Solidarity with Palestine, Festival Closing.

**Followed by Closing event**  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER:

Empty rectangular box for Friday 6 December schedule.

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER:

Empty rectangular box for Sunday 8 December schedule.

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER:

Large empty rectangular box for Sunday 8 December schedule.



# FEATURE SHOWCASE

## Mama Bears

What happens when your child is gay or transgender, while you believe with your whole heart that that's a sin? Evangelical Christians Kimberly and Sara make a brave transition into loving 'Mama Bears'. Meanwhile, young Tammi struggles with self-acceptance and with her own mother. Heart-warming documentary about love's victory over hatred.

Dir: Daresha Kyi | USA | 2022 | English Subs. | 91 min. | Documentary  
Includes: Death, Hate speech

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ltg8aFSrLB0>



## Anhell 69

FRI | 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards  
Asia Premiere

A hearse cruises the streets of Medellín, while a young director tells his story in this city marked by conflicts, violence and paradoxes. He remembers his childhood and the discovery of his sexuality.

Dir: Theo Montaya | Colombia, Romania | 2022 | Spanish with English Subs. |  
75 min. | Documentary  
Includes: Nudity, Flesh (Gore), Blood, Drugs, fetish

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/6Psx7XxsjrM>

## Lesvia

FRI | 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards  
Asia Premiere

For centuries Lesbos islands in the village of Eressos, the birth place of Sappho the first female poet to write about love between women has been isolated from the rest of the world. In the mid-1970's, women from across the world began to arrive, in search for Sappho's traces. At first, the local inhabitants felt pride that these women had come to pay tribute to the great poet, born in their lands. But in the middle of the 1980s, more women flocked to the island, including filmmaker TzeliHadzidimitriou, a lesbian born and raised on the island. The women lived on the beach, there were no separations of class, country or ethnicity. Expressing larger social and political developments, they proudly claimed the right to be called lesbians and to express their identity. This was a radical experience, offering them absolute freedom from the prejudice they had experienced at home. At the same time, it led to open conflict with the local inhabitants, who felt threatened by the lesbians.

Dir: TzeliHadzidimitriou| Greece | 2022 | Greek with English Subs. | 75 min.| Documentary  
Incudes: Nudity, Confused or Homophobic statements

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/SeLIEWu-p2M>



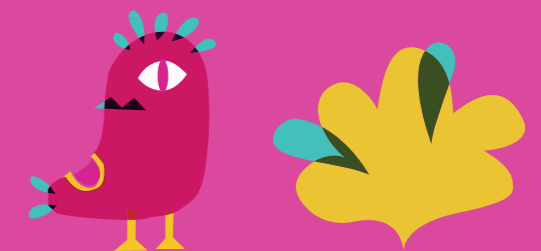
## If I die it will be of Joy

FRI | 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards  
Asia Premiere

Micheline 81 years old dreams of orgasms and tells anyone who will listen that she is burning with desire. Francis 70 a seasoned activist relentlessly challenges taboos surrounding old age. Yves 68 years old feeling like a shell on a stormy sea desperately seeks love. In a world that underestimates the power of the elderly they are part of a group of activists who defy prejudices dare to reinvent sexuality love and rethink old age.

Dir: Alexis Tailant| France | 2024 | French with English Subs. | 80 min.| Documentary  
Incudes: Nudity, Thoughts of death

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ziXo-RtsJos>



## Who I am Not

FRI | 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards  
Asia Premiere

Sharon-Rose Khumalo, a South African beauty queen, plunges into an identity crisis after finding out she is intersex. In her quest to deal with gender dysphoria, she needs the guidance of somebody just like her.

The only person who will help is Dimakatso Sebidi, a masculine presenting intersex activist who turns out to be her complete opposite. The two parallel but divergent stories offer an intimate look at the struggle of living in a male-female world, when you are born in-between.

Dir: Tunde Skovran | South Africa, Romania | 2023 | English | 103 min. | Documentary  
Includes: Homophobic statements, Infertility

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/I1clkXltPE>



## Before We Move

FRI | 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards  
Asia Premiere

The story of Queer Tango dancers in St. Petersburg, dancing in the face of prejudice in the hope of greater acceptance for the LGBTQI+ community.

The Queer Tango movement takes the popular dance and reinterprets it as both a provocation and celebration. Otar and Misha are members of this community who challenge the conventions of the traditional tango community. The euphoric feeling of the dance notwithstanding, there is genuine concern regarding the safety of this beautiful expression of intimacy, sensuality and joy, in a country which does not provide anti-discrimination protection and where homophobia is rife.

Dir: Aleksandr M. Vinogradov | Belgium | 2022 | Russian with English Subs. | 97 min. | Documentary  
Includes: Homophobia, Police brutality

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/mUFiEccmlgk>



## S/He Is Still Her/e: Official Genesis P-Orridge Documentary

FRI | 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. | 4:00 p.m. onwards  
Asia Premiere

Founder of the COUM Transmissions artistic collective, leader of the industrial band Throbbing Gristle, and the experimental pop-rock band Psychic TV, Genesis P-Orridge was an English singer-songwriter, musician, poet, performance artist, and occultist. Genesis was also a parent, best friend, and enigma. Through archival videos, photos and intimate conversations with those who knew them, this documentary unveils the legacy of a true iconoclast, one who shattered societal norms and redefined the boundaries of creative and corporeal expression. As someone who was able to embrace the constant change within themselves, Genesis' existence was often too provocative for those around them. What makes a life and a legacy like Genesis'?

The film traces the shape of a truly massive existence that feels almost unbelievable to view through such up-close and intimate storytelling. Conversations with Genesis, in their 70s and nearing the end of their life, open up a deep meditation on mortality from the brilliant mind of a revolutionary in their own words.

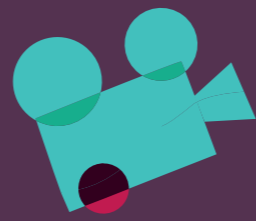
Dir: David Charles Rodrigues | USA | 2024 | English | 99 min. | Documentary  
Includes: Transgressive Art, Blood, Loud Music, Graphic scenes of hurting oneself, explores themes of Self-destruction, Discussions of death, Drug abuse, Flashing lights

Trailer: [https://youtu.be/gj\\_fxDoQ8jQ](https://youtu.be/gj_fxDoQ8jQ)



# 'BAM-BAM'

## SHORT FILM PROGRAMMES



Pick a short's program that best suits your interest. Each program lasts between 60 – 90 mins. Program designs approach diverging facets of Queer experience. Book a Bam-Bam seat in advance, they are free.

### 1. Bodies – mysteries

The manifestation of love can be a gentle touch of the hand, desire to never let go or carnal trans sex. From first trans explorations to being with someone for life, the desire to be together, to be comfortable sharing one's body underscores the value of love.

Includes a 10-minute break.

(In) Convenience – Dir. Alexandra Greenspan | USA year | 12'  
Honeymoon – Dir. Alkis Papastathopoulos | Greece year | 25'  
Longing – Dir. Courteney Tan | UK year | 12'  
Ticker – Dir. Thom Petty | UK year | 10'  
My Old Gals – Dir. Natasza Parzymies | Poland year | 24' (Student Film)  
Hate – Dir. Emiliano Sisofi | Italy Year | 8'

Includes: Sex and nudity



### 2. Partners kicking ... connecting the dots

A voyage into the grand struggle of trans people world over where space, partners, interstellar journeys all seemingly make the difference. The Queer movement forges on our collective synergy of the camaraderie between companions coming together to kick some brutal ass. These films bask on the multiplicity of our companionship.

No break

Basera – Dir. Jaishree Kumar | India | 24'  
Buffer Zone – Dir. Elise Notseck | Cyprus Year | 16'  
Ted and Noel – Dir. Julia Alcamo | UK Year | 25' (documentary)  
BLUSH (extraordinary Voyage) – Dir. Iiti Yli-Harja | Finland year | 15' (student)  
My mother's Girlfriend – Dir. Arun Fulara | India 2021 | 15'  
Never Stop Shouting – Dir. Abdellah Taia | Morocco year | 10'

Includes: Sex and Nudity



### 3. Nothing more dignified than breaking boundaries



The manifestation of love can be a gentle touch of the hand or desire to never let go. We have all cruised past the inevitability of confrontation. This empowers, energises who we are, our identity is restored by our belief on choices we make. This program including Arkesta by Nepal's Safal Panday bring together collective experiences of no longer wanting to stay silent.

Adjustment – Dir. Hasan Mohammadi | Iran Year | 16'

Gigi – Dir. Cynthia Calvi | France Year | 14'

Arkesta – Dir. Safal Panday | Nepal Year | 18'

Neuromance – Dir. Brodie Pyke | Australia Year | 13'

The Device that turned into a Cyborg Was born the same year as I was – Dir. Chella Man | USA | 3'

Original Skin – Dir. MdhamiriNkemi | UK Year | 12'

Strange – Dir. Ken Ochiai | Japan year | 15'



### 4. Whores, Neon Banana's

'The warmth of a setting sun' is for the dimly hearted. Resonating with deep tissue complicated yet seemingly ordinary choices in LGBTI relationships, these films are soul soup on daily encounters. Emboldened by the power to be fluid, being non-binary is about living in the contemporary – making choice's which matter to ourselves.

Warsha – Dir. Dania Bdeir | Lebanon Year | 16'

Manting – Dir. Shuyao Chen | China Year | 14'

House of Whoreship – Dir. Holly Bates | Australia Year | 15'

Blue Hour – Dir. Stacey Ruschack | Poland Year | 27'



## 6. Heavier than sand



The manifestation of love can be a gentle touch of the hand or desire to never let go. From first trans explorations to being with someone for a long time, the desire to be together, to be comfortable sharing one's body underscores majority of films here.

Wet Hair – Dir. Julian Dieterich | Germany Year | 6'

MASC4MASC – Dir. Felix AugustinGreiesinger | Sweden year | 8'

Y – Dir. Matea Kovac | Croatia Year | 6'

Pipes – Dir. Kilian Feusi | Switzerland Year | 4'

Moti, Dubli, Kali, Gori .. Nepali Women reclaim their Bodies – Dir. Nirvana Bhandari | Nepal Year | 12'



## 7. Tides sweep – All away

The manifestation of love can be a gentle touch of the hand or desire to never let go. From first trans explorations to being with someone for a long time, the desire to be together, to be comfortable sharing one's body underscores majority of films here.

Bubbling – Dir. Che-ming Chang | Taiwan Year | 23'

Chhesang – Dir. Rajeela Shrestha | Nepal 2024| 12'

The Sketch – Dir. Tomas Cali | France Year | 8'



## 8. Queer Loop

The manifestation of love can be a gentle touch of the hand or desire to never let go. From first trans explorations to being with someone for a long time, the desire to be together, to be comfortable sharing one's body underscores majority of films here.

Yatra – Dir. LSM, Sahayog Raj Adhikari | Nepal Year | 22'

Nothing but Equality – Dir. Florencia Gadea | Argentina year | 25'

Flores del Otro Patio – Dir. Jorge Cadena | Switzerland, Colombia Year | 15'

There are things to do – Dir. Mike Syers | USA Year | 17'

Qeluar (Out) – Dir. Justice Khor | Malaysia, UK Year | 21'



## OTHER HAPPENINGS

### TALKS/DIALOGUES

#### An Overview of Queer Cinema in Nepal and their challenges

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type and scrambled it to make a type specimen book. It has survived not only five centuries, but also the leap into electronic typesetting, remaining essentially unchanged. It was popularised in the 1960s with the release of Letraset sheets containing Lorem Ipsum passages, and more recently with desktop publishing software like Aldus PageMaker including versions of Lorem Ipsum.

#### The 'Q' in LGBTQIA+ (dummy title)

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#### Indreni Hatiya (Queer art + Market)

Indreni Hatiya is a flea market which will be setup on 7<sup>th</sup> December inside the premises of Yalamaya Kendra, Courtyard where products made by the Queer artist will be made available to the visitors during the festival. The Indreni Hatiya also includes performing art, live portrait. (dummy text)



# VENUES



## Yalamaya Kendra, Patan Dhoka

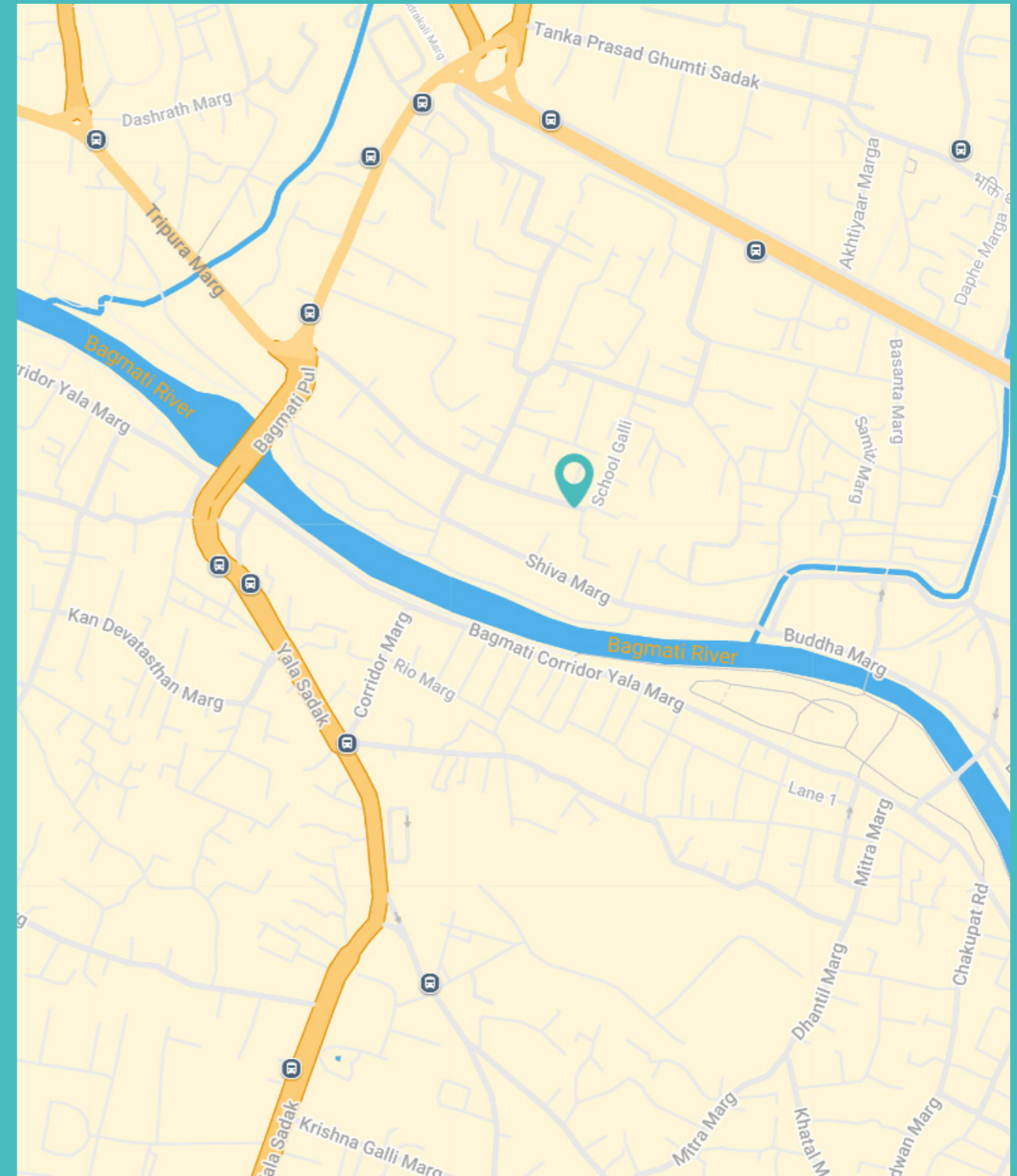
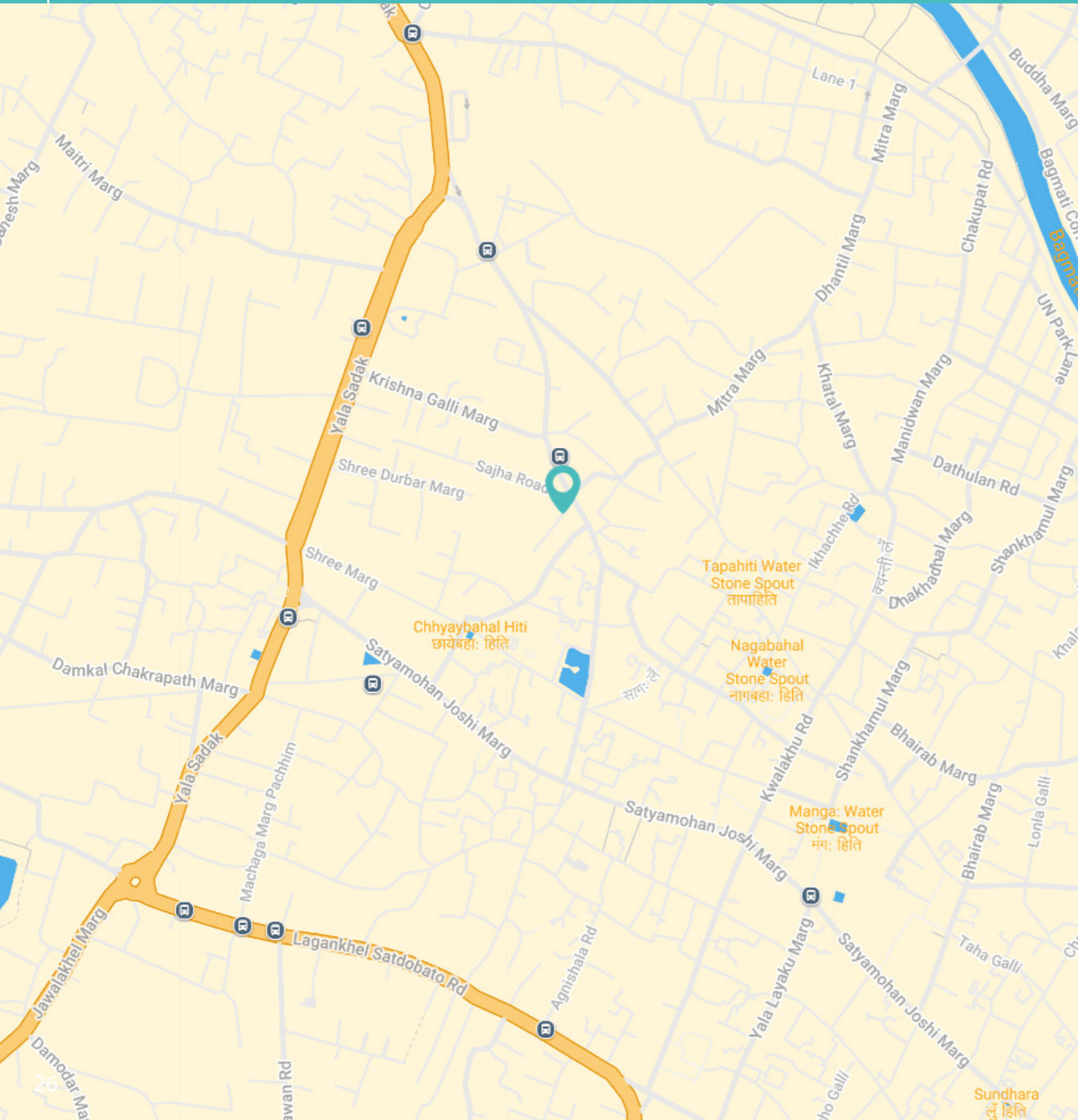
Happening here:

Film shows

Marketplace on 7<sup>th</sup> December 11:00 – 4:00

Discussions (Topics TBD)

Festival Opening



## Documentary Open School

Happening Here:

Evening Film shows in the open (7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>)

Film Shows: All day 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. (rerun of select features)

