

# QUEER

Film Festival **Kathmandu**

15 - 24 Jan, 2026



**Festival Catalog**

## **Welcome**

A big welcome to everyone to our distinctively diverse, second edition of queer film festival Kathmandu.

We are very happy to be able to present this edition despite the many uncertainties we faced both as an institution and changes leading to our initial dates. Looking forward, we now have a diverse mix of 170 films from across the planet selected from over 800 projects that were submitted this year.

The festival brings further joy to the team as the festival also opens at our new art cinema theater, Airavat Picture House in Kathmandu. The picture house has been a long aspiration for most of us at Docskool as we have been working on a space which provides much needed variety to cinema goers, and privacy and security to the sort of materials we show at Queer film festival Kathmandu and to many of our visitors.

This festival would not have been possible without the 10 amazing people who joined us as members of the film selection committee and took upon them the humongous task of overseeing 800 + films.

A big shout out also to our festival team, who have bared with us as we had to be flexible with the dates and to a certain degree with the new construction ongoing at Docskool.

Welcome to queer film festival Kathmandu folx and enjoy !!!

Jyotsna Maskay

Kshitiz Adhiraj

## **People**

### **Organising Committee**

Gaurav Kandel, Pashupati Rai, Pratiik Thapa, Abhimanyu Dixit  
Jyotsna Maskay, Kshitiz Adhiraj

### **Film Selection Committee**

Deepa Shrestha, Birat Bijay Ojha, Ankit Khadgi, Barkha Mukhia, Abhisek  
Budathoki, Simran Sherchan, Dia Yonzon, Sandeep Shrestha, Bishal  
Roka Magar

### **Festival Team**

Sashul Shrestha, Pinki Sris Rana, Bomjar Boje, Bhagirathi Pandit,  
Prashant Pun Magar

### **Co-Directors**

Jyotsna Maskay, Kshitiz Adhiraj

Queer Film Festival Kathmandu is organised by Docskool as part of the women and queer filmmaker support initiative.



Supported by



Festival Companion



# **Festival Programme**

The festival's line-up consists of 170 films presented as 9 short programs and 23 feature documentaries. Films are being shown at three venues, with Airavat Picture House as the primary venue.

Short Program programs are:

## **Queer Loop**

The program presents films closely associated with the LGBTQIA+, queer movement. It includes personal stories alongside movement documentation from Nepal, South Asia and around the world. This year the segment also includes fiction and video projects which closely address key aspects of the LGBTQIA+ movement.

## **Shape – Shifters**

Very so often, a sudden push – a jolt can make complex challenges easier. The segment features projects of people whose acts have challenged the normalcy – building newer platforms of identity, recognition for many.

## **Whores, neon- bananas**

The warmth of a setting sun' is for the dimly hearted. Queer relations are emboldened by the seemingly ordinary complexity of choices we take to build relationships. Our choices are what define us, it shapes the world we wish to cherish. The freedom to be fluid, being non-binary is living in the contemporary – making choice's which matter to us.

## **Bodies – desire – Pulses**

This short's program includes films focusing on love and being seen. The manifestation of love can be a gentle touch of the hand or a desire never to let go. From first queer encounters to a lifelong romance underscores these films. This collection presents a wider

definition of love where queer romance delves deeper than bodily exchange.

## **Would you still Love me !**

Explore the sense of identity beyond the binary normative. Under this theme, there are films that revolve around personal memories, exploration of self-identity and individual relationship with our bodies. This cluster presents stories of people taking control of their identity as they force the society around them to acknowledge it.

## **A space to be**

For the most part – spaces define how we interact with the world around us. These spaces build memories, create lifelong friendships and at times are the bond to harsh realities we confront everyday. Here are films about these spaces we call home.

## **I – Video**

The queer ness of queer cinema breaks away not just from pre-conditioned beliefs, but also asks us to reimagine cinema. This reimagination is based on the belief that cinema free from control is an open accessible expression and for all. Filmmakers push all boundaries of the cinema medium in this category as we move beyond the binaries of storytelling, forms structures and at times even film as we know it.

## **Camaraderie Between**

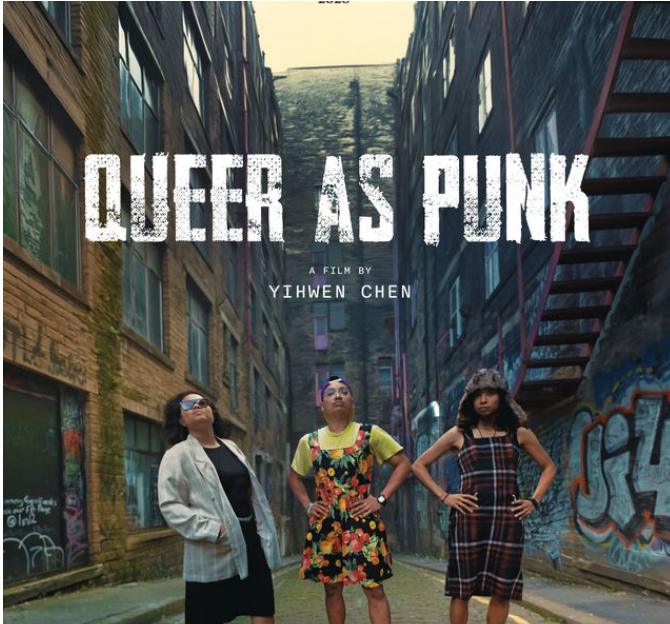
This segment celebrated comrades without whom the queer struggle is incomplete. Watch films of grandmothers, friends, lovers – who go to all lengths.

## Day 1 – 15 Jan, 026

[ 1:30 – 3:00]

Feature Showcase (**OPENING FILM**)

**Queer as Punk** (Doc89', Yihwen Chen, Malaysia)



Faris is the transman lead singer of an openly queer punk band 'Shh..Diam!' in Malaysia. Together with his bandmates Yon and Yoyo, they use their music to fight for LGBTQI+ rights in a country where human rights and freedom of expression is severely curtailed by a conservative Muslim society. Faced with increasing discrimination, Yoyo decides to leave Malaysia. Despite the challenges, Faris chooses to stay, determined to continue using their music as a platform for advocating for freedom and equality, refusing to let the pressures of society silence their voice.

Previously shown at:  
Berlinale 2025

**[3:15 – 4:30]**

**Shorts Program: Camaraderie Between**

- Shabnam (9', Ramuna Pun. Nepal)
- Two Travelling Aunties (22', Christine Seow. Singapore)
- Farewell Emile (25', Alexis Diop. France)
- SMS (21', Lucian Danila. Romania)



*Still: Shabnam*

**[4:45 – 5:15]**

**Shorts Program: I-Video**

- Naturally a Woman (6', Sarah Estrada. Mexico)
- Los Suenos (7', Maria Fernanda, Valle Jos. Argentina)
- Identity (7', Behdad Esfahbod. Canada)
- I am Tejimola (7', Aditav Dowerah. India)



*Still: I am Tejimola*

[5:30 – 6:45]

**Feature Showcase package**

Pussy Love (4', Linda Krauss. Germany)

**My Chest is Full of Sparks** (75', Gal S. Castellano. Mexico)



Director, Gal S. Castellanos turns the camera towards his family after his father's death. Days later, his mother escapes to Turkey to meet her secret Facebook lover. Mother and Gal, then communicate through video letters. These video correspondences reveal their attempts to see each other through a journey of self-discovery. The mother who gave up singing for motherhood, finds freedom away from home for the first time; and the director, in solitude, decides to transition genders in the midst of making this film.

Previously shown at:

Vancouver Latin American Film Festival,  
MixBrasil Festival

## Day 2 – 16 Jan, 026

### Technical Workshop [ 9:00 – 11:00]

Introductory workshop on Adobe Lightroom & DaVinci Resolve

### Seminar [11:15 – 1:15]

Experience sharing of playing LGBT characters in Nepali films  
With Bhumika Shrestha & Angel lama

### Feature Showcase [1:30 – 3:00]

**Warm Film** (Doc, 90', Dragan Jovičević/ Serbia)



When a Serbian tabloid attacks the production for making the film with a potential queer subject, the two young actors start exploring the topic of representation of LGBTIQ characters through the history of Yugoslav and later Serbian cinema, but also the social circumstances that have resulted in different treatments of these characters. The film digs deep what the presence of queers in cinema actually meant through the decades.

Previously shown at:  
Thessaloniki Documentary International Festival,  
KASHISH Pride Film Festival

### **Shorts Program: Space To Be [3:15 – 4:30]**

- Three Vendors of Ipanema (25', Jonathan S. Lee. Brazil)
- Grandma Nai Who Played Favourites (19', Chheangkea. Cambodia)
- Cristina (12', Giulio Golfieri. Spain)
- Heels to Heal (20', Justice Khor. Malaysia/ UK)



*Still: Grandma Nai Who Played Favourites*

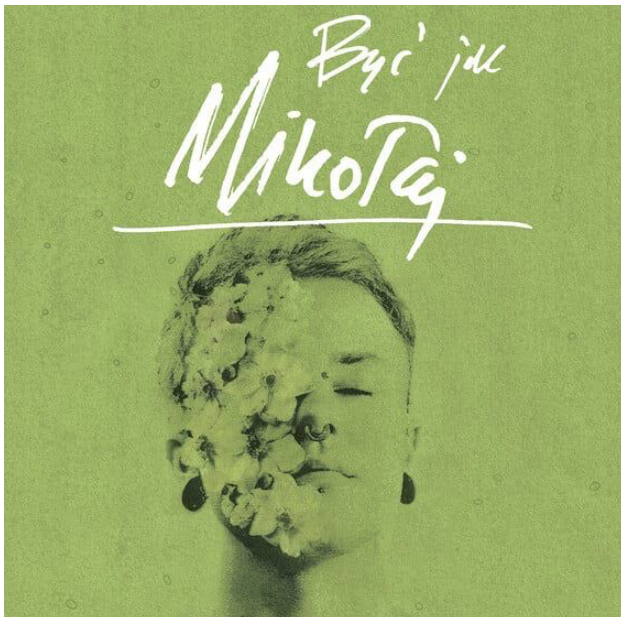
[ 4:45 – 6:45]

### **Evening Program: A Trip to the Caucasus**

- Andro (27 mins, Dominik Gasser. Germany, Georgia)
- Somewhere in the Caucasus (21', Tobias Timotej Frydl, Natalie Hallerova. Czech Republic/ Georgia)
- Being Mikolaj (57', Aurelia Frydrych-Zdanowska. Poland)

**Feature Showcase [5:45 – 6:45]**

**Being Mikolaj** (57', Aurelia Frydrych-Zdanowska. Poland)



In this coming-of-age film Mikołaj enters adulthood, and begins the fight for his future. Mikołaj faces typical challenges of youth, securing the first job, magic of first love, but also needs to confront the Kafkaesque judicial system that does not recognise his gender identity. But to keep fighting for justice, he must first reconcile with his father, Piotr. Will they be able to find common ground and grow up together? Can a simple conversation on a bench help avoid the greatest tragedy?

## Day 3 – 17 Jan, 026

[ 11:00 – 1:40 ]

### Special Program: Film School Favourites

- What are you Looking For? (Doc. 15', Iqran Rasheed. Portugal)
- Wing Shop (Anim. 5', Andrea Leon, Gabriela Rojas, Sascha Schmit / Chile, Spain)
- Last One There (Anim. 6', Corey Dostie. United States)
- Otro (Anim. 6', Pablo Chacon. Colombia)
- Luz Diable (Anim. 11', Patricio Gabriel Plaza, Paula Boffo, Gervasio Canda/ Argentina, Canada)
- Inday Opil Goes to Heaven (Fic. 20', Chickenligaya. Philippines)
- Tastes Like Pork (Fic. 11', Dante Dammit. United States)
- Three (Fic. 15', Amie Song. China, Unites States)



*Still: Wing Shop*

**Feature Showcase** [2:00 – 3:30]

**Beyond the Blues** (Doc. 64', Debalina Majumder. India)

Following Neel's journey from an Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB) person to a feminist non-masculinist transman, the documentary tells a story of breaking heteronormative gender roles, challenging transnormative stereotypes and revisiting queer feminist aspirations. The film explores identity and masculinity across two generations shaped by patriarchal norms. It touches upon citizenship challenges, while offering a rare and vital portrait of transmasculine lives in India that are often rendered invisible. It is a story that affirms resilience, hope, and the possibility of change.

**Previously shown at:**

15th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala



## Shorts Program [3:45 – 5:00]

- Warm Shadows (15', Aakash Chabra. India)
- Shabnam (9', Ramuna Pun. Nepal)
- Silent Flow: Transmen' Journey Through Menstruation (16', Pushpa Joshi. Nepal)

*Followed by Interaction & online Director's presentation*

## Feature Showcase [5:15 – 6:30]

**Everything Needs to Live** (Doc. 70', Tetyana Dorodnysina, Andrii Lytvynenko. Poland)



**Everything Needs to Live** portrays the unusual daily life of Anna Kurkurina, a charismatic athlete, ‘the strongest woman in the world’, an animal activist and an out lesbian. At the age of forty, she decided to pursue a career as a powerlifter and soon made it to the top by becoming a triple world champion. Since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Anna has been using the power of her popularity to help injured and abandoned animals.

Previously shown at:  
Krakow film festival,  
Docudays Film Festival,  
Verzio Film Festival

## 17<sup>th</sup> January – Alliance Francaise Kathmandu

Feature Showcase: [2:00 – 3:05] @ AFK

**Come Out of the Ghetto** (Doc, 65', Kevin Harry Schwarzstein. Germany)



Founded in Hamburg in the 1970s, the gay theater "Brühwarm" toured Germany with its musical cabaret. Founding member Corny Littmann wrote the lyrics and Rio Reiser ("Ton Steine Scherben") provided the music. The result was a new form of theater as a political tool. In the documentary, former members of the theater have their say and give an impressive account of how the theater group, with its emancipatory and political aspirations, fought for gay rights in the turbulent political times of the 1970s.

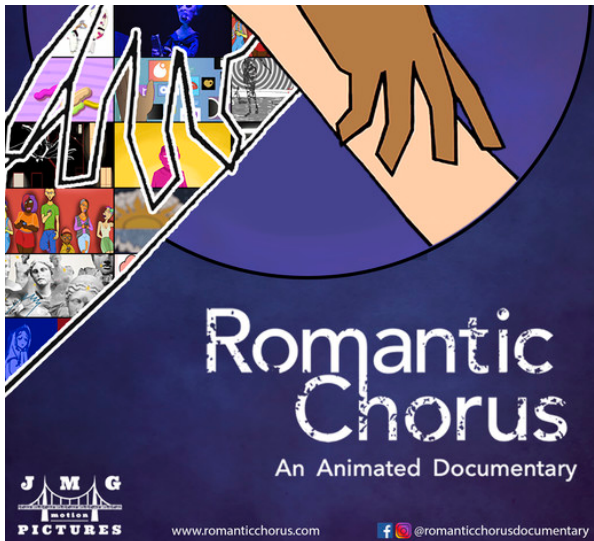
Previously shown at: Hamburg International Queer Film Festival

[3:15 – 3:45] @ AFK  
**Shorts Program**

Maghreb's Hope (Doc, 24', Bassem Ben Brahim. Tunisia)  
A Message (Video, 5', Mama Ganuush. Palestine)

**Feature Showcase [4:00 – 5:25]**

**Romantic Chorus** (Doc, 85', Jeff M. Giordano. United States)



Romantic chorus is an animated feature-length documentary brought together by collaboration of production staff and 17 animators from around the world. The film focuses on sexuality and romantic connections featuring 21 diverse interviews from a wide range of genders, cultural backgrounds, abilities, and sexual orientations as they discuss sex, monogamy/polyamory, fear and technology.

Previously at: Melbourne International Animation Festival

[5:40 – 7:40] @ AFK

**Shorts Programme Package**

- Andro (Doc, 27', Dominik Gasser. Germany)
- The First Christmas of Noe (Fic, 9', Alexis Renou. France)
- Reve Party (Fic, 6', Florian Velasco, Fabien Le Mouel. France)



*Still: Andro*

**Feature Showcase: [5:40 – 7:40]**

**About Last Year** (Doc, 78', Beatrice Surano, Dunja Lavecchia, Morena Terranova. Italy)

Celeste, Giorgia and Letizia are three young women as different as they are linked by an awareness: as cisgender women, they are guests in the ballroom world. And yet, it is precisely here that they have found a safe space where they can be masters of their own bodies without judgment, prejudices or provocation. Here, to the irresistible rhythm of performance and dance, they have become sisters. Now that many novelties are approaching, they are about to embark on a journey that will make them grow and reflect on the choices they must make for their future.

Previously Shown at:

The Venice International Film Critics' Week,  
Festival di Cinema e Donne di Firenze,  
Premio Libero Bizzarri Festival



## 17<sup>th</sup> January – Blue Diamond Society

(Precise Screening time will be decided by the organiser)

### Shorts Program [ 11:00 - onwards]

- Shabnam (9', Ramuna Pun. Nepal)
- Two Travelling Aunties (22', Christine Seow. Singapore)
- LGBT Movement documentation (WIP film) by Docskool fellows (27')

### Interaction, Seminar [12:00 – 1:30]

Drawing parallel's between the Queer and feminist movement of Nepal.  
(*Umisha Pandey and Anu in conversation with Jyotsna Maskay*)

*Co-hosted with Blue Diamond Society*

### Feature Showcase (1:40 – 2:45)

**Beyond the Blues** (Doc. 64', Debalina Majumder. India)

*Find project information in Page 14*

### Shorts Program (3:00 – onwards)

- Jo's Turn (Fic, 15', Vinoo Choliparambil. India)
- Farewell Emile (25', Alexis Diop. France)
- Maghreb's Hope (Doc, 24', Bassem Ben Brahim. Tunisia)
- Diverse House (Doc. 28', Carmen Vida. Spain, Paraguay)
- Heels to Heal (20', Justice Khor. Malaysia/ UK)
- Last Day of Us (Fic, 8', Shiao-ya Maggie Huang/ Korea)

## Day 4 – 18 Jan, 026

**Workshop** [ 9:00 – 11:00]

Film Appreciation and Queer Lens in Cinema

*Co-hosted with Film Critics Society of Nepal*

[ 11:30 – 1:20]

**Shorts Program: The World of Kardolaimis**

- Rotting Love (Experimental Anim. 8', Lampros Kardolaimis)
- Escape from Eden (Experimental Anim. 9', Lampros Kardolaimis)

*Followed by Interaction with Filmmaker*

**Shorts Program: Shape Shifters**

- We will go down in History (Doc, 25', Cameron Richards, Charlie Tidmas. UK)
- Boxing Against the Binary (Doc, 18', Esmee Van Loon, Netherlands)
- Under the Neon Light (Doc, 22', Amire Fuenzalida. Chile)
- Too Disgusting to be Confused (Doc, 12', Maya Avidov. UK)



Feature Showcase [ 1:30 – 3:00]

**Under the Moonlight** (Doc. 87', Tonny Trimarsanto. Indonesia)



At an Islamic school in Yogyakarta, all adult students are transgender. Here, the community lives, works, prays, and supports one another in ways they choose, a complete contradiction compared to the world outside the territories of the school. Seeing life through the eyes of Nur, a transgender person, we witness the violence faced by the transgender community. Through everyday moments of cooking, worshipping, singing, and laughter, the film captures resilience, joy, and dignity.

Previously shown at:  
IDFA Amsterdam,  
Queer East

[3:15 – 4:50]

**Shorts Program: Queer Loop**

- A Message (Video 5', Mama Ganuush, Palestine)
- Terf/ Antiterf (Video 10', Lucien. France)
- Yasak Ask – Forbidden Love (Doc. 16', Yavuz Kurtulmus. Turkey)
- In the Quiet ( Video 18', Keith Justus Wako. Malawi)
- Sama Bella (Doc.15', Pia Duran. Philippines)
- Sing, Lola Sing! (Doc. 27', Paloma Castro. Mexico)



*Still: In the Quiet*

Feature Showcase [ 5:05 – 6:10]

**Interpreting Erik** (Doc. 58', Donald D' Haene. Canada)



Interpreting Erik is a family documentary that tells the story of Erik, life-long displaced & oh-so-talented family member while intertwining with the family's journey after his death. Through the loss of one of their own, the film urges us to see people experiencing homelessness not as an end result, but as individuals who were once beautiful, creative, gifted, and deeply loved—people like us. Humans. Erik was not nothing; he was everything.

Previously shown at:

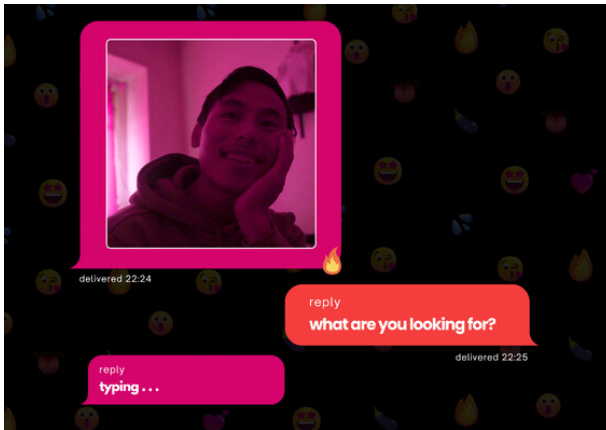
Swedish International Film Festival (SIFF),  
New York International Film Awards,  
Twilight Tokyo Film Festival,  
Hong Kong International Film Carnival

## Day 5 – 19 Jan, 026

[11:00 – 12:50]

### Shorts Program: Young Voices

- Neither Perfect nor Imperfect (Fic, 25', Jerell M. Cussoy-Poulan. Indonesia)
- Yee-Ha! (Anim, 2', Ana Ruiz Sanchez, Charlie Ben Jazia, Clémence Lépine, Maximilien Delmas, Victoria Salvanès. Canada)
- What are you looking for? (Doc, 15', Iqran Rasheed. Portugal)
- PuzzLeak: The Rape Palace (Doc, 15', Kote Comacho, Anonymous. Spain)
- If I Were a Voice (Fic, 20', Denbert Tiamson. Philippines)
- The Last story on Earth (Fic.18', Aaron Immediato, US)
- Never Give Up (Fic, 10', Robbie Gibbon. United States)



*Still: Never Give Up*

[1:00 – 2:30]

**Special Program: Screening of Films from women make Films.**  
*Followed by a panel of discussion with young women filmmakers from Nepal. (Co-presented with YUWA)*



Feature Showcase [2:45 – 4:15]

**Turn Around** (Doc. 70', Jiamin Hu. China)



Turn Around is a documentary about bodies, institutions, and the ethics of looking. The film follows Kane as they undergo gender affirmation surgery at Shanghai's Hospital, entering the operating room and recovery ward to quietly observe an experience that is both deeply intimate and highly institutionalised. In moments of waiting and transition, the body turns tentatively and insistently, while its relationship to the world is gradually reshaped.

*Co-Presented with Tran Men Initiative. Includes a post screening discussion.*

**[4:30 – 5:30]**

**Shorts Program: Would you Still Love Me?**

- Abraham (Fic, 13', Reza Gamini, Elnaz Ghaderpour. Iran)
- The Rainless Rainbow (Fic, 15', Levilou D. Corpuz. Philippines)
- Good Time Has Come (Fic, 15', Aran Vetri Selvakumar. India)
- The Silent Flow... (Doc, 16', Pushpa Joshi. Nepal)



*Still: Abraham*

**Feature Showcase [5:45 – 7:15]**

**The Queen of Amazonas** (Doc, 90', John Agudelo. Colombia)

In the Amazonian border shared between Colombia, Peru, and Brazil, an indigenous trans beauty pageant is born that challenges age-old prejudices. Saray, Ariadna, and Ashley— trans girls belonging to different ethnicities, travel to Leticia to compete for the coveted crown. Between rehearsals, reflections, and painful memories, their fight to be crowned ‘The Queen of Amazonas’ becomes a political act of resistance providing an intimate portrait of the infinite diversity that flourishes in the Amazon.



# LA REINA DEL



# AMAZONAS

LINA COPRODUCCIÓN DE CANAL TRO Y LALUNAR FILMS

**DIRECTOR:** JOHN AGUDELO SUÁREZ **PRODUCCIÓN:** JOHANNA QUINTERO CEPEDA **INVESTIGACIÓN:** JOHN AGUDELO SUÁREZ **PRODUCCIÓN EJECUTIVA:** CAROLINA JOYA  
**PROTAGONISTAS:** THAISY SARAY ARMAS DÍAZ, ASHLEY CATALINA YACATE HUANIRI, ARIADNA MICHELL SILVA MARÍN **PARTICIPANTES:** AQUILINO ARMAS DÍAZ,  
NILSON SILVA MARÍN, JOHAN SEBASTIAN BORA, JHON JAIRO SILVA GÓMEZ, KENIA ALMEIDA, ADRIAN YACATE HUANIRI, JOSÉ RODRIGO BARZÓN.  
**COORDINADORA DE PRODUCCIÓN:** KATHERINE QUINTERO **ASISTENTE DE PRODUCCIÓN:** CARLOS HERNÁNDEZ **PRODUCTOR CANAL TRO:** ANGELO MANCIPE  
**DIRECTORA DE PROGRAMACIÓN CANAL TRO:** LINA RAMÍREZ **COORDINADORA DE PROYECTOS CANAL TRO:** ANGELO BUITRAGO  
**DIRECCIÓN DE FOTOGRAFÍA:** CARLOS GALVÁN LUZ **ASISTENTE DE FOTOGRAFÍA:** SEBASTIAN CÁRDENAS **SONIDISTA:** CARLOS CANTOR **MONTAJE:** JOHN AGUDELO SUÁREZ  
**ASISTENTE DE MONTAJE:** ALEJANDRO HERRERA **CORRECCIÓN DE COLORES:** JUAN CARLOS GARCÍA **DISEÑO SONORO Y MEZCLA DE SONIDO:** JORGE LÓPEZ URIBE  
**MÚSICA ORIGINAL:** DENISSE DANIELA VERA **PIEZAS MUSICALES:** PEDRO BERNAL

ESTA PELÍCULA FUE REALIZADA GRACIAS AL FONDO REGIONES SIN LÍMITES DEL MINISTERIO TIC DE COLOMBIA



## 19<sup>th</sup> January – Blue Diamond Society

(Precise Screening time will be decided by the organiser)

**Feature Showcase** [12:00 - onwards]

**Being Mikolaj** (57', Aurelia Frydrych-Zdanowska. Poland)  
2<sup>nd</sup> screening of Being Mikolaj

### Shorts Program

- SMS (21', Lucian Danila. Romania)
- What are you looking for? (Doc, 15', Iqran Rasheed. Portugal)
- Warm Shadows (15', Aakash Chabra. India)
- Roses are ... (Fic. 40', Digvijay Andhorikar. India)
- Keith (Video Diary, 8', Steven Fraser. UK)
- Babaylan (Doc. 14', Franny Trinidad, Kelly Liu. United States)

## Day 6 – 20 Jan, 026

[9:00 – 11:30]

**Workshop:**  
**Participatory video-making as advocacy**

[11:45 – 1:00]

**Shorts Program: I-Video**

- Morph (Video, 12', Neptune. United States)
- Teleos-1 (Anim Video, 18', Niels Bierhaus. Netherlands)
- Keith (Video Diary, 8', Steven Fraser. UK)
- Twisted Distinction (Video, 7', Nicky Miller. Germany)
- Martial Forest (Video, 8', J Triangular. Colombia, Taiwan)
- Pandora (Video, 15', Margerita Ivanova. France, Morocco)



*Still: Pandora*

Feature Showcase [1:30 – 2:45]

**Barrunto** (Doc. 59', Emilia Beatriz. Puerto Rico, UK)



“Barrunto” is a word used in Puerto Rico to refer to a bodily unrest, an omen or a forecast sensed via signals present in the environment (such as when rain is forecast through aches and pains or when ants emerge anticipating an earthquake). “Barrunto” is a way of thinking with surface and subconscious, underfoot and underground.

*Barrunto* is a speculative narrative informed by poetry and theories of quantum entanglement across diasporic distance. An intimate exploration of grief and resistance in shifting landscapes of loss, from the streets to the bed; in sites of displacement, nuclear contamination and military occupation from Scotland to Puerto Rico; from the bottom of the ocean to the planet Uranus; using digital, archival and 16mm film hand-processed in “grief tea”.

Previously Shown at:  
Berlinale (Expanded Forum)

[3:00 – 3:45]

Shorts Program: **Bodies, Desires, Pulses**

- His Body (Fic, 23', Yuri Costa. Brazil)
- Kiss Me by the Sight (Fic, 22', Diamonds Bitch, Sapphire Cocks. Belgium)



*Still: Kiss me by the Sight*

[4:00 – 5:30]

**Feature Showcase**

**On the Path to Leo** (Doc. 90', Ana Barcenas Torres. Argentina)



At 17 years old, Leo begins his gender transition. A journey that challenges his mother Ana (the director) to confront her own fears and prejudices as she walks beside her son while he embraces his true identity. Using the archival material, videos and family photos, the documentary portrays an intimate perspective of parents on coming to terms with a child's gender transition. Originally titled 'En camino a Leo' received PROCINE and FOCINE grants and was showcased at Visions du Réel Film Market in 2025.

Previously shown at:

20° DOCS MX Festival Internacional de Cine Documental de la Ciudad de México,

28° Festival Internacional de Cine de Punta del Este,

3° Kampala Slum Mobile Cinema Festival

**20<sup>th</sup> January**

**Airavat Picture House – Hall B**

**Feature Showcase [1:30 – 2:45]**

**Floating Weed (Doc. 59', Mohamed Ghanem. France, Japan)**



Famous for playing onnagata (female roles), Tachibana Daigorô is a star of taishû engeki. A distant cousin of kabuki, this popular travelling theatre is, however, a genre less recognized in Japan. "Floating Weed" is a dive into Daigorô's wandering life fully dedicated to his craft and his audience. Through this immersion into the daily life of an actor who lives totally for his art, performing constantly, both on stage and in life, this film also interrogates some aspects of Daigoro's intimate life.

Previously shown at:

Tokyo Documentary Film Festival,  
Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema,  
Pärnu International Documentary Film Festival

## Day 7 – 21 Jan, 026

[9:00 – 11:30]

Workshop:

### **Participatory Video-making as advocacy**

[12:00 – 1:20]

### **Shorts Programme: Shape Shifters**

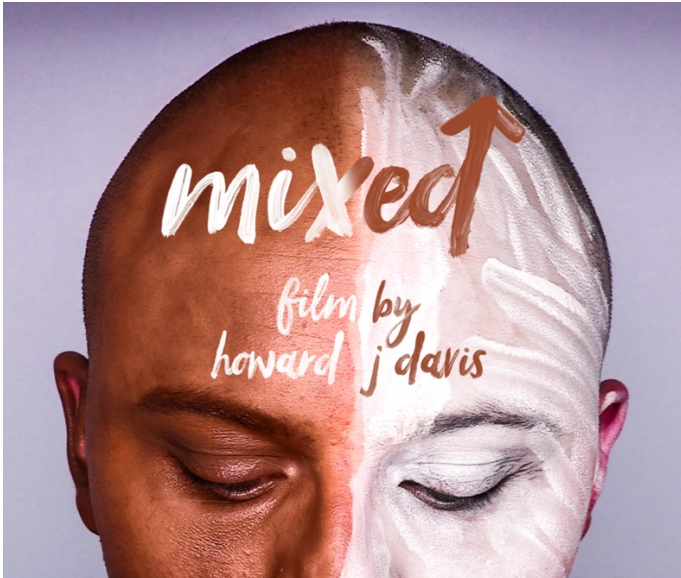
- In the night, we dazzle them (Doc, 9', Ophelie Demurger. France)
- One Slight Change (Fic, 15', Elmira Azad. Iran)
- Idyll (Video Anim, 10', Rao Heidmets. Estonia)
- Tatata (Video, 10', Denbert M. Tiamson. Phillipines)
- Stori Strong (Video, 14', Laura Zaylea. United States)
- Live Large No Shame (Fic, 9', Anacolato, Guadalupe Sanz. Argentina)



*Still: In the night we Dazzle*

Feature Showcase: [1:30 – 2:50]

**MixedUP** (Doc. 76', Howard J Davis Haui. Canada)



Part testimonial/part confessional, Mixed↑ explores the lines between the facts of who one is and the fiction of what one can become. Mixed↑ follows Howard J Davis aka Haui, the filmmaker, as he combats the isolation of being BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) and LGBTQ+ and helps to normalise the existence of being “other”. Co-produced by trans filmmaker/producer Jack Fox, Mixed↑ demands that we celebrate the beauty of being unique without negating the struggle of finding inner cohesion.

Previously shown at:

Image+Nation LGBTQ Queer Film Festival,  
ByBlacks Peoples Choice Award,  
Seattle Queer Film Festival

[3:00 – 4:30]

**Shorts Programme: Would you Still Love me?**

- The First Times (Doc. 16', Giulia Cosentine, Perla Sardella. Italy,, Spain)
- We were no Desert (Video 13', Agustina Comedi, Chio, Giannone. Argentina)
- Tara (Fic. 23', Ashutosh S. Shankar. India, UK)
- Get Ready with Me (Doc. 15', Elvin Jay Macanlalay. Philippines)
- Alexa, Xander & the Universe (Fic. 10', Vahn Leinard C. Pascaud. Philippines)



*Still: We were no Desert*

**Feature Showcase [4:45 – 6:15]**

**Queer As Punk (2<sup>nd</sup> Screening)**

*Go to Day 1 for project details.*

## Day 8 – 22 Jan, 026

[9:00 – 11:30]

Workshop:

**Participatory Video-making as advocacy**

[12:00 – 1:40]

**Shorts Programme: Camaraderie between**

- Jeanne (Fic, 30', Leo Holderbaum. France)
- Jo's Turn (Fic, 15', Vinoo Choliparambil. India)
- Three (Fic. 15', Amie Song, US, China)
- Three Course (Fic, 13', Saul Francisco O. Esparza. Mexico)
- After All (Fic, 25', Chongyan Liu. France, Germany)



*Still: Jo's Turn*

**Feature Showcase [2:00 – 3:40]**

**Velvet Vision** (Doc, 98', Bart Everly. United States)



Velvet Vision tells the story of photographer and filmmaker James Bidgood, whose 1960s beefcake photographs and the cult film *Pink Narcissus* redefined fantasy and erotic imagery whose work remained anonymous for decades. The film follows Bidgood as he returns to shooting after a forty-year long hiatus, exploring his past as a window dresser, drag artist, and costume designer, while revealing the struggles of an outsider using art and fantasy to navigate societal rejection.

Previously shown at:

Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival,  
Revelation Perth International Film Festival,  
Outsouth Queer Film festival,  
Oslo/ Fusion International Film Festival

[4:00 – 5:00]

**Shorts Programme: Bodies, Desires, Pulses**

- Velipadu: The Revelation (Fic, 25', Jijo Jessy Kuriakose. India)
- Sonata of a Good Women (Fic, 20', Mehdi Mahaei. Iran)
- The Sap Under our Tongues (Doc, 8', Kenzo Di Maggio. France)
- Our Joyful Endings (Doc, 6', La Finne Renne, Lucie Babayan. France)



*Still: The Sap Under our Tongues*

**Feature Showcase [5:15 – 6:30]**

**My Chest is full of Sparks** (Doc. 75', Gal S. Castellanos. Mexico, Turkey)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Screening

*Go to Day 1 for project information*

## Day 9 – 23 Jan, 026

[11:00 onwards]

**Human Rights Tattoo shop all day**

[11:30 - 1:40]

**Shorts Programme: Space to Be**

- Everything is so Boring (Fic, 12', Federico Cianferoni. Italy)
- When I Run (Video, 9', Maurico Momo Menesis. United States)
- Clam Diving for Beginners (Fic, 19', Clara Marshall. Germany)
- Cris (Fic, 9', Jonay Garcia. Spain)
- Silences (Fic, 6', Yago Caseriego. Spain)
- Ballroom Night (Doc, 12', Bruny Derotzzi Brazil)



*Still: Clam Diving for Beginners*

**Feature Showcase [2:00 - 3:20]**

**TransUniversal** (Doc, 80', Rafael Robles aka Rafatal. Spain)



TransUniversal traces a journey through the history of the struggle for the recognition of trans people's human rights. The documentary shows how the fight for equal rights, to which all are entitled by birth, has never been easy and remains unresolved in the case of trans people. In Spain, the still-unapproved Trans Law stands as a flame of hope for those facing exclusion, limited opportunities, and social rejection. TransUniversal maps the current state of affairs across historical, cultural, media, cinematic, and television contexts, but above all, the social one.

Previously shown at:  
Festival de Málaga

[3:45 - 4:45]

**Interaction**

Festival Censorship & how it affects creative expression of filmmakers.

*Open to all*

[ 5:00 – 6: 00]

**Shorts Programme: I-Video**

- Todos los barrios Posibles (Doc, 9', Matteo Giampetruzzi. Spain)
- Lunatic (Fic, 16', Robin Noorda. Netherlands)
- Datura (Video, 7', Laura Soledad Ferradas, Rodrigo Nahuel Lopez. Argentina)
- Minor Distortions in the Scattered Greyscale (Video, 11', Claudia Isabella Redka. Germany)
- Thrymskvida (Video, 15', Sonja Ortiz. Germany)



*Still: Lunatic*

**Feature Showcase: [6:05 – 7:00]**

**Swimming Against the Current** (Doc, 52', Melika Shafahi. Canada)



Swimming Against the Current is a poetic documentary tracing the emotional journey of Javid, an Iranian drag queen navigating life in Toronto. Filmed over two and a half years, the film captures Javid's reflections on migration, identity, and the courage it takes to start anew. Through both quiet routines and vibrant performances, the film reveals what it means to swim against the current and live one's truth out loud. Swimming Against the Current is a story of transformation, resilience, and the brave act of living authentically, against all odds.

Previously at:  
Mystic Film Festival 2022,  
American Black Film Festival

**23<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Airavat Picture House – Hall B**

[11:00 am – 4:30]

Screenings scheduled for Airavat Hall B are as follows:

- Private Flowers (Experimental Vid, 7', HAU/ Canada)
- Paving the Pathway (Doc, 12', Perassath/ Malaysia )
- Diverse House (Doc, 28', Carmen Vidal/ Paraguay, Spain)
- Omang (Doc, 30', Durvie Morake/ Botswana)
- Body Stories (Experimental Doc, 15', Jenn Lindsay/ Italy, United States)
- Transvestite Revenge (Fic, 7', Tina Paparelli, Emilio Cartagena/ Spain)
- Conversations (Doc, 37', Chiara Thieke/ Italy)
- Blessed with burden (Doc, 34', Ziyang Chen/ Macao)
- Scan (Fic, 13', Ali Rezapour/ Iran)
- Lines of Connection (Doc, 17', Stefanny Pina/ Brazil)
- In the Clouds (Fic, 17', Hongyu Chen/ China)
- Her Guardian (Fic, 20' Rayhan Syafiq Renaldi, Septa Yudhistira/ Indonesia)
- Panteras Pink (Fic, 24', Claudio Audio Marcio De Lima/ Brazil)
- Sappho (Ani, 12', Rosana Urbes/ Brazil)
- A Grand Affair (Experimental, 30', Rodrigo Moreira/ United States)
- Trans P.I. (Fic, 10', Jayve Fleming/ United States)

## Jan 23 – Blue Diamond Society

(Precise Screening time will be decided by the organiser)

### Feature Showcase

**TransUniversal** (Doc, 80', Rafael Robles aka Rafatal. Spain)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Screening of Trans Universal

### Shorts Program

- Boxing Against the Binary (Doc, 18', Esmee Van Loon, Netherlands)
- Her Guardian (Fic, 20' Rayhan Syafiq Renaldi, Septa Yudhistira/ Indonesia)
- Paving the Pathway (Doc. 13', Perassath. Malaysia)
- Faded Away (Fic. 9', Adrija Dasgupta. India)

### Feature Showcase

**Everything Needs to Live** (Doc. 70', Tetyana Dorodnytsina, Andrii Lytvynenko. Poland)

2<sup>nd</sup> screening of the film.

## Day 10 – 24 Jan, 026

[11:00 onwards]

### Human Rights Tattoo shop all day

[11:30 – 12:05]

#### Shorts Program: Whores, Neon Bananas

- When, Where, Who, Why (Fic, 15', Roozbeh Hesari. Iran)
- Ladies & Gentlemen (Video, 9', Derya Durmaz. Germany/Turkey)
- Island of the Self (Fic, 9', Omolbanin Jaybash. Iran)

[12:15 – 2:30]

#### Shorts Program: Everything all at once (Shorts Binge)

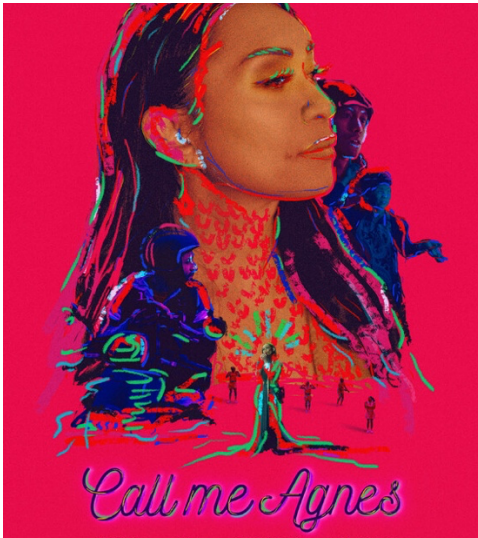
- The Mud under my window (Anim, 13', Violette Delvoye. Belgium)
- The First Christmas of Noe (Fic, 9', Alexis Renou. France)
- Kabuki (Anim, 13', Tiago Minamisawas. Brazil)
- The Deepest is the Skin (Doc, 23', Rafael Medina. Brazil)
- On Sundays (Fic, 8', Olavo Junior, Brazil)
- Beauty & the Beast (Video, 13', Mathieu Morel. France)
- Tell Her What Happened To Me (Fic, 25', Pethrus Triburcio. Brazil)
- The Art of Cruising (Doc, 5', Muhammed Fadzli. Singapore)
- Kokum's Love (Video, 10', Bianca Rego. Canada)
- Fidel, Ten Days Before the End of Universe- The Universe Rather (Fic, 20', Silver Racca. Philippines)
- Nobody Will Ever Be You (Fic, 26', Ruben Torres Lopez, Julius Vazquez Ruiz. Mexico)



## CLOSING FILM

Features Showcase: [3:30 – 5:05]

**Call Me Agnes** (Doc. 94', Daniel Donato/ Netherlands)



Agnes' life revolves around playing badminton with her queer friends and working at a restaurant she set up inside her house with her best friend Rini. One day her younger brother Indra arrives, looking for his brother Hans. Agnes faces a dilemma, keep the lie or tell the truth about who she is. The truth could give her a chance to reconcile with her brother but it seems more difficult to reach than she thought. Agnes relives and re-acts her memories and life experiences in a mix between fiction, musical and real life.

Previously shown at:  
Nederlands Film Festival,  
LGBT+ film festival,  
Queer Lisboa

**24<sup>th</sup> January**

**Airavat Picture house – Hall B**

**Feature Showcase** [12:00 – 1:15]

**Moirai** (Doc. 72', Bo Zhou. China)

What begins as a quiet, private film about the slow transformation of a rural Chinese family takes an unexpected turn when the director is injured in a car accident—pushing him from behind the camera into the center of his own story. Shot during the Covid pandemic, the film brings together a family bound by centuries old customs to finally accept the new trust of the filmmaker, son.



**Feature Showcase** [2:00 – 3:25]

**Playing Around** (Doc, 85', Daniele Ambrosini. Italy)

After years, an old handy cam gets picked up. This pick leads to a journey through childhood memories. A long series of homemade movies shot by the director and his friends in their formative years can be seen. Exploring its legacy, the director dives deep into his relationships with the people around him and how it developed his personal growth.

Previously at:

Lift-Off Global Network First Time Filmmakers Sessions



**Multidisciplinary Shows**  
**Hall B – Airavat Picture house**  
**(14 – 24 Jan.)**

Queer film festival Kathmandu presents a set of bold, inquisitive, unapologetic works of art not confined to the generic binary of cinema. These works are presented as 'Multidisciplinary shows'. Screenings of these films are held at a dedicated screen with presentations held throughout the festival.

- Golden Fingers (6 mins, Chryssa Florou/ France)
- Enbyknownst (2 mins, Stefan Gruber/ United States)
- Beyond Fantasies (13 mins, Lila Amara/ France)
- The Burden (4 mins, Laura S. Ferradas/ Argentina)
- Super Smash Bros (4 mins, Ignat Wiig/ Norway)
- Someday My Prince Will Come (5 mins, Ezzam Rahman/ Singapore)
- Sex Siren (4 mins, Máximo Peligro/ Spain)
- Mime II (4 mins, Adrian Langenbach/ Germany)
- New Homeland, Wonderland (9 mins, Caiyun Chen/ China, United Kingdom)
- The Blossom and the Mountain (5 mins, Kathleen Stevenson/ United Kingdom)
- Anadromous (5 mins, Ari Grubb/ United States)
- Rave (9 mins, S4RA/ Portugal)
- The Truth (3 mins, Luca David Dragodan/ Romania)
- Happy Solstice!(5 mins, Werther Germondari/ Italy)
- Hesitation (6 mins, Heide Cabral Rodrigues Braz/ Brazil)
- Leptospermopsis (1 mins, Matteo Melotto/ Italy)
- Loved One (2 mins, Hugo Berckmoes/ Belgium)
- Why We Pride (9 mins, Natalie Scarsbrook/ United Kingdom)
- Crumbs of Love (3 mins, Catalina Román, Daniela Peña/ Chile)
- Put on the Costume (3 mins, Ian Floodgate/ United Kingdom)
- Differently Water (8 mins, Daniele Catini/ Italy)
- Miss Mix (2 mins, Vir Zone, Argentina)
- Elijah (19 mins, Razid Season, United States)
- FCXB vs Godzilla (Video 14, Bianca Maria Popa. Romania)

## **Festival Tickets**

Queer Film Festival Kathmandu is in principle a free event. However, we encourage viewers to purchase a pass as a contribution to the festival and so we can ensure seating at the theatre.

Please scan the QR for festival pass.

