



DIALOGUES

Calcutta International LGBTQIA+ Film and Video Festival 2024



30TH NOVEMBER - 1ST DECEMBER
BASUSREE CINEMA



PRATYAY
GENDER COLLECTIVE





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Calcutta International LGBTQIA+ Film and Video Festival 2024

DIALOGUES: Calcutta International LGBTQIA+ Film & Video Festival is the oldest queer film festival in the country. It has been running uninterruptedly since 2007 collectively organized by Sappho for Equality, Pratyay Gender Collective, and Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Kolkata. This is the 18th edition of DIALOGUES: Calcutta International LGBTQIA+ Film and Video Festival 2024.

For more details visit our website via link or the QR:
<https://www.dialoguesfilmfest.in/>





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12:00 PM **HUES AND BLUES**

Director: Vinayakram C.
2024/ India / English / 46 min.

Prasanna, Prasenjit, Ayushi and Vivek are individuals living separate lives and having distinct careers in different cities of the world. Being queer is a common thread they have and united by chance, they come together to throw a camping festival for the queer community in India. The festival is named "URU" meaning "VILLAGE" in the southern languages of India. The documentary captures these individual's journey as they design and build the space for India's first queer camping festival. Their aim is to build a safe space where there is no judgement and all voices can be heard.

12:46 PM **SISI & ICH**

Director: Frauke Finsterwalder
2023 / Germany / German / 132 min.

Irma Countess von Sztáray faces challenges as she becomes Empress Elisabeth's lady-in-waiting. She gets a bloody nose from her strict mother, endures grueling exercises, and a cocaine extract diet before meeting the erratic empress. Despite harsh treatments and diets, they grow close within Sisi's limits. Returning to Vienna, their lives change drastically. Frauke Finsterwalder's reinterpretation of the "Sisi" myth stars Susanne Wolff and Sandra Hüller, with stunning costumes by Tanja Hausner and a soundtrack by Nico, Portishead, and Le Tigre. The film explores a female-dominated world with queer maids and the gay Archduke Viktor.

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3:00 PM PINE CONE

Director: Onir
2023/ India / Hindi / 95 min.

Semi-autobiographical film that narrates the story of a proud filmmaker Sid Mehra falling in love for the first time and over two decades becoming cynical about love and the changing landscape of queer rights in India in the year 1999.

4:35 PM AMMA'S PRIDE

Director: Shiva Krish
2024/ India / Tamil / 20 min.

Srija, a trans woman from South India, navigates the complexities of her marriage, advocating for its legal recognition while also battling to sustain it, all with the wholehearted support of her devoted mother, Valli.

4:55 PM THEY/THEM

Director: Phelian
2024/ India / Hindi / 17 min.

A question on a dating app makes a lonely, 50-year-old non-binary person retrace their life, as they finally come to terms with their gender dysphoria.



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5:30 PM **EVENING GREETINGS AND CELEBRATIONS**

6:45 PM **JONJA**

Director: Anika Mätzke
2023/ Germany / German / 85 min.

Without telling her mother, 13-year-old Jonja embarks on a vacation with the family of her best friend, Paul. The days by the lake are exciting and beautiful. Jonja falls in love with a girl, and her friendship with Paul becomes even more intense. She relishes the time away from her family routine, until the lie is eventually exposed, and Paul questions their friendship. Anika Mätzke precisely captures the inner world of adolescents, subtly addressing issues related to class and sexual orientation.

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11:00 AM ANDERS ALS DIE ANDERN

Director: Richard Oswald
1919/ Silent Film / German / 50 min.

Two male musicians fall in love, but blackmail and scandal makes the affair take a tragic turn.

11:50 AM HAI CON CHUỘT (TWO LITTLE MICE)

Director: Nguyen Anh Thach
2024/ Vietnam / Vietnamese / 16 min.

This film depicts the tender affection between a gay man and his crush, on the eve of the latter's wedding to his girlfriend.

12:06 PM IF

Director: Tathagata Ghosh
2024/ India / Bangla / 26 min.

Jaya and Fatima, two women deeply in love with one another, want to have a family. They have dreamt of a future together that would seem straight out of a fairytale. But then destiny has planned for them otherwise.



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12:35 PM KATLAA CURRY

Director: Rohit Prajapati
2024/ India / Gujarati / 110 min.

Set in the sleepy fishing village along the banks of the river Narmada, a local fisherman (Raaymal), pulls a young man (Ratan) adrift in his fishing net, setting off a journey of profound connection and self-discovery.

02:25 PM B25

Director: Manvendra Singh Thakur and
Sk Raqeeb Raza
2024/ India / Hindi / 33 min.

B25 intimately explores the intersecting lives within a vibrant space, highlighting chosen families, queerness, love, identity, and gender. Through the lens of a friend who reflects on his days and nights at B25, the documentary offers a poignant glimpse into unconventional bonds and diverse experiences that shape notions of home. The film captures the essence of this unique space where lives converge, revealing the deep connections and evolving identities that define the meaning of home.

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3:00 PM WAKHRI

Director: Iram Parveen Bilal
2023 / Pakistan / Urdu / 99 min.

In Wakhri, Noor, a widowed single mother and school teacher is faced with diminishing prospects for girls attending her primary school. Noor dreams of fully funding her idea for a women's school amidst clashing social views. By night, she lives a second life amidst Lahore's queer nightclub scene. There she discovers a hidden talent as an activist for women's causes. She is aided by her charismatic best friend Guchhi who pushes her to continue fighting in spite of the odds. However, Noor's escapades unleash unintended consequences, and true to the social media savvy world we inhabit, things begin to spiral out of control.

04:50 PM CLOSING CEREMONY & PANEL



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5:50 PM VELIPĀDU-THE REVELATION

Director: Jijo Jessy Kuriakose
2024 / India / Malayalam / 26 min.

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

6:15 PM BLUE ID

Director: Vuslat Karan & Burcu Melekoglu
2022 / Turkey / Turkish / 85 min.

A transgender man's arduous journey of gender affirmation in a traditional Turkish society is chronicled through intimate home videos, capturing the frustrations, humiliations, and endless waiting he endured under intense media scrutiny.

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About the Partners :

Sappho for Equality: Sappho for Equality is a Kolkata-based organisation that works for the rights and social justice of individuals with non-normative gender-sexual orientations, identities and expressions, especially persons assigned gender female at birth. It uniquely works to create bridges between the so-called normative and non-normative populations in our society and positions gender-sexuality within existing development discourses.

Pratyay Gender Collective: The Pratyay Gender Collective is a sexuality rights initiative that was started in 1997-98 by members of Calcutta's kothi, hijra and other gender non-conforming/ transgender women who remain excluded from the mainstay of broad human rights movements.

Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan: The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institution operational worldwide. The Goethe-Institut in Kolkata (founded in 1957), like all the other institutes in India, is also known as Max Mueller Bhavan – in honour of Max Müller (1823-1900), a scholar of comparative religion and co-founder of modern Indian studies.

The institute organizes and promotes a wide spectrum of cultural events in Kolkata and other north eastern Indian cities. The focus of the cultural program is to bring together Indian and German artists and intellectuals, present contemporary German culture and foster Indo-German and European cooperation. It also promotes discussions on social and development policy, as well as social issues that are relevant in India and Europe. The artistic and reflexive programs and projects are developed in close cooperation with Indian partner institutions. Since January 2004, the Goethe-Institut Kolkata has housed the South Asia film archive, which loans German films to interested institutions in India and in the neighbouring countries.



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