

QUEER

Film Festival Kathmandu



6-9 December 2024

Yalamaya Kendra | Documentary Open school

Inspired by the Belgian-style fruit beer and brewed with fresh cherries, Barahsinghe Red Fruit Beer delivers a mesmerising balance of rich fruity character and malt sweetness.



QUEER

Film Festival Kathmandu
2024



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Welcome

Welcome to the historic **first Queer Film Festival of Kathmandu 2024**. It is our immense joy to invite you into a world of parallel aspirations, majestic leaps, individual conquests and historical overview of queer movement as films made world over.

The collection of films at Queer Film Festival Kathmandu deep dives into personal narratives in forms of oral histories, observations, fiction among other. These films push the boundaries of cinematic form as powerful agents that deconstruct heteronormativity in cinema in an effort to decolonise creative expression. As 'cinema of disruption' these films generate significant momentum towards regeneration of creative approaches in cinema.

This year's festival has been made possible through the participatory efforts of queer campaigners, cultural workers, filmmakers in Nepal and film organisers worldwide who supported us from the onset. We extend our gratitude to all who have been there and can't leave out the furious 20 campaigners, filmmakers, queer activists at the Queer 23 dialogue at 'Something Like a Film Festival 2023', which first presented this idea of an independent queer film festival in Nepal.

Seventeen unique programs showcase a diverse selection of short films, fiction and feature documentaries emphasising LGBTQIA+ culture, historical narratives, collective memory, bodily celebration and contemporary culture. 'S/He is Still Her/e – The official Genesis P-Orridge Documentary' on the life of transgressive artist, musician - performance artist Genesis P-Orridge and their art's prerogative to challenge orthodoxy, hierarchy in all forms underscores the festival's agenda at large. The film opened earlier this year at Sheffield and Tribeca Film Festival. It is also among many titles released within 2024 at this year's festival.

The Opening film is Fawzia Mirza's 'Queen of my Dreams' (Canada/ Pakistan). The film opens a wide spectrum of queer dialogue pushing frontiers of discussions on identity, race, social conditioning and sexuality in the South Asian context.

Finally, unwilling to accept the ongoing genocide in Gaza, in our strongest voice we condemn all actions of the Zionist occupation and its allies for reigning years of terror in Palestine, Lebanon and across the middle-east. Please join us raise a voice against all crimes on humanity as the Closing Presentation with films from Palestine. The closing session will start at 4 pm in Docskool on 9 December.

Welcome to cinema of discourse.



The Team

Queer film festival Kathmandu is made possible by the unwavering dedication by our team of volunteers and collaborators. We are thankful to every individual, group and institutions who have helped the festival path over the last year.

Festival Co- directors - Kshitiz Adhiraj, Jyotsna Maskay

Film selection panel - Dia Yonzon, Bhumika Shrestha, Manisha, AbhiManyu Dixit
Docskool 'Women in Cinema' focal person - Pashupati Rai

Festival Management – Sashul Shrestha
Advisor (networking and partnerships) - Gaurav Kandel

Communication - Sony Gurung
Programming - Shreetej Ratna Tuladhar
Logistics - Sujal Rijal, Binaya Jung Nepali
Account - Kalpana Sah, Deependra BK
Festival Market – Ajay Gautam
Copyeditor - Pinky Sris Rana
Design - Kazi Studio

Board members of Docskool: Pashupati Rai, Mahesh Shrestha, Deependra BK,
Ajay Gautam, Srijana Bhandari, Ranju Danuwar, Kshitiz Adhiraj

Programming supported by
The Film Collaborative, Square Eyes, Outplay Films, Cats and Dogs, El Delirio Cine,
Warsaw Film School, Shortcuts, Movies that Matter, ShortsFit

The Queer Film Festival Kathmandu 2024 is presented by Docskool (Documentary Open School) as part of 'Women in Cinema' support initiative.

Docskool is an informal collective of filmmakers, culture workers setup in 2008 at a garage house in Pashupati. Docskool works through residencies, film project development labs, film festivals, short and longer term skill programs for young people and mid career professionals. Docskool is a non profit NGO.

Festival Partner - **Movies that Matter**
Thematic collaborator - **LOOM**

campaign by
Docskool
Documentary Open School

The Queen of my Dreams

6 December | 4 pm | Yalamaya Kendra

Fawzia Mirza | Canada, Pakistan | Urdu with English Subs. | 2024 | 97 min

Azra, a Pakistani woman living in Toronto, is worlds apart from her conservative Muslim mother. When her father suddenly dies on a trip home to Pakistan, Azra finds herself on a Bollywood-inspired journey through memories, both real and imagined, from her mother's youth in Karachi to her own coming-of-age in rural Canada.

'The Queen of My Dreams' is a dramedy spanning 30 years in the life of a Pakistani-Canadian family, exploring intergenerational connections between mothers and daughters, East and West, and home and away. Infused with humor, romance, music, and Bollywood fantasy, and inspired by personal experiences, family stories, and intertwined with Pakistani history and collective memory, the film shows the expansive journey of women seeking to define and decide their own paths, while simultaneously learning—and remembering—how to love.

Content warning (CW): None

Before the feature:

Festival Opening - Welcome Note, Festival showcase

Second screening: 9 Dec. 10:00 am @ Docskool



Fadia's Tree

Monday | 9 December | 4 pm | Docskool



Dir: Sarah Beddington | Palestine, UK, Lebanon | 2022 | English | 82 minutes | Documentary

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.

Content warning (CW) : Discussions on death, memory of losing loved one, Gun wounds

Before the feature:

Solidarity film shows made by Palestine filmmakers



Mama Bears

Saturday | 7 December | 2:15 pm

Dir: Daresha Kyi | USA | 2022 | English Subs. | 90 min. | Documentary

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 makes a brave transition into loving 'Mama Bears'.

Spread across the country but connected through private Facebook groups, over 30,000 mothers in America - many from conservative, Christian backgrounds - fully accept their LGBTQ+ children. And they call themselves "mama bears" because while their love is warm and fuzzy, they fight ferociously to make the world kinder and safer for all LGBTQ+ people.

MAMA BEARS explores the journeys of two mama bears and a young lesbian whose struggle for self-acceptance exemplifies why the mama bears movement is vitally important.

CW: Death, Hate speech



Anhell 69

Sunday | 8 December | 1 pm

Dir: Theo Montaya | Colombia - Romania | Spanish with English Subs. | 2024 | 74' Documentary



A funeral car cruises the streets of Medellín, while a young director tells the story of his past in this violent and conservative city. He remembers the pre-production of his first film, a B-movie with ghosts. The young queer scene of Medellín is casted for the film, but the main protagonist dies of a heroin overdose at the age of 21, just like many friends of the director. ANHELL69 explores the dreams, doubts and fears of an annihilated generation, and the struggle to carry on making cinema.

CW: Nudity, Flesh (Gore), Blood, Drugs

Lesvia

Friday | 6 December | 12:30 pm



Dir: Tzeli Hadjidimitriou | Greece | Greek with English Subs. | 2024 | 77 min. | Documentary

For centuries Lesvos 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 Tzeli Hadzidimitriou, 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.

CW : Nudity, Confused or Homophobic statements

Second screening : 9 Dec. 11:30 am @ Docskool



If I die it will be of Joy

Sunday | 8 December | 4:15 pm

Dir: Alexis Tailant | France | French with English Subs. | 2024 | 80 min. | Documentary

In a world that underestimates the power of the elderly, Micheline, Francis and Yves lead a group of older activists on a daring journey to revolutionize senior living, challenging stereotypes and judgments while redefining the notions of sex, love, and ageing.

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 ta-boos 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.

CW: Nudity, Discussions on death

Second screening : 9 Dec. 1:00 pm @ Docskool



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

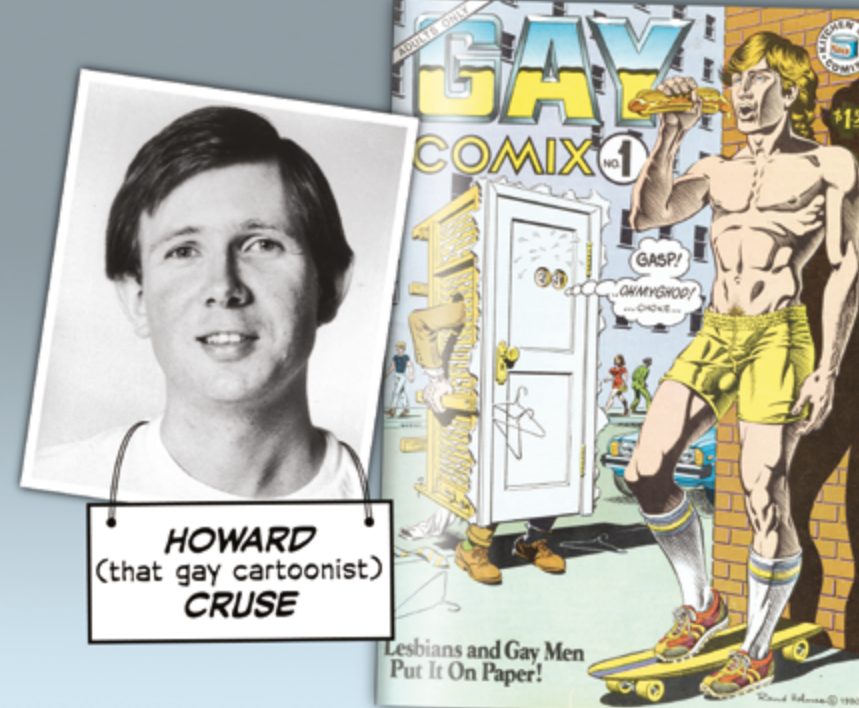
Saturday | 7 December | 4:15 pm

Dir: David Charles Rodrigues | USA | English | 2024 | 99 min | Documentary

Genesis P-Orridge lived her art and died three times for it. Persecuted by Queen Elizabeth, a disciple of Burroughs, Leary, Nepalese monks and African witch doctors; Gen influenced and revolutionized music, art and gender—all without most of the world even knowing. At least not the full-story.

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. Featuring Nepalese monks, African Witch doctors and a special cameo by her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, plus never before seen archival treasures, performances from COUM Transmissions, Throbbing Gristle and Psychic TV. This film is Executive Produced by LAURA JANE GRACE — trans activist and AGAINST ME! singer.

CW: Transgressive Art, Blood, Loud Music, Graphic scenes of hurting oneself, explores themes of Self-destruction, Discussions of death, Drug abuse, Flashing lights



No Straight Lines: Rise of Queer Comics

Saturday | 7 December | 11:15 am

SLFF 2023 archive

Dir: Vivian Kleiman | USA | English | 2022 | 78 min. | Documentary

No Straight Lines chronicles the journeys of five scrappy queer artists from the margins of the underground comics scene to mainstream acceptance.

A journey that was fraught with many challenges. No Straight Lines follows the journeys of LGBTQ artists — Alison Bechdel, Howard Cruse, Mary Wings, Rupert Kinnard, and Jennifer Camper — from their early DIY work to the international stage, and offers a fascinating window into everything from the AIDS crisis to the search for love and a good haircut.

CW: None





Pamela

Sunday | 8 December | 10:00 am

Dir: Marina Carrasco & Daniel Muchiut | Argentina | Spanish with English Subtitles | 2024 | 60 min | Documentary

The documentary follows Pamela, a transgender hairdresser from the small town of Chiviloy in Argentina and her journey towards acceptance by her family and community. From childhood to adulthood, the film highlights significant moments in her life including the time she changed her name and got married. The questions about the astonishing impact of her life accompany us throughout the film.

CW: Nudity



A Home for My Heart

Saturday | 7 December | 2:45 pm

Dir: Sankha | India | Bengali with English Subtitle | 2023 | 65 min. | Documentary

An intimate portrayal of Suvana Sudeb, a transgender person who undergoes Gender Affirmative Surgery in order to negotiate the conflict of body and mind. This decision creates turmoil in her family, who fear societal backlash. With her younger brothers wedding preparations underway, the family is more apprehensive than before.

Making way to reconcile with the differences, Suvana undergoes the surgery soon to be forced to realise that certain aspects of her relationships will stay as were.

CW: Blood, Detailed medical procedures may be disturbing



Admitted

Monday | 9 December | 1:00 pm | Docskool

Dir: Ojaswee Sharma | India | Hindi with English Subs. | 2021 | 118 minutes | Documentary

Admitted is a biographical docudrama on the controversial life of Dhananjay Chauhan – the first Transgender student of Punjab University. The film explores the largest case of Transgender education in a mainstream public university in north India, the first public washroom for transgender community and developments for Transgender rights, education, and acceptance to mainstream pre and post historic NALSA Judgement of India in 2014 which recognised LGBTQIA+ identity in India.

Admitted received the Rajat Kamal, National Award from President of India at 68th National Film Awards by the Government of India.

CW: None

Step into the world of Kaleidoscope Production, a groundbreaking creative agency that proudly stands as the first LGBTQIA owned and operated company in the industry. With a team enriched by years of collective experience in a myriad of domains, we are a force of innovation, empowerment, and positive transformation.

Our Vision and Values: At Kaleidoscope Production, diversity is not just a checkbox; it's our foundation and our driving force. With a team comprising LGBTQIA members and allies, we transcend boundaries and foster a culture of inclusivity, authenticity, and creative brilliance.

Our Expertise: Our skilled team spans various creative realms, making us a one-stop destination for a diverse range of services. From web development that shapes the digital landscape, to animation that breathes life into imagination, and app development that simplifies interactions, our tech-savvy wizards are at the forefront of innovation.



KALEIDOSCOPE PRODUCTION
building blocks of Production
Panipokhari-3, Kathmandu Nepal
hello@kaleidoscopenp.com
+977 9802348405

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info.vetforyourpet@gmail.com
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QUEER

Film Festival Kathmandu

festival schedule

6 - 9 Dec. 2024
Yalamaya Kendra ; Docskool



6 December, 2024 (FRIDAY)

10.00am Talk : Missing Love - Feminists and Queer Feminism hosted by LOOM, Federation of Gender & Sexual minorities Nepal

Shorts program 'Queer Loop 1'
Yatra (LSM, Sahayog Raj Adhikari, Nepal 22')
Basera (Jalshree Kumar, India 24')

12.30pm **Feature Presentation ★**
Lesvia (Tzeli Hadjidimitriou, Greece 77' / Dec. 2024)

2.00pm Talk: Why our cinema falters on Sexuality and Queer Representation
Pashupati Rai, Rajeeela Shrestha, Sandeep Shrestha

4.00pm **Opening Ceremony**
Opening film ★
The Queen of My dreams (Fawzia Mirza, Pakistan - Canada 97' / Fiction 2024)
After party @ Pride Perks, Paknajor (7:30 pm -)

7 December, 2024 (SATURDAY)

10.00am **Shorts program 'Whores, neon_banana's'**
The Sketch (Tomas Cali, France 8')
Blue Hour (Stacey Ruschack, Poland 27')
House of Whoreship (Holly Bates, Australia 16')
Grandma Bruce (Brooke Stern Seboid, USA 13')
Midna (Denisse Laub, Francisco Castro Pizzo, Argentina 13')

11.15am **Feature Presentation**
No Straight Lines (Vivian Kleiman, USA 78' / Doc. 2022)

1.00pm **Shorts program 'Claiming identity is a Process'**
Teatro (Abishkek, India -Nepal 3')
Adjustment (Mohammadi Hasan, Iran 16')
Qeluar (OUT) (Justice Khor, Malaysia -UK 21')
Moti, Dubai, Kali, Gori ... Nepali women reclaim their bodies (Nirvana Bhandari, Nepal 12')
Hate (Emiliano Sisofi, Italy 8')
Neuroance (Brodie Pyke, Australia 13')
Chhesang (Rajeeela Shrestha, Nepal 12')

2.45pm **Feature Presentation ★**
A home for My Heart (Sankhajit Biswas, India 65' / Doc. 2023)

4.15pm **Feature Presentation ★**
S/He is Still Her/e : The Official Genesis P-Orridge Documentary (David Charles Rodrigues, USA 99' / Doc. 2024)

After parties - satellite event (7 Dec.)
Queer film screenings at Rokki & Smog, Baneshwor (7:00 - 8:00 pm)
Tiffany goes to Cinema at Pink Tiffany, Thamel (8:00 pm onwards)
Speed dating at Rainbow Cafe, Gokopatra (7:00 pm)



docskool.org.np/queerfest

fb.com/queerfestkathmandu
IG docskool_

Youtube: docskoolnepal



SCAN 4 CATALOG

hall 2
10.00am Talk: Online spaces - Queer Expression
Pranaya Shakya, Sushant Shrestha with Gaurav Kandel

11.45am **Shorts program 'Queer Loop 2'**
There are things to do (Mike Syers, USA 18')
Flores del Otro Patio (Jorge Cadena, Switzerland - Colombia 16')
Nothing but Equality (Florencia Gadea, Argentina 25')

1.00pm **Shorts program 'A Space to be'**
Interdimensional Pizza Portal (Aron Kantor, USA 4')
The Device that turned me into a Cyborg was born the same year I Was (Chella Man, USA 3')
MASCAMASC (Felix Augustin Greisinger, Sweden 8')
Y (Matea Kovac, Croatia 6')
Longing (Courtney Tan, UK 12')
Wet Hair (Julian Dieterich, Germany 6')
Warsha (Dania Bdeir, Lebanon 16')

2.15pm **Feature Presentation**
Mama Bears (Daresha Kyi, USA 90' / Doc. 2022)

4.00pm **Shorts program 'Bodies, Desire - Pulses'**
Forza, Real (Isabel Pahud & Co, Switzerland 5')
Pipes (Kilian Feusi, Switzerland 4')
Buffer Zone (Savvas Stavrou, Cyprus 16')
My old Gals (Natasza Parzymies, Poland 24')
Fire at the lake (Pierre Menahem, France 16')
Ticker (Thom Petty, UK 9')
(In)convenience (Alexandra Greenspan, USA 12')

Indreni Hatya (Queer + Art Haat) @ Yalamaya, Patan (11:00 - 5:00 pm)



8 December, 2024 (SUNDAY)

10.00am **Feature Presentation**
Pamela (Marina Carrasco & Daniel Muchiut, Argentina 60' / Doc. 2024)

11.15am **Shorts program 'Comaraderie Between'**

Ted & Noel (Julia Alcamo, UK 25')
Never Stop Shouting (Abdellah Taia, Morocco 10')
Blush (extraordinary Voyage) (Iiti Yli-Harja, Finland 15')
Honeymoon (Alikis Papastathopoulos, Greece 25')
My Mother's Girlfriend (Arun Fulara, India 15')

1.00pm **Feature Presentation ★**
Anhell 69 (Theo Montaya, Colombia - Romania 74' / Doc. 2024)

2.30pm **Shorts program 'Make Way'**

Bubbling (Che-ming Chang, Taiwan 23')
Strange (Ken Ochiai, Japan 15')
Original Skin (Mdhamiri A' Nkemi, UK 12')
Manting (Shuyao Chen, China 14')
Arkesta (Safal Panday, Nepal 18')
Little One (John Clister Santos, Philippines 9')

4.15pm **Feature Presentation ★**
If I die it will be of Joy (Alexis Tallant, France 80' / Doc. 2024)

9 December, 2024 (MONDAY)

@ Docskool

10.00am **Feature Presentations**
The Queen of my dreams (Fawzia Mirza, Canada - Pakistan 97' / 2024)
If I die it will be of Joy (Alexis Tallant, France 80' / Doc. 2024)
Admitted (Ojaswee Sharma, India 118' / Doc. 2021)

4.00pm **Solidarity with Palestine - Film shows & Festival Closing**
Feature Presentation ★

Fadia's Tree (Sarah Beddington, Palestine - UK - Lebanon 82' Doc. 2022)

After parties - Satellite event (9 Dec.)
Film screenings with music at **Hard Rock Cafe**, Durbar Marg (7:00 -)



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Magar Adventure

Queer Loop

Friday | 6 December | 11:00 am (Queer Loop 1)
Saturday | 7 December | 11:45 am (Queer Loop 2)

For most of history the political and social role of LGBTQIA+ people have been neglected. It is evident in these films how the queer individuals are not just part of the movement, but shape societies with their choices. These films mostly told as oral histories present various chapters in LGBTQIA+ movement. Presented as both fiction and documentaries.

Films Showing:

- X Basera (Jaishree Kumar, India 2023, 24 min)
- X Yatra (LSM, Sahayog Raj Adhikari, Nepal 2023, 22 min)
- X Nothing but Equality (Florencia Gadea, Argentina, 25 min)
- X Flores del Otro Patio (Jorge Cadena, Switzerland - Colombia 2022, 16 min)
- X There are things to do (Mike Syers, USA 2022, 18 min)

Programme Runtime: 105 minutes (showing as Queer Loop 1 and 2)
Language: Nepali, Hindi, Spanish, French (with English Subtitles)
CW: Nudity, Language



Whores, neon_Banana's

Saturday | 7 December | 10:00 am (Hall I)

'The warmth of a setting sun' is for the dimly hearted. Queer partnerships are emboldened by the seemingly ordinary complexity of choices we take to build relations. 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.

Films Showing:

- X Blue Hour (Stacey Ruschack, Poland 27 min)
- X House of Whoreship (Holly Bates, Australia 16 min)
- X The Sketch (Tomas Cali, France 8 min)
- X Grandma Bruce (Brooke Stern Sebold, USA 13 min)
- X Midna (Denisse Laub, Francisco Castro Pizzo, Argentina 13 min)

Programme Runtime: 77 minutes
Language: English, Spanish, Polish (with English Subtitles)
CW: Nudity, Language

Claiming identity is a process

Saturday | 7 December | 1:00 pm (Hall 1)

Explore the sense of identity beyond the binary normative. Under this theme, there are five short films which revolve around personal memories, exploration of self-identity and individual relationship with our bodies.

This cluster presents a collection of stories about people coming to terms with their identity. While you get to see Nepali women embracing and reclaiming their bodies, you simultaneously get a peek into the life of a Nepali trans man and his everyday experiences of opening up to his identity.



Film Showing:

X **Teatro** (Abishek, India – Nepal 3 min)

X **Adjustment** (Mohammadi Hasan, Iran 16 min)

X **Qeluar** (Justice Khor, Malaysia – UK 21 min)

X **Moti, Dubli, Kali, Gori ... Nepali women reclaim their bodies** (Nirvana Bhandari, Nepal 12 min)

X **Hate** (Emiliano Sisofi, Italy 8 min)

X **Neuromance** (Brodie Pyke, Australia 13 min)

X **Chhesang** (Rajeela Shrestha, Nepal 12 min)

Programme Runtime: 85 minutes

Language: Nepali, Malay, Italian, English, Persian (with English Subtitles)

CW: None



A Space to Be ...

Saturday | 7 December | 1:00 pm (Hall 2)

Films about fantasy, sexual urges and memories, these are presentations of loud queer sexual encounters. An artist remembers their first touch, the shape of their lovers vagina, a plumber finds himself in a kinky gay bar and two lovers find time to rekindle while sharing their wildest fantasy in the woods.

Rejecting sexuality as a taboo – the films challenge notions of what can be shown in film. As expression, the filmmakers engage cinema to explore topics that are relatable. Queer cinema is aware of self-imposed censorship and moral restrictions filmmakers very often place on themselves.

Film Showing:

X **Interdimensional Pizza Portal** (Aron Kantor, USA 4 min)

X **The device that turned me into a Cyborg was born the same year I was** (Chella Man, USA 3 min)

X **MASC4MASC** (Felix Augustin Greiesinger, Sweden 2024, 8 min)

X **Y** (Matea Kovac, Croatia 2023, 6 min)

X **Longing** (Courtney Tan, UK 2023, 12 min)

X **Wet Hair** (Julian Dieterich, Germany 2023, 6 min)

X **Warsha** (Dania Bdeir, Lebanon 2022, 16 min)

Programme Runtime: 55 minutes

Language: German, English, Arabic, Swedish (with English Subtitles)

CW: Sexual Fantasy, Fetish, Kink, Nudity



Bodies, Desire - Pulses

Saturday | 7 December | 4:00 pm

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.

Films showing:

- X **Forza Real!** (Isabel Pahud & Co. Switzerland 5 min)
- X **Pipes** (Kilian Feusi, Switzerland 2022, 4 min)
- X **Buffer Zone** (Savvas Stavrou, Cyprus 2023, 16 minutes)
- X **(In) Convenience** (Alexandra Greenspan, USA 2023, 12min)
- X **My Old Gals** (Natasza Parzymies, Poland 2023, 24 min)
- X **Ticker** (Thom Petty, UK 2023, 9 min)
- X **Fire at the Lake** (Pierre Menahem, France 2022, 16 min)

Program Runtime: 86 minutes

Language French, English with English Subtitles

CW: Sexual fantasy, Nudity



BARBEROUSSE FILMS
presents



Comaraderie Between

Sunday | 8 December | 11:15 am

This program has a set of five films on companionship. Here companions come in the form of a video letter sent by a queer uncle to his nephew to a testimony from two figures of LGBTQIA+ movement among others. Being available, building a system of support, acknowledging individual challenges are central here.

Films Showing:

- X **Ted and Noel** (Julia Alcamo, UK 2023, 25 min)
- X **Never Stop Shouting** (Abdellah Taia, Morocco 2023, 10 min)
- X **BLUSH (An extraordinary Voyage)** (Iiti Yli-Harja, Finland 2022, 15 min)
- X **Honeymoon** (Alkis Papastathopoulos, Greece 2023, 25 min)
- X **My Mother's Girlfriend** (Arun Fulara, India 2021, 15 min)

Programme Runtime: 90 minutes

Language French, Greek, Marathi, English with English Subtitles

CW: None

Make Way

Sunday | 8 December | 2:30 pm

The journeys of queer people is coupled with joy, accomplishment, relief. Here the protagonists are opening up, coming to terms - settling life time of desires to be recognised. Films also explore of how people saw themselves as being 'different' and the joy of being where they belong.

Films Showing:

X **Bubbling** (Che-ming Chang, Taiwan 2023, 23 min)

X **Strange** (Ken Ochiai, Japan 2023, 15 min)

X **Original Skin** (Mdhamiri A Nkemi , UK 2023, 12 min)

X **Manting** (Shuyao Chen, China 2024, 14 min)

X **Arkesta** (Safal Panday, Nepal, 18 min)

X **Little One** (John Clister Santos, Philippines, 9 min)

Programme Runtime: 91 minutes

Language Tagalog, Japanese, Nepali, Chinese with English Subtitles

CW: None



Freedom Filmmaker Recognition

Queer Film Festival is a non competitive festival. The festival does not promote competition amongst artists. We recognise all films as equally important. There are no prizes or cash grants given to any films presenting at the festival.

Since 2018 Docskool annually felicitates an individual / group for their contribution to support creative expression, to make diverse aspects of cinema accessible in Nepal and South Asia.

Queer Film Festival Kathmandu shall felicitate an individual/ group with the 'freedom Filmmaker Recognition' for their contribution to promote dialogues on Queer expression.

About the Freedom Filmmaker

With its wavy hair and a mouth open in agony - the freedom filmmaker is Docskool's mascot since 2010. The 'filmmaker' represents the resilience filmmakers possess to maneuver past hurdles and restrictions they face for choices made. It embodies the boldness of filmmakers to stand against all forms of repression as cultural agents whose expression is the result of the reality they encounter.

Talk: 'Navigating missing love' harnessing the power of queer & feminist movement.

Friday | 6 December | 10:00 am

Sarita Dahal with Suhana Thapa Magar and Sanjita Timsina

" Navigating Our Missing Love: Feminism and Queer Feminism" is a keynote presentation and discussion event aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of feminist and queer feminist perspectives. This event will feature two distinguished speakers: Sarita Dahal, Executive Director at LOOM, and Suhana Thapa Magar, a youth leader and advocate from FSGMN. Together, they will explore the intersectionality of gender, sexuality, and social justice, shedding light on the roles these movements play in challenging societal norms and advocating for inclusivity.

The event will feature two presentations: one focusing on the feminist perspective and the other from a queer feminist standpoint, followed by an open discussion. This event is designed for activists, scholars, and anyone interested in exploring the nuanced dynamics between feminism and queer theory in Nepal and beyond.

Speakers :

Sarita Dahal is an experienced Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) expert with over two decades of experience. She is the Executive Director at LOOM and currently pursuing her MPhil in Gender Studies. She has previously worked with UNDP, UNFPA, and WOREC.

Suhana Thapa Magar is a transgender woman and an active advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights in Nepal. She currently works at CruiseAids Nepal as a social influencer, focusing on HIV/STI prevention, treatment, care, and support. Suhana is also a youth leader at FSGMN and a vocal advocate for the inclusion of sexual and gender minorities in societal development.

Sanjita Timsina is an intergenerational feminist who believes in social transformation through gender equality and social justice. Passionate about working with community people, she actively advocates for marginalized voices and strives to create inclusive spaces for everyone. She is a board member of LOOM.

Talk: Why our cinema falters on sexuality and queer representation?

Friday | 6 December | 2:00 pm

Pashupati Rai with Rajeela Shrestha and Sandeep Shrestha

Heterosexual romance is a big part of mainstream 'Nepali' films. With significant roles attributed to women actors as providers of sexual pleasure, depiction of sexuality is key to cinema's acceptance by the predominant male audience. Such strong emphasis on romance is often a highly sexualised depiction of already objectified non male characters.

On sexual identity, only 1 in 99 characters in Nepali films were queer people in 47 films analysed by Docskool in 2021. Characters shown were laden with stereotype presented as derogatory comic relief or as a subordinate transgender person. With morality, cultural/ religious signification as parameters to justify curtailment of open expression on sex, sexuality and sexual preferences the orthodoxy of male dominance in Nepal's cinema is loud.

This session moderated by actor Pashupati Rai and joined by filmmakers Rajeela Shrestha and filmmaker/film academic Ngima Gelu Sherpa delves deeper into the matter. How shall filmmakers manoeuvre past these restrictions?

Speakers

Pashupati Rai is a veteran actor with over 20 years of experience in Nepali films and Theater. With her roots firmly grounded in community theater, she works extensively with community oriented theater initiatives. She has worked in large variety of films. Pashupati is an advocate for stronger representation of women and girls in films.

Rajeela Shrestha has been actively making films since 2014 having made several short fiction films and documentaries. She is a recipient of Toni Hagen Documentary Grant 2019, Cut.Katha 2023 and Global Media Makers fellow at Film Independent. She is currently developing her first feature documentary "A Place Where Rhododendrons Bloom".

Sandeep Shrestha is a theatre artist and film actor. He has worked with over sixty plays and written/directed close to a dozen productions. His much anticipated debut as a lead actor and writer will be through his upcoming film 'Firfire Firiri'. As a queer artist, Sandeep continues to push boundaries in the arts advocating for diverse voices and powerful narratives.

Discussion followed by Festival Opening

Talk: Online space_ Queer Expression

Saturday | 7 December | 10:00 am (Hall 2)

Moderated by: Gaurav Kandel

Speakers Pranaya Shakya (filmmaker) and Sushant Shrestha (film producer)

The ever-expanding moral restrictions on cinema from state and non-state actors are constant contributor for meager queer participation in cinema. Queer cinema in Nepal faces multiple challenges including limited stereotyped portrayal of LGBTQIA+ characters in Nepali films, and nominal participation of Queer individuals in film production.

Queer productions fortunately have found online spaces somewhat safer - with more Queer materials released online in recent years than ever before in the history of cinema in Nepal. Their high approval comes as content creators see online spaces as an alternative to keep censorship and moral policing away. Yet the prospect of backlash from millions of homophobic audiences and new policies to control social media looms.

Queer filmmakers and producers talk of the current scenario for queer expression/ cinema in Nepal – the way ahead and how online spaces might have a role to play. The talk aims to equally explore further avenues which might support Queer cinema in days ahead.

Speakers

Sushant Shrestha is a film producer whose work has been shown at Busan International Film Festival among others. He is an alumni of Berlinale talent Campus and has worked in film producing for over a decade.

Pranaya R. Shakya is a true trailblazer in Nepal's creative and advocacy world! His media advocacy started in early 2000's with Radio shows on young people. He since ventured into animation through Escape Animation, that led to winning Nepal's first animation award in 2011. Pranaya has since focussed his energy in starting Nepal's sole queer -owned media company as Kaleidoscope Production which he co founded. He currently devotes himself to create LGBTQIA+ oriented stories for a more acceptable world.

Gaurav Kandel (Youth Activist & Advisor to Queer Film Festival Kathmandu '24) is a Docskool 2008 film workshop alumni. He has worked with several non profits and film/ art festivals for over a decade that directly/indirectly touch upon queer movement. He is also a Nepal consultant of the Emmy award winning show, Shark Tank.

Co presented with
Kaleidoscope Productions (kaleidoscope.np)



What is BDSM ?

The Kinky Collective

BDSM encompasses a wide variety of consensual erotic practices among adults, including role play and sensation play. Role play might involve one person taking control while the other relinquishes it. Sensation play, may include pleasure from pain. Role play and sensation play do no harm at all. The play is for mutual enjoyment. As the word 'play' suggests, what takes place in BDSM is not the same as reality. For e.g. role play in which one person take control does not mean that in real life they are more powerful than the person giving up control.

BDSM the Acronym

BDSM stands for Bondage, Discipline, Domination, Submission, Sadism, and Masochism. Bondage uses restraints for pleasure, while Discipline involves control through rules. Domination and Submission (DS) involve a power exchange. Sadism refers to enjoying inflicting pain, and Masochism to deriving pleasure from receiving it. Kink also includes fetishes, which are erotic responses to non-typical objects or body parts.

The Centrality of Consent in BDSM

Consent is fundamental in BDSM, actively negotiated and withdrawable at any time. BDSM only involves consensual power exchange; without it, the action becomes abuse, not BDSM.

BDSM and Human Rights Violations

BDSM practitioners often face human rights issues similar to LGBTQ+ communities, including social stigma, alienation, and lack of access to support. They are often forced to hide their desires, leading to fear, blackmail, and a double life.

BDSM Challenges Gender Stereotypes

BDSM roles are not confined to gender; people of any gender can dominate or submit. Contrary to misconceptions, BDSM defies gender stereotypes and promotes empowerment. For example, it can give the opportunity for women to take control, for men to give up control.

BDSM is not only Western

Though often thought of as Western, BDSM practices are common in India. Historical texts like the Kama Sutra show evidence of consensual pain and control dynamics long



before Western terms existed. For instance the Kama Sutra includes at least four different types of prescribed hitting methods that are designed to be used during love making.

BDSM is Not a Sickness

Similar to LGBTQ+ desires, BDSM is no longer considered a mental illness. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and respected by mental health practitioners the world over excludes consensual BDSM from disorder diagnoses unless distress is involved. Studies even show BDSM can enhance mental well-being. BDSM and the Importance of Community For BDSM practitioners, community support is vital due to societal stigma. Safe community spaces can transform feelings of shame and isolation into strength, belonging, and empowerment.

The Kinky Collective is a non-funded, unregistered activist group founded in 2011 to raise awareness about BDSM and Kink to strengthen BDSM community in India.

thekinkygroup@gmail.com

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DENGUE



Indreni Hatiya

7 Dec, 10:00 – 5:00 pm @ Yalamaya

A nostalgic return to village Haat's with a fresh appeal for queer led merchandise, the Hatiya makes way for 10 promising artists and queer led business at the festival.

Present at the Hatiya are :

Happy Space Nepal
Kriti Magar (soozay_crochet__)
Suchitra Rai (zie0art)
Sonisha (,sonisha_)
FemArt Hack (femart_hack)
Dristi Nepal (dristinepal)
Cruiseaids Nepal (cruiseaidsnp)
Handmade treasure (han.dmadetreasure)

Satellite Events/ Afterparties

Continue to mingle at one of many afterparties and followup screenings happening at cafe's in Kathmandu. Good time to connect with the festival program for those who missed the screenings. All satellite events are independently hosted.

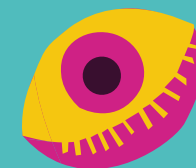
6 Dec, 7:00 om @ Paknajol
Afterparty at **Pride Perk**

7 Dec, 7:00 pm @ Old Baneshwore
Saturday night with Queer Films at **Rokxi and Smog Restaurant**
Late afternoon film shows with drinks & bites.

9 Dec, 7:00 pm @ Durbar Marg
Queer Film show at **Hard Rock Café**
Meet the buzz at Hard Rock café for a curated film program followed by Live music.

6 & 7 Dec. 8:30 pm onwards @ Saat Ghumti, Thamel
Tiffany goes to cinema at **Pink Tiffany Cafe**
Open Mic – board games, performances at Pink Tiffany

7th Dec. | 7:00 pm | Thamel
Speed dating at **Rainbow Cafe & Restaurant**



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Find Mental Health Professionals in Nepal

www.nepalmentalhealth.com

An initiative by **Global Shapers Kathmandu Hub**, which focuses on improving mental health awareness and accessibility. We aim to create safe spaces for open conversations, reduce stigma, and empower individuals to prioritize well-being. Through community activities and campaigns, we foster understanding and support. Together, we strive to make mental health a priority in Nepal.

OTHER HUB PROJECTS:

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Held in Kathmandu, Dhulikhel and Udayapur the 18 month
program is open to all. Includes 4 months paid traineeship.

docskool.org.np

Docskool invites applications for its **18-month specialisation program in Documentary film and community Media.**

Held at three locations, the program provides undergraduate and pre- university students a unique opportunity to work with film and photo in urban and semi-rural spaces alongside community campaigners. Participants work on close to 10 self motivated and collective projects during the period. The 18 month program includes 3 months of mandatory traineeship outside Kathmandu.

The 'Creative Media' diploma with specialisation in Documentary and Community Media is Nepal's only documentary film program. It can be taken with limited to no background in film or photography. The first stage of the program includes a foundation program in visual arts covering areas of film, photography, visual composition among others.

This is a nonacademic self-motivated learning program, participants should enroll with interest in documentary and to work alongside community movements in Nepal. There are no tests performed.

New sessions start early 2025.

To apply applicants can submit an updated CV,
portfolio of recently shot film or photography work

Send applications to docskoolnepal@gmail.com
or call 015351709 for details.
10 seats are available for 2025 intake.

The 18 month specialisation program can lead to independent work or assistant level positions with professional A/V productions. It will be of value to post graduate level students and young people looking to pursue film, visual media at university level.

Sessions are conducted 4 times a week from Thapathali. Residential workshops are conducted from Dhulikhel and Udayapur. This is a full time program though arrangements can be made to take the program part time.



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SCAN

watch film trailers & book seats



submit films

Queer film festival Kathmandu

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