

Starting Time

Please note that we don't show commercial trailers or advertisements before our screenings. All festival events will begin within 5 minutes of the advertised start time.

Content Advisory Notes

Please visit our website for detailed advisory notes on potentially distressing content that may cause discomfort for some viewers.

Accessibility

With the aim of ensuring our events are financially accessible to as many people as possible, the festival operates sliding-scale pricing for a significant number of our events. For these events, you can choose how much you want to pay based on your circumstances.

Information about our venue partners' accessibility measures can be found on each venue's website. If you have any other questions regarding our accessibility measures, please contact us at: accessibility@queereast.org.uk

How We Programme

Queer East is working towards a de-centred, community-focused programming model. This year's feature film, performing arts, and literature programmes are curated by Yi Wang. The Short Form strand is led by Emily Jisoo Bowles, together with the nine participants of Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab. The visual arts programme is guest curated by Aki Hassan and april forrest lin 林森. We also work collaboratively with an extensive line-up of guest curators, who have contributed individual events in our Short Form, Expanded, and Beyond strands.

Queer East hosts year-round events and programmes. If you have an idea and would like to explore the opportunity of working with us in the future, please send a short pitch to proposal@queereast.org.uk, addressed to Yi Wang.

It's Queer East Month! Welcome to the sixth edition of Queer East Festival, featuring our most ambitious programme since our journey began in 2020.

The four-week-long festival will showcase over 100 titles, including features, shorts, documentaries, and moving image work, exploring the ever-evolving queer landscape across East and Southeast Asia. Our Expanded strand continues to reimagine the relationship between audiences and screen content, with a newly-added Beyond programme that broadens our geographical reach to Central and South Asia.

Activism, community, and the collective memory of queer history take centre stage in this year's programme: from an avant-garde cult classic shot in Shinjuku in the 1960s, to a verbatim theatre play about queer elders in Singapore; from a heartfelt documentary on lesbian advocacy, to an intimate dance piece about queer belonging.

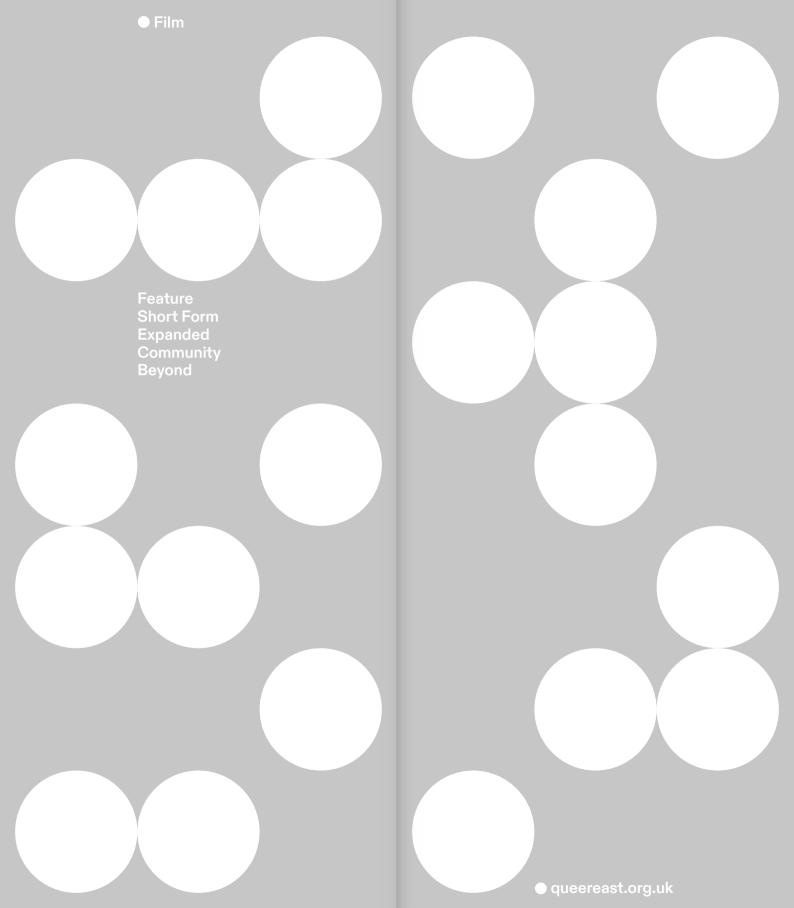
Reaffirming our commitment to a community-based, open programming approach, we continue to further our collaboration with guest curators and introduce the first cohort of our Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and fresh perspective have played a significant role in shaping a vibrant festival line-up.

The richness of Asian and queer communities forms a vital part of the UK's identity. Over the past six years, Queer East has forged a space for bold, alternative, and multifaceted expressions of artistic queerness.

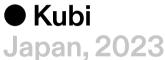
Being queer is chaotic yet beautiful, challenging yet hopeful. In a world where the radical spirit of queerness is needed more than ever, thank you to our funders, partners, artists, filmmakers and team members, and to each of you for being part of our adventure.

I hope you enjoy the festival!

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Runtime 131 Mins

Director Takeshi Kitano

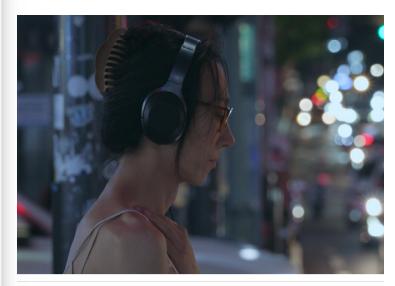
April 23 BFI Southbank 18:00

UK PremiereOpening Night

In legendary director Takeshi Kitano's mesmerising historical epic, rival warlords battle for supremacy over feudal Japan. In the 16th century, Lord Oda Nobunaga

is waging war against several clans, while asserting sexual control over his generals in order to intimidate them into loyalty. But when one of his vassals, Araki Murashige, stages a rebellion and promptly disappears, Nobunaga assembles his other vassals and orders them to capture the fugitive. But who has the skill to survive the web of shifting alliances, brutal passions, and vengeful betrayals?

Offering a darkly comic perspective on the relationship between political intrigue and homoerotic desire, Kitano directs this bloody spectacle with panache. Thirty years in the making, this strikingly violent film comprehensively debunks the myths of masculinity, ethics, and honour that have defined the samurai genre onscreen.



Edhi Alice

South Korea, 2024

Runtime 130 Mins Director Ilrhan Kim

May 18

Institute of Contemporary Arts 19:30

- UK Premiere
- Closing Night
- Q&A

In Edhi Alice, director and queer activist Ilrhan Kim interrogates how documentaries about trans communities are made: the creative decisions, relationships, and

ethical questions involved. The subject of the documentary is Edhi, who works as a counsellor for LGBTQ+ teens in Seoul, and has decided to undertake gender reassignment surgery.

Edhi's story intertwines with that of Alice, the lighting technician on the film crew and an older trans woman, who is preoccupied with challenging popular stereotypes about female and male bodies. This powerful and thought-provoking documentary refuses to compromise in its depiction of post-surgery recuperation, but offers an authentic portrayal of the trans experience and allyship in South Korea. Edhi Alice is a generous, delicate film and—courtesy of Alice's lighting—a visually stunning one.



Murmur of Youth

Taiwan, 1997

Runtime 106 Mins	Director Lin Cheng-Sheng
	26 April BFI Southbank 14:50
Introduction	Two adolescent girls in Taiwan, both named Mei-li, meet when they get a job in a cinema box office. Chen Mei-li is from

an affluent family, but does not get much warmth from her embittered father and selfish mother, while the father of Lin Mei-li, a construction worker, wants to spare his daughter from the hardships he has faced in life.

The two girls begin to bond as they chat about family, work and school; but gradually, their conversations become more intimate. Released at a time when Taiwanese queer cinema was rising in prominence, this drama by award-winning director Lin Cheng-Sheng explores the complex connections between family, society, and the individual. Beautifully capturing the bittersweet essence of youth, this poignant coming-of-age story features sensitive performances from Liu Ruo-Ying and Jing Tseng.



Rookie

Philippines, 2023

Runtime 94 Mins	Director Samantha Lee
	27 April BFI Southbank 18:40
Introduction	Ace is a tall and awkward teenager who

moves to an all-girls Catholic high school in the Philippines. The volleyball coach spots Ace on her first day, and invites her

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to try out for the team. She is initially no good at the sport and socially ostracised, but things begin to change when she falls for the highly motivated team captain, Jana, who dislikes her because she sees her as a threat.

But the girls and their teammates must nonetheless join forces: not only to successfully compete in competitions, but also to face up against a more disturbing, insidious threat. Powered by authentic performances, Samantha Lee's heartfelt film captures the resilience of the young athlete as she struggles for acceptance, and the strength of female solidarity in a society rigged against women.



Extremely Unique Dynamic

USA, 2024

Runtime 67 Mins	Directors Harrison Xu, Ivan Leung & Katherine Dudas	
	28 April Rich Mix 18:00	
UK PremiereQ&A	Ryan and Daniel, two childhood best friends and aspiring actors, spend one	

moves to Canada with his fiancé. Wanting to create one lasting memory, they decide to make a movie... about two guys making a movie, about two guys making a... Along the way, bottled-up secrets arise as they unpack their decades-long friendship and put their extremely unique dynamic to the test.

final weekend together before Ryan

With a combined 3.5MM+ social media followers, an extremely unique cast pioneers the first ever meta-Asian-stoner-bromantic-coming-of-age dramedy, which explores the intricacies of male friendship through the unique dynamic between an Asian-American straight and gay best friend. Co-directing with Katherine Dudas, Harrison Xu and Ivan Leung star as the two friends in this cinephile comedy.



Under the Moonlight Indonesia, 2023

Runtime 86 Mins	Director Tonny Trimarsanto	
	29 April BFI Southbank 18:00	
	The character of the constant of	

UK PremiereQ&A

The cheerful Nur works as a cook at an Islamic boarding school in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where all the adult students are transgender women. Here, they can

live the way they choose to, in stark contrast with the hostile world outside, where they are abused because their lives are said to be incompatible with the values of Islam.

"Say no to LGBT", instruct posters in the street, warning of a "contagious disease", while the women have to be alert against the police and extremist groups. Nonetheless, they continue to go about their daily lives: cooking, praying, singing, and occasionally taking an HIV test, enlivening things with self-deprecating jokes. Capturing the day-to-day activities of the women in a laid-back manner, director Tonny Trimarsanto's deeply affecting documentary is a testament to the resilience of this community.



Some Nights I Feel Like Walking

Philippines, 2024

Runtime 102 Mins	Director Petersen Vargas
	29 April Barbican Centre 18:20
Introduction	Following the death of his boyfriend, the teenage Zion runs away from home

and finds himself at a Manila bus termi-

nal one night. Here, he meets a group of street hustlers including Uno, whose casual sensuality stirs hidden feelings in Zion. While some of the group are suspicious of Zion, they nonetheless take him under their wing—until a shocking incident compels them all to leave the city, and take a journey into the past. In Some Nights I Feel Like Walking, award-winning director Petersen Vargas conjures up a part-real, part-fantasised nightscape: edgy and erotic, drenched in neon, the onscreen environments become increasingly surreal and propel the story forward.

A talented cast captures the vulnerability of queer youth in this lyrical exploration of desire, home, and belonging.



• Where is My Love?

Taiwan, 1996

Runtime 56 Mins	Director Jo-Fei Chen	
	30 April Barbican Centre 18:15	

IntroductionDouble Bill

Taipei in the 1990s: Ko is a young gay writer who has written a story about his sexuality, and is encouraged by his mentor to enter it into a prestigious writing

competition. But that would mean publicly revealing his homosexuality, so Ko must decide whether or not to remain in the closet. Meanwhile, Ko's working habits are disturbed by the presence of a man whom he picked up for sex. Chen's acclaimed film from 1996 artfully evokes the furtive queer lifestyles of the time—the cruising in parks and the anonymous encounters—while subtly capturing the rhythm of the writing process and the textures of everyday life.

Ultimately, this is a film about profound loneliness, the yearning for love in a culture that is not quite ready to accept it.



Incidental Journey

Taiwan, 2001

Runtime 61 Mins	Director Jo-Fei Chen
	30 April Barbican Centre 18:15
IntroductionDouble Bill	After breaking up with her girlfriend, student Ching goes on a road trip around Taiwan. On the island's east coast, she encounters hitchhiker Hsiang, an older,

solitary artist. Hsiang takes Ching to visit her friend Ji, who lives on a peaceful rural farm with her husband. Here, Ching struggles to find inner peace, while Hsiang confronts long-repressed yearnings. A meditative reflection on female desire that features accomplished performances, Incidental Journey made its mark in Taiwan's film history, offering a daring and frank portrayal of lesbian love on screen.

Using the pastoral, mountainous locations to powerful effect, director Jo-Fei Chen conjures up an idyllic, utopian environment: a place where the women, far removed from the messy complexities of urban life, have the time and space to contemplate their pasts.



A Journey in Spring

Taiwan, 2023

Runtime 90 Mins	Directors Tzu-Hui Peng, Ping-Wen Wang
	1 May Institute of Contemporary Arts 18:30

UK PremiereQ&A

Khim-Hok is an elderly man who, suffering with a limp, has come to depend on his wife Siu-Tuan over the years. They live in an old house on the urban fringes of

Taipei, and while their lifestyle is precarious, they have established a comfortable daily routine, despite their tendency to bicker. Absent from their life, however, is their estranged son, whose existence remains largely unspoken. Shot on 16mm film, this feature debut by co-directors Tzu-Hui Peng and Ping-Wen Wang paints a raw and sensitive portrait of domestic life, exploring the complicated relationships within a family broken apart by past conflicts.

Veteran actors King Jieh-Wen and Yang Kuei-Mei subtly capture the couple's lingering feelings of regret, in what commences as a quiet study of household rhythms—but morphs into a profound exploration of pain, loss, and the transience of existence.



Unmarried Mothers

Taiwan, 1980

Runtime 93 Mins	Director Mi-Mi Lee
	2 May Rich Mix 18:00
• Introduction	This taboo-busting Taiwanese drama from 1980 was directed by Mi-Mi Lee, a female pioneer in an industry then dominated by

men. Hsiao-Peng is sent to a maternity home for young, single pregnant women—most of whom have been sent there by their embarrassed parents, who want their daughters to have the baby in secret and then adopted.

Hsiao-Peng slowly overcomes her depressive thoughts and builds strong bonds with the other women; and after moving out, they continue to support one another. In advocating for atypical family models, Unmarried Mothers was ahead of its time, while its emphasis on female agency still feels genuinely empowering 45 years later: the sequence when the friends arrange their household furniture, set to an orchestration of ABBA's Dancing Queen, is unlike anything else you'll see in Taiwanese cinema.



● 1 Girl Infinite

USA, 2025

Runtime 102 Mins	Director Lilly Hu
	3 May Rio Cinema 15:30
IIK Premiere	Lilly Hu both directs and stars in this viv

UK PremiereIntroduction

Lilly Hu both directs and stars in this vivid portrait of girlhood, teenage love, and frustrated desire. Yin Jia and Tong Tong (Xuanyu Chen and Hu), have carved out a

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life together: shoplifting for food, joyously pelting oranges at cars, and sharing a bed.

Within the walls of their small apartment, they are tied together by an intensely physical, intimate bond; but in front of other people, Tong Tong appears cold and unfeeling towards Yin Jia. When Tong Tong begins a relationship with a drug dealer, the devoted Yin Jia is prepared to sacrifice all that she has. An assured and visually stylish debut based on a true experience, 1 Girl Infinite is set in Hu's hometown of Changsha, China, which is portrayed with great affection, even while its characters dream of being elsewhere.

With support from the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan and Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute.



Come Dance With Me

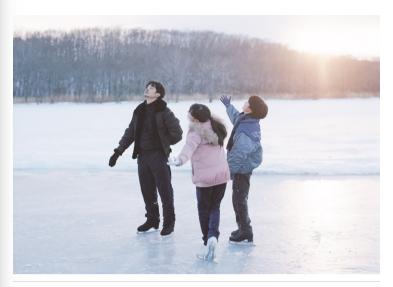
China, 2022

Runtime 91 Mins	Directors Yunyi Liu, Bozhi Wei	
	3 May Centre 151 18:45	
UK Premiere	Over two decades. Lai Lai Ballroom be-	

came famous amongst Shanghai's gay community, and was popular with middle-aged and elderly gay men. "Lai Lai"

translates as "Come, Come!", and was a welcoming encouragement for those who felt outcast. Before it closed in 2018, the venue was frequented by patrons with all kinds of stories, captured by this documentary: a monk who yields to his own desires, an HIV-positive man experiencing personal turmoil, and a transgender person who feels marginalised.

Romantic encounters, separations, reunions: Lai Lai saw it all. But gradually, the space lost its glory, and nobody knows whether it will ever reopen. With tender insight, Yunyi Liu and Bozhi Wei's film takes a close look at this space of sanctuary, and the sense of community it created for the lonely souls who used to frequent it.



My Sunshine

Japan/France, 2024

Runtime 90 Mins	Director Hiroshi Okuyama	
	4 May Rio Cinema 15:15	

UK Premiere

On a small Japanese island, life revolves around the changing seasons. Winter is time for ice hockey at school, but the young Takuya isn't too thrilled about it.

His real interest lies in Sakura, a figure skater from Tokyo and a rising star for whom he starts to develop a genuine fascination. Coach and former champion Arakawa spots potential in Takuya, and decides to mentor him to form a duo with Sakura for an upcoming competition.

While winter persists, the two children form a harmonious bond—but the snow is destined to melt away. In My Sunshine, director Hiroshi Okuyama offers a subtle critique of the social expectations surrounding gender and sexuality, poetically evoking the joy of childhood emotions and the struggle for acceptance.



Silent Sparks

Taiwan, 2024

Runtime 78 Mins	Director Chu Ping
	5 May Rio Cinema 18:30
● UK Premiere	Fresh out of prison, the young Taiwanese gangster Pua is drawn back into the underworld, compelled not only by finan-

cial necessity, but also by the desire to reconnect with the person he longs for, his former cellmate Mi-ji. Pua navigates the criminal margins of society, full of anticipation for his long-awaited reunion with Mi-ji, only to find it falling short of his expectations. Amidst the complexities of underworld relationships, both Pua and Mi-Ji find themselves grappling with difficult choices.

Director Chu Ping takes what could be melodramatic subject matter—a gay gangster—and fashions an artfully shot, exquisitely textured drama that explores different facets of masculine identity. Subtly performed, Silent Sparks offers a cultural exploration of marginal lifestyles and codes of criminal behaviour, but is fundamentally a tragicomedy about Pua's confused persistence in seeking love.



Love and Videotapes

Philippines, 2024

Director Ryan Machado	
9 May The Garden Cinema 18:20	
	9 May The Garden Cinema

UK Premiere

In the summer of 2001, in a small town in the Philippines, 16-year-old Andoy searches for his long-lost father: in VHS tapes. Together with his best friend Pido, a fel-

low film buff, he browses the local video store and attends communal TV viewing sessions; by watching movies together, the pair cement their friendship and gain moments of respite from the harsh realities of life. But for Andoy, video also serves to fuel his sexual awakening and emerging queer desire.

When he befriends charismatic hair-dresser Ariel and mysterious newcomer Isidro, Andoy begins to ask himself who he wants to be. Ryan Machado's first feature is a dreamlike coming-of-age tale that uses magic realism to depict the teenager's journey of self-discovery.

It tenderly evokes the Philippines' bygone VHS culture which is—like Andoy's childhood—on the brink of disappearing forever.



• We Are Here

China, 2015

Runtime 58 Mins	Directors Zhao Jing, Shi Tou
	10 May Rio Cinema 15:30
	This documentary from LGBT activists Zhao Jing and Shi Tou revisits the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, which was hosted in rence was attended by 300 lesbian women world, whose organisers sought to facilitate

The first-ever lesbian tent at a UN NGO forum was created, where ideas were shared, connections were made, and identities were affirmed; the gathering helped spearhead the birth of the queer lala movement in China. Featuring footage of the event, and interview commentary from those who participated, We Are Here testifies to the importance of global queer interactions in shaping the ongoing struggle for equality.

queer participation, visibility, and recognition in the context of

broader discussions around women's rights.



Batch '81

Philippines, 1982

Runtime 100 Mins	Director Mike de Leon	
	12 May Barbican Centre 18:20	

Batch '81 is a groundbreaking psychological drama directed by Mike de Leon. The film depicts the titular fraternity's harsh initiation of new batch members, as seen through the eyes of student Sid Lucero, played by Mark Gil in his breakout role. With its depiction of vicious, sustained haz-

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through the eyes of student Sid Lucero, played by Mark Gil in his breakout role. With its depiction of vicious, sustained hazing, the film is both an unflinching study of sadomasochistic college fraternity traditions, and a camp metaphor for life in the Philippines under the Marcos regime.

Hailed as one of the greatest Filipino films of all time and now restored in 4K, Batch '81 originally premiered at the 1982 Cannes Film Festival during the Directors' Fortnight. Gil's unsettling performance as the student with a silent, unwavering belief in the fraternity allows the film to pose troubling questions about the profound psychological need for social belonging.

With thanks to Asian Film Archive.



Bel Ami

France, 2024

Runtime 116 Mins	Director Jun Geng
	13 May Institute of Contemporary Arts 18:10
UK Premiere	In a sleepy town in China, a middle-aged

man is unwilling to endure a stagnant existence, and experiencing true love, decides to come out of the closet. Mean-

while, a lesbian couple go in search of a gay man, in order to get married and have a child. Behind these fiery love stories lies an absurd drama about identity politics, as these lonely souls struggle with the legacy of the communist past.

Zhang Zhiyong gives a superb performance in the lead role and won Best Actor at the Golden Horse Awards, where the film was nominated in all the major categories; it also won best cinematography and editing. Stylising daily reality with a biting black humour, director Geng Jun subtly critiques popular assumptions about gender roles, social etiquette, and what is considered age-appropriate behaviour.



Pierce

Singapore/Taiwan, 2024

Runtime 109 Mins	Director Nelicia Low	
	May 14 Barbican Centre 18:20	

In this tense, slow-burn thriller, Zi-Jie is a young Taiwanese fencer who reconnects with his estranged older brother Zi-Han, who is released from juvenile prison af-

ter seven years. Zi-Han killed an opponent during a fencing competition but insists that it was an accident and he is innocent of murder. Wanting to believe him, Zi-Jie goes against his mother's wishes, allowing Zi-han to train him for the upcoming national championships. Drawing on her own experience as a professional fencer, Singaporean director Nelicia Low explores the unconscious desires and repressed cruelty that shape the brothers' relationship.

Liu Hsiu-Fu gives an outstanding, complex performance as the stubborn gay teenager, matched by Tsao Yu-Ming as the disconcerting older sibling who might be a victim of circumstance—or a sociopathic killer.



Looking for an Angel

Japan, 1999

Runtime 60 Mins	Director Akihiro Suzuki
	May 15 Barbican Centre 18:30
• Q&A attempting to g	Takachi, a young gay porn star from a small town in Japan, is found dead in Tokyo. At his wake, two of his friends, Reiko and Shinpei, recollect their time together, piece together fragments of Takachi's life. What
	ometimes contradictory portrait of a desperate-

emerges is a sometimes contradictory portrait of a desperately lonely man who longs for love and kindness: but can his life ever really be understood by others? Akihiro Suzuki's impressive debut feature challenges assumptions around sexuality, presenting characters who are androgynous or whose sexual preferences are ambiguous, rejecting the idea that desire is something fixed or unchanging.

Filmed in a lo-fi, indie style, Looking for an Angel is a quintessential example of Japan's dynamic queer cinema scene, interweaving past and present, memories and stories, as it offers an impressionistic account of the elusive Takachi's existence.



Crazy Love

Japan, 1968

Runtime 97 Mins	Director Michio Okabe
	17 May Institute of Contemporary Arts 18:00
• Q&A those years. Craz	Michio Okabe's subversive underground film was shot on 16mm in Shinjuku in 1968, and documents the radical spirit of Japan's creative and artistic scene in by Love is structured as a collage of diverse

Okabe was influenced by Kenneth Anger's Scorpio Rising but developed his own distinctly kitsch, camp aesthetic, which is fully in evidence here; the director himself appears onscreen, acting out roles including James Bond. Challenging established social norms and codes of sexual behaviour, Crazy Love is a testament both to a liberated, experimental moment in art and film, and to an iconoclastic filmmaker.

activities and performers, including a happening by avant-garde art group Zero Jigen (Zero Dimension), Genpei Akasega-

wa's fake bill, a march by futen (hippies), and parodies of ad-

verts and cinema entertainment.



Public Display

Total Runtime 99 Mins

Curatorial Idea

Yi Wang. **Emily Jisoo Bowles**

8 May

Museum of the Home 18:30

Pay What You Can

From public toilets to dingy cinemas, cruising has long tested the borders between being seen and hiding in the shadows. Pleasure and danger are intimate-

ly intertwined in this programme, where private fantasies are played out in the open. Blurring the lines between voyeurism and exhibitionism, porn actors, social media influencers, or those simply looking for a good time seek to fulfil their complex desires and fetishes.

In All The Rooms We Met

Malavsia 2024

Runtime

Director

Bonaventure Tain

Over the years, the filmmaker meets the porn actor Ryuji Suzuki in various rooms, as they reflect on their life experiences and sexual fantasies. Documenting a world where reality and fiction intertwine, imagination becomes a conduit for experimentation.

Angel in the Toilet Japan, 1999

Runtime

Director

Koichi Imaizumi 33 Mins

An angel encounters a series of men in a public toilet, bringing love to lost

To Pee or Not to Pee

Runtime

Director

Taiwan, 2023

23 Mins

Yen-Chu Chen

A male urologist and his dentist husband used to be intimate. When a video interview makes them famous, they must question whether they truly accept each other and their secret fetish.

bring to life this golden era in the 1980s, when the area became a paradise

Paradise

South Korea, 2023

for cruising and queer life.

Runtime

Director

Minki Hong

As theatres were shut down in Jongno, Seoul, a few discount theatres survived thanks to their patronage by gay men. Interviews and animation

queereast.org.uk







How (Not) To Be Seen

Total Runtime 94 Mins **Curatorial Idea**

Emily Jisoo Bowles

9 May

The Garden Cinema

20:30

Pay What You Can

Invisibility has often been a key survival technique for queer individuals, allowing them to blend seamlessly into a straight world by day, and build underground

communities by night. But in an age when queer representation is increasingly spotlighted in the media, is all this visibility good visibility? From times when we need to make our voices heard, to moments when we choose to escape into metaphors and opacity, these short films examine the multifaceted and contradictory notion of queer visibility.

queereast.org.uk



● Listen to Your Love for Me

China/France, 2025

Runtime

Director Kai Xu

Lu, a Chinese immigrant, lives with his French boyfriend Christophe in Paris. During the election, Lu discovers that his boyfriend is going to vote for a candidate who opposes immigration.

● Three USA, 2024 Runtime 15 Mins Director Amie Song

A Chinese woman who has recently moved to the United States tries to hide her daughter's secrets from her new friends.

● The Parisian in Bali Village China. 2023

Runtime

Director

Bingxing Cen

A girl who lives in Bali Village, Chengdu, has never traveled abroad but insists that she is Parisian. It turns out that there are many others like her, who suffer from the same hometown disorder.

◆ The Performance Netherlands, 2023 Runtime

Director

20 Mins

Claire Zhou

Chorister Lin is preparing her solo song performance for the Chinese New Year celebration at her church. When rumours start circulating about her child, who has not been to church for some time, Lin is faced with a difficult choice.

Chaehwa

South Korea, 2024

Runtime

Director

21 Mins

Hong Seung-gi

A mysterious child turns up at a school, disappearing at breaktime to bask in the sunlight. Could they have anything to do with the flowers that have started to bloom everywhere?





Here, There, or Somewhere Else

Total Runtime 73 Mins

Curatorial Idea

Chia-Chieh Liu & Xinyi Wang

10 May

ESEA Community Centre

14:00

Pay What You Can

We all carry our own histories, cultures, languages, and desires—but also those of others. How do we situate ourselves when we belong neither here nor there?

From Vietnam to Germany, Tokyo to London, migration is a journey of both preservation and loss, complicated by queerness. Across nebulous landscapes of gender identity and family ties, this programme explores the tensions of navigating multiple cultural terrains, and the cracks in between.

This screening is preceded by a poetery reading. As part of Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab 2024/25.



• TIS FOR?

UK. 2024

Runtime

Director

Vins Leo Haove Lvu

A lesbian recounts having a crush on a girl at a supermarket, which leads them to question their multiple intersecting identities as well as socially constructed ideal

Jackfruit

Germany, 2021

Runtime

Director

34 Mins Thùy Trang Nguyễn

Mít struggles to reconcile their queer identity with familial ties when their grandmother is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. As they care for their grandmother, they reflect on all the cultural knowledge that will be lost with her.

Like a Bird

UK. 2023

Runtime 4 Mins Director

Melissa Frateantonio

Hee-chan, a Japanese woman now in her fifties, moved to London from Tokyo when she was eighteen. She makes a phone call to her mother back in Tokyo, reminiscing about Hee-chan's childhood dream to be a bird.

Apartment 605

Philippines, 2023

Runtime

Director

7 Mins

Bianca Catbagan

Mika is packing up their late father's apartment when they are interrupted by a stranger at the door. A conversation over the building's intercom leads to Mika learning unexpected truths about their father.

Bara

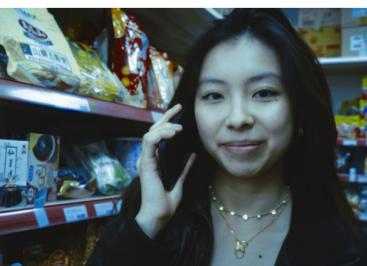
Japan, 2024

Runtime

Director

20 Mins Cha

In a rural Japanese town, a cinema specialising in gay adult films becomes a refuge for queer individuals. A drag queen and a closeted man cross paths, questioning their diverging paths in life and their place in society.





Homecomings

Total Runtime 55 Mins

Curatorial Idea

David Bakum. Leah Lapautre

11 May

Museum of the Home 12:30

Pay What You Can

Homecomings explores the transformative power of queerness, transness, migration, and ancestral connections in redefining home. Each story delves into

the personal and collective struggles to feel whole, embracing both its griefs and joys. You are invited to reflect on the roots that ground us, the people who nurture us, the places we carry within us forever-and celebrate queerness as a superpower for homecoming.

This screening is followed by an extended panel discussion. As part of Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab 2024/25.



Wouldn't Make It Any Other Way

USA, 2024

Runtime Director

Having built a colourful gueer life in lowa, an aspiring costume designer visits their island homeland of Guam to make costumes for a children's theatre while reconnecting with distant parents.

At Least We Had This Moment

Runtime

Director

20 Mins

Joshua de Vera

Philippines, 2025

In his quest to capture the architecture of old Manila, film photographer Dino goes on a guided tour led by Vince, a local. Frustrated with revisiting the same spots, Dino proposes deviating from the itinerary to explore the city, bringing the two closer.

Painted Ones

USA. 2024

Runtime

Director

5 Mins

Julia Husain Nacario

An Oakland-based Bisaya tattoo artist rediscovers and unlocks indigenous Filipino histories through ink.

hi ading Canada, 2023 **Runtime**

Director

2 Mins

Dinaly Tran

The filmmaker explores their own transness by journeying through their

 Little Chairs, Little Conversations

parents' stories of love and migration.

Runtime

Director

7 Mins

Honey Birch

UK. 2024

Adopted at the age of 8 months, Honey explores their frustration at feeling almost-British-almost-Chinese. They build two little chairs inspired by a finding trip to their hometown and stage conversations with three other Chinese adoptees from across England.





Floating Between Frontiers

Total Runtime 76 Mins

Curator Cici Peng

11 May

Barbican Centre 17:45

● Q&A

An experimental non-fiction and fiction film programme explores the suffocation engendered by frontiers and borders across historical, social and personal

terrains. Balancing the double sense of threat and possibility offered by trespassing and errantry, these works examine subjects carving out spaces of liberation and reflection amidst various forms of entrapment.

Two works from Okinawa capture the island's palimpsestic history through various modes-the autobiographical and the performative; McMullin's work re-stages indigenous fa'afafine folklore; while Daphne Xu and Pom Bunsermvicha turn to the fateful odysseys of our central female protagonists.

This screening is followed by a Q&A with some of the filmmakers in the programme.



Variations on the Theme of (The Ocean View Resort)

Runtime 21 Mins

Director Futoshi Miyaqi

Japan, 2024

Japan. 2004

A moving-image work reflecting on the narrator's gueer Okinawan identity through the prism of a former relationship with an American man.

■ I Like Okinawa Sweet

Runtime

Director

Chikako Yamashiro

Leaning over a fence of a U.S. military base, the artist herself indulges in an ice cream cone someone gave her. The performance critiques the increasingly homogenised "pop" touristic image of the artist's homeland in Okinawa.

Sinalela

Samoa. 2001

Runtime 3 Mins

Director

Dan Taulapapa McMullin

Fa'afafine (in the manner of a woman) is an identity defined relationally in Samoa which is often glossed as transgender or gay, despite its specificity. The film's narrative voice-over rewrites the well-known fairytale through a new queer lens with the inclusion of Indigenous folktales.

 Notes of a Crocodile China/Cambodia, 2024 **Runtime**

Director

Daphne Xu

Shot in Cambodia and borrowing the title and punk sensibility from Qiu Miaojin's classic queer novel, Daphne Xu's Notes of a Crocodile follows an unnamed woman who roams the streets of Phnom Penh in flux, encountering humans and animals in her search for a lost friend.

The Nature of Dogs Thailand/USA/Singapore/ Runtime

Director

27 Mins Pom Bunsermvicha

Hong Kong, 2024

A family of four and their dog arrive at a seaside hotel in Kui Buri, Thailand. What appears to be an ordinary vacation turns into a series of interactions that betray an unspoken tension in their relationships. The next day, complexities unfold in a cave housing Buddha statues.





Self Portraits

Total Runtime 95 Mins

Curatorial Idea

Emily Jisoo Bowles

14 May

UCL East Community Cinema

Free Entry

What is revealed when you film yourself? In this series of personal documentaries, queer filmmakers turn the camera onto themselves, probing their bodies as sites

of fantasy and discovery, or examining the disjunctions in their personal lives.

By searching through home movies and staging re-enactments, the filmmakers construct their own narratives about their lives, embracing ambivalence to reckon with painful family histories and shifting identities.

Presented in partnership with Spectra, Queer Non Fiction Films.



• My Therapist Said. I am Full of Sadness

Runtime

Director Monica Vanesa Tedia

Indonesia, 2024

Mixing archival home footage of a childhood in Jakarta and glimpses of their current life in Berlin, a nonbinary filmmaker reflects on their chosen life and relationship with their devout Christian parents.

Flying Fish UK, 2024

Runtime

Director Ming Mengmeng

10 Mins

Blending real family archives with fiction, Flying Fish follows a journey of self-discovery through childhood portraits, cross-dressing, and imagination. In a dreamy photo studio, a group of crocodile companions dance freely.

Before Then

China/Germany, 2024

Runtime

Director

Mengzhu Xue

The filmmaker attempts to confess a secret that she has carried with her for years. She presents the secret in the form of a letter in English, which she writes out phonetically in Chinese, and asks her grandmother to read it out

The Boys who Sit Down to Pee

Runtime 22 Mins Director

Bonaventure Tain

Malaysia, 2023

Boys who step into toilet cubicles instead of standing at the urinals have a secret to hide. The film is a self-discovery portrait of the filmmaker, who has spent 41 years living with hypospadias.

A Journey of the Leaves UK, 2024

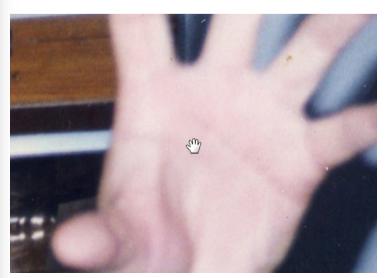
Runtime

Director

Yash Zhang

11 Mins

When memories of his father's violence chase him from China, a queer filmmaker drifts into an Estonian town. A wandering traveler, a bookstore owner, a poet's living statue, and another queer Chinese soul carrying similar wounds guide him through the scattered pieces of his past.





This is not a promise, but a prayer

Total Runtime 81 Mins **Curatorial Idea**

Arshootti, Xinyi Wang

17 May

The Garden Cinema 12:30

Pay What You Can

In a world plagued by genocides, the climate crisis, and the erasure of cultures, this short film programme explores how queer communities continue to imagine

possible futures ripe with solidarity and abundance.

From queer shamanism to radical care between HIV-positive bodies, ritual and performance become tools to remake the universe. Because to be queer is to refuse to comply with the world as it is, thereby hoping, dreaming, and forging worlds that are not yet born.

This screening is followed by a poetry reading by Sarah Lasoye. As part of Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab 2024/25.



● Filament Fortune

Multiple Origins, 2024

Runtime

Director

HIV-positive bodies stage a reverse-arranging of flowers, stitched together with personal accounts of living with stigmatised illness.

● JuJu vs The Possibilities of Life, Love and Death

Runtime

Director

l5 Mins

Htet Aung Lwyn

Myanmar, 2024

JuJu, a Burmese trans woman, works at an independent cinema in Bangkok. A chance encounter leads to a series of conversations speculating on future possibilities, imagined through the language of film.

● High Tide or Low Tide? Philippines, 2024

Runtime 20 Mins Director

20 M

Gio Franco Amarillo Alpuente

A closeted high schooler steers through his hypomanic highs and depressive lows while navigating first love, heartbreak, and his homophobic community. Unknowingly, he tells his story through a performance for the school's poetry contest.

Hide and Seek UK, 2024 Runtime

Director

6 Mins

Junjie Xu

Queer utopias are brought to life through 3D animation, where a character hiding their queer identity from their parents escapes into fantasy and imagination.

Baradiya

Philippines, 2024

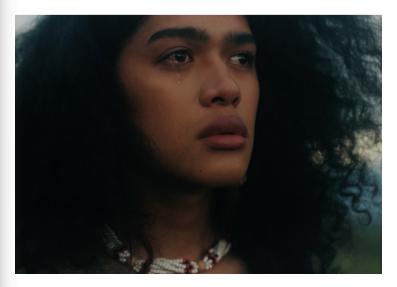
Runtime

Directors

30 Mins Gab Mejia, Miko Reyes, David Loughran, Antonio

& Lantong Dagoc Jr.

A Talaandig-Manobo indigenous trans woman must uphold her community's culture by becoming a Babaylan, a Filipino queer shaman. Amid the destruction of her ancestral land in Bukidnon, Philippines, she finds meaning in her ancestry and embraces her destiny.





Dancing in Your Wake

Total Runtime 97 Mins **Curatorial Idea**

Lu Etienne, Gareth Mattey

17 May

The Garden Cinema 14:30

Pay What You Can

We're all haunted—by lost loves, past selves, secrets and societal demands. In this dynamic programme, queer characters and communities dance with the

ghosts that haunt them. Should they embrace spectral coexistence or fight for an exorcised future?

This collection of short films is a call to action imbued with warmth and spectacle, from the playful tone and dazzling palette of Grandma Nai Who Played Favorites, to the tender surrealism of 302 and the cheeky rebellion of If I Were a Voice. Get ready to expose the truth, reject expectations, and defend what matters the most, with rhythm and style.

As part of Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab 2024/25.



Grandma NaiWho Played Favorites

Taiwan, 2001

Runtime 19 Mins Director Chheangkes

During a family visit to her grave, Grandma Nai sneaks away from the peaceful afterlife after overhearing that her queer grandson is about to get engaged to a woman.

Thunder BirdMyanmar, 2025

Runtime 16 Mins

Director Yadanar Oo

The Thunder Bird dance troupe has graced festivals in Myanmar for 50 years, withstanding military rule and widespread stigma. The reigning Mother of this troupe, Mommy Soe, reflects on her journey of political resistance and enduring love.

● Farewell, Saranghae, Farewell

Runtime 26 Mins Director

26 IVIINS

Sunhye Hong

South Korea/Japan, 2024

Hitomi's girlfriend Naho dreams of being a K-Pop idol in Korea, and while Hitomi is supportive, she knows it could spell the end of their relationship. When Naho passes her audition, Hitomi decides to collect empty plastic bottles to take unexpected action.

● 302

Singapore, 2024

Runtime

Director

16 Mins Leon Ch

Young officer cadet Aaron opens a can of worms when he declares "302" to the Singapore army, a medical code used to classify personnel as homosexual. Navigating the aftermath of his decision, Aaron is forced to grapple with the weight of his responsibilities, desires and ideals.

If I Were A Voice Philippines, 2024 Runtime

Director

20 Mins

Denbert Tiamson

Things aren't going well for Ralph. His boyfriend is expelled and he's suspended from the choir on the eve of their big show. Can Ralph mobilise his classmates to give one unforgettable performance that exposes their corrupt school administration?



Belonging and Becoming: Queers Across the Waves

Total Runtime 70 Mins Curator

Queer China UK

18 May

Rich Mix 13:00

Pay What You CanQ&A

From March to June 2024, ten East Asian queer individuals discovered the power of filmmaking through the "Queer Across the Waves" filmmaking project, trans-

forming their personal stories into visual poetry. We invite you to immerse yourself in six extraordinary debut works that emerged from this intimate collaboration with Queer China UK.

These films explore the fluid space where "belonging" and "becoming" intertwine, weaving together threads of cultural identity, searching for desires, and human connection. Join us in witnessing these powerful narratives of the Chinese-speaking queer diaspora, and share your own reflections in the conversations that follow.

This screening is followed by a conversation with filmmakers moderated by Yash Zhang.



● The Missing Dialogues

UK. 2024

Runtime

Director

The Missing Dialogues explores the complex intersection of Taiwanese identity, mainland Chinese upbringing, and queer experience through intimate storytelling. Unearthing the silenced conversations between Taiwanese and Chinese perspectives, the documentary tenderly unveils new ways of understanding selfhood, belonging, and the delicate ties between love and identity.

● The Leaved, the Left

ft

Director

Runtime 8 Mins

Ming Mengmeng

The Leaved, The Left follows a train journey through shifting black-and-white scenes, exploring self-identity and belonging. Like consciousness itself, it weaves between presence and absence, connection and solitude, as the protagonist navigates between imagination and a binary world.

So Darling, Play Your Violin Runtime

Director

ins Yuwei 魚尾

UK. 2024

UK. 2024

Xiao Shu, a girl who can speak to trees, encounters one that remains silent. She confides in it about her confusion over family, gender, and love. Sleeping beneath the tree, she dreams of becoming a tree herself.

● Who Is Out? UK, 2024 Runtime

Director

8 Mins

The film explores a queer woman's struggle to come out to her family, highlighting parental rejection and her internal conflict. Using surrealism, it contrasts her desire for freedom with a longing for understanding, using humour

● Unlock UK, 2024 Runtime

Director Nan

After an accident abruptly ends his BDSM relationship, MilkBottle completes a final video task reflecting on his journey from Shandong, China to London, UK. As a webcam porn influencer, he confronts homophobia, sexual racism, and the blurred boundaries between digital and physical realms.

and irony to depict the assertion of feminine and gueer power.

● First Love China, 2024

Runtime

Director

This is a story about the reunion of two former lovers. Memory and imagination remain hazy, and the line between love and friendship is blurred. Through poetic imagery, the director explores the questions left unasked in the past and gives voice to the words that were never spoken.



Heartbeats and Hiccups

Total Runtime
98 Mins
Yi Wang,
Emily Jisoo Bowles

18 May Rich Mix 15:15

Pay What You Can

Reality doesn't always match up with fantasy, instead manifesting in even stranger ways. Whether a fleeting brush past an enigmatic stranger at the chime

of a clock, or a belief that having sex with unattractive people yields good karma, mixed signals and scrambled meanings can complicate the path to love. In this atypical programme, unfulfilled encounters and crushes are just as transformative as romance itself.

queereast.org.uk



Goodbye First Love

China. 2024

Runtime

Director

Director and cinematographer Shuli Huang visits his first love in Frankfurt on a dark and rainy day. In a small studio, the two men share contradictory memories of their past relationship in Beijing, pointing to tales of what could have been in weary, melancholic silences.

Saigon KissVietnam, 2024

Runtime 22 Mins

Director

Mins Hồng Anh Nguyễn

Mo navigates rush hour traffic and ignores an unwanted call. She meets Vicky whose motorbike has broken down, sparking an intense encounter between the two women on the bustling streets of Saigon.

Flesh Offer

Taiwan, 2024

Runtime 13 Mins Director

Chung Che Hung

Ching believes in the legend of the "Living Buddhas". He constantly has sex with men he finds unattractive in the hope of fulfilling his desire to have sex with Yong-cheng, a handsome classmate. As Ching approaches his target number of men, his relationship with Yong-cheng also begins to develop.

One to Ten Taiwan, 2019 Runtime

Director

Kun-Hou Teng

After reading about a legend on the internet, four high school students gather to pray at ten temples to make their wishes come true. The girls' desires and conflicts are slowly revealed as they perform the ritual.

■ The 5 O'Clock Chime

Japan, 2024

Runtime

Director

15 Mins

James Cooper

An unfulfilled romantic encounter and a sudden disappearance at the chime of a clock leaves Seiji struggling to make sense of what never happened and what might have been.





(Dis)orientalism: Queer **Extensions & Looking East**

Total Runtime 57 Mins

Curator

Xuanlin Tham

30 April Rich Mix 20:00

Pay What You Can

Inspired by Sara Ahmed's writing on both the "orient" of sexual orientation and the "orient" of Orientalism, this programme plots a cartography of how othered bod-

ies inhabit spaces where we are not at home-how we etch new desire lines off the straight path.

Here, we lean into the spectacle of exoticism, the familiar "strangeness" of the Orient as object, to unveil its contrivance. But gueer Asian subjects also refuse to come into frame, allowing us to inhabit shadow, ambiguity, and instability through their gaze. These are experiments in moving through space queerly: what does it mean for a body to be oriented, to feel at home?

This screening is followed by a paper fortune teller activity.



hard boil, soft centre

Singapore, 2024

Runtime 12 Mins

Directors Sonia Kwek

A surrealist short film that reimagines four female archetypes, threaded together with the symbol of the egg.

Penumbrae **Question Shadow**

Runtime 4 Mins

Director Kara Li

UK, 2024

A video poem using the Chinese ancient philosophy "Penumbrae Question Shadow (罔两问影)" to challenge the binary structure of Western identity politics and queerness.

Similar Disguise

Runtime 8 Mins

Director

China. 2020

Tao Hui

Five episodes each present a character in a different time, space, and environment, allowing artist Tao Hui to rethink the role of "dressing" and "performing" in people's identity and transformation.

The Train of Memories Taiwan, 2023

Runtime 5 Mins

Director

Scanned photographs create a "train of memories" that charts Jeremiah Chen's struggles to seek self-identification while offering the possibility of release.

Walker

Runtime

Director

Philippines, 2022

27 Mins

Tsai Ming-liang

Lee Kang-Sheng is a red-robed monk barely locomoting through the bustling streets of Hong Kong.





Queered Out!

Total Runtime 120 Mins

Curator

Hee Jo Kang

6 May

Museum of the Home

18:30

Pay What You Can Workshop

We *KNEAD* to talk, directed by Nandal Seo, is the first film in a short film series exploring food, culture, and identity. The film follows a group of friends making

Pelmeni, a Russian dumpling, highlighting shared culinary traditions and challenging the rigid boundaries between cultures. The screening will be followed by an artist talk moderated by curator Heejo Kang and a workshop, Stinky, led by SPILLL collective on food and queerness.

Addressing food-based discrimination, the workshop will delve into reclaiming stigmatised sensory experiences tied to ESEA identities and explore how our identities are queered. By "mixing sauces," we can blur cultural and social divisions, fostering solidarity, self-expression, and connection beyond communities.

queereast.org.uk



• We *KNEAD* to talk UK. 2024

Runtime

Director Nandal Seo

The film is the first in a series of short films exploring food, culture, and identity through dumplings. Nandal learns to make Pelmeni, a Russian dumpling, from her friend Nastya, highlighting shared culinary traditions and challenging the boundaries between cultures.





Archives: On Acts of Resistance & Remembrance

Total Runtime 120 Mins

Curators CiEn Heong,

6 May

ESEA Community Centre

Pay What You Can Workshop

How do memories and embodied histories serve as acts of feminist and queer resistance in the face of erasure? Silences in historical narratives are encoded in

archives, where underrepresented histories are written out.

Embodied experiences of gendered violence during slavery, genocide, and war remain fundamentally unrepresentable. These histories are thus at risk of erasure from dominant narratives and memories. By turning towards fables, land, bodies, and communities, we can decolonise archives and look for different ways of honouring alternative histories beyond institutions.

Including 7 audiovisual artworks, archive displays, and a workshop, this event explores what it means to re-remember history.



The Red Chador: Genesis I

Runtime

Director Anida Yoeu Ali

Seven performers create an intentionally colorful spectacle to reclaim the gaze of the Muslim woman.

Kidung focuses on the spectral trace of Bali's histories of political violence

and how this buried past continues to haunt present topographies.

The Alter Myanmar, 2023

USA. 2021

Runtime

Director

10 Mins Moe Myat May Zarchi

A buddhist fable-like story about the guilt of a childhood incident involving the killing of an ant.

Earth, Land, Sky and Sea as Palimpsest **Runtime** 18 Mins

Directors

Zarina Muhammad. Zachary Chan

Singapore, 2017

An invitation to cross thresholds and observe the unobservable: to see with our skin, hear with our feet, & feel our way above and beneath pathless paths.

 Di Mana Keluargaku Merantau

Runtime 12 Mins

Director Huda Osni

Singapore, 2024

Di Mana Keluargaku Merantau addresses the space that is connected to memory within the changing landscapes in Singapore.

 Single File Hong Kong, 2023 Runtime 10 Mins

Director

In the wake of cataclysmic regional change in Hong Kong, Single Files sifts through new realities of misinformation, digital consciousness and cultural disappearance while seeking new lexicons of disobedience.

VOID

Philippines, 2024

Runtime 4 Mins

Directors Kitty Yeung,

Joshua Serafin

Honouring tropical myth and the dreamwork of a nonbinary cosmopolis emancipated from colonial hierarchies of gender and race, Joshua Serafin enfolds queer and trans methodologies into their sites of creation.



Things and Tingling

Total Runtime 100 Mins

Curator

Bart Seng Wen Long

9 May

Rio Cinema 23:30

Pav What You Can Performance

The desire of material fetishism rarely includes a fetishisation of its production. For example, the rubber catsuit, potent with visceral sensualities, hides the con-

ditions of the agrarian class, the biological miracle of the laticifer cell, or the blood of tumultuous histories. But a real fetishist leaves no stones unturned in their obsession. For them, desire does not exist without a rubber suit which does not exist without the rubber plantation which does not exist without colonial projects in Southeast Asia which does not exist without.

Taking the transformative potential of the material fetish as a starting point, this programme intrudes into the typically veiled processes of fetishisation and opens up the political, historical, industrial and emotional conditions of a fetish's construction. The (moving image, porn, music video) works in this programme point towards the fluxes of material desires, and the interconnectedness of things.

This programme will feature a live performance with Shibari artist Hua Hua and DroneLarvae.



Laura

Japan. 1974

Runtime 9 Mins

Director

Terayama Shuji

Three showgirls playfully mock the audience for attending a projection of an art film.

Emergencies Singapore, 2025

Runtime

Director

A Singaporean man recounts two memories—one of a colonial-era film about rubber, and another of his ex-partner in fetish.

Ramadan Nights

Thailand, 2021

Runtime

Director

16 Mins

Samak Kosem

Ramadan Nights is a video work adapted from a short story written by the artist, narrating the trauma of a Melayu Muslim woman who encounters mysterious and inexplicable events.

 Chastity POV(s), pt 1 & 2

Runtime

Director

Lady Hinako

Japan, 2025

Lady Hinako has a chastity challenge for the audience members.

Quantum Leap

Australia/Indonesia, 2024

Runtime 16 Mins

Directors

Ari Angkasa, Serena Arsletta

A two-channel video combines Angkasa's video collage and performance art practice in a film addressing the aviation industry's role as an arm of the state in global politics.

The Internationale

Thailand, 2018

Runtime 6 Mins

Director

Chulayarnnon Siriphol

A music video created by the artist using "The Internationale", which was adapted to rock music by Chinese band, Tang Dynasty, in 1992.

The Sublime of Rectum

Runtime

Director

Vietnam, 2017

15 Mins

Trương Minh Quý

A visual exploration of intimate homosexual body contact.



★ (un)Imaginary Swords ☆

Total Runtime

Curator

水哨 Shuǐ Shào

(If Splash as your Whistle)

10 May

Centre 151 18:45

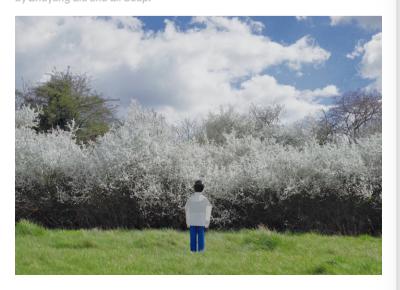
Pay What You CanPerformance

★(un)Imaginary Swords ☆ is a multidisciplinary event combining artist films, moving image works, and an experimental sound performance that examines the

interplay between mass media and fandom culture—how they shape, challenge, and subvert constructs of gender, identity, and power dynamics.

From a mourning fairy to a love-struck Minotaur, from a chivalrous figure to a paper puppet traveller, these selected narratives drift between imagination and reality, balancing innocence, humour, and melancholy. Through avatars and fantasy roles, they reconstruct notions of intimacy and identity, blurring the boundaries between self and fiction.

This screening is preceded by the Gourmet Critics, a live performance by Zhuyang Liu and Lil Soap.



● ☆ ETERNAL DEATH ☆

China/Germany, 2024

Runtime

Director

A digital character confronts its existence and cyber death through fragmented, nonlinear monologues within the digital realm.

● KungFu 功夫 China, 2022

Runtime 17 Mins

Director Shen Jinghao

A chivalrous girl descends from a bygone era strolling through the modern world, igniting an enquiry into queerness.

Minotaur has a crush

Runtime 3 Mins Director Liming Lin

TBC, 2021

A love story unfolds between a Minotaur and a Mystic Lamb.

● Run! Dorothy! Run! China, 2023

Runtime 35 Mins Director

Reimagining The Wizard of Oz, Judy Garland's legacy is explored alongside China's evolving LGBTQ+ landscape.

● Safe Trip China/UK, 2024 Runtime 12 Mins Directors Yuyue He, Xiya Wang

A Chinese paper offering figure wanders the earthly realm, delivering a letter home—an echo of diasporic longing and memory.





Under Scales, Beyond Skin

Total Runtime Curatorial Idea 79 Mins Alisa Ikenaga, Vee Dagger 11 May The Garden Cinema 16:30 Pay What You Can In celebration of the Year of the Snake.

Performance

this programme coils itself around the serpent as a symbol of transformation and duality. Across five short films, pro-

priety and convention are shed like scales as characters emerge into strange new expressions of gueerness.

From melancholic relationship drama to monochrome gueer myth, Japanese drag gueens to Chinese folktales, vulnerable new skins ripple, shift, and struggle into wondrous new shapes. These stories celebrate the unending process of becoming, thereby honouring the slippery and sacred queer experience.

This screening is preceded by a drag performance by Vee Dagger. As part of Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab 2024/25.



Kokuhaku Spain. 2024

Runtime

Director Adrià Guxens

Tadashi is a Spanish-Japanese actor who plays female characters in a theatrical practice similar to kabuki. During an interview, he returns to the past to re-live his most intimate memories.

● The Deity Yet to Be Seen The Netherlands, 2024

Runtime 14 Mins

Director

A re-enactment of the legend of the white serpent (白蛇传), an ancient Chinese folktale, the film traces a serpent spirit through its transformative states of gender and identity. It evolves from a formless being to a man, woman, both, and neither.

J is for Just an Afternoon Thunderstorm Runtime

Director

22 Mins Yung Hsiang Chuang

Taiwan, 2023

M and Jiang have been in an open relationship for several years. The couple's bond is tested when they unexpectedly encounter a stranger on a hike, opening up exciting new possibilities.

Shé Snake UK, 2023

Runtime

Director

Fei is the top violinist of an elite London youth orchestra. When another Chinese violinist arrives to challenge her place in the orchestra, Fei's anxieties and internalised racism grow to take monstrous physical form. They whisper to her, urging her to be the best, no matter the cost.

The Gossips of Cicadidae Philippines, 2022

Runtime 18 Mins

Director

Vahn Leinard C. Pascual

Forced by his father to become the next folk healer of their town, a boy secretly despises his boring life. One day, he falls in love with a Tikbalang, a mythical humanoid creature that has the head of a horse.





Dream Delivery China, 2018 Runtime

Director ZHENG Yuan 郑源

An exhausted delivery man is lying on a park bench, deep asleep.

● Esrever South Korea, 2023 Runtime 16 Mins Director HeeSue Kwon

While images are forgotten and returned to memory in a spinning motility, the empty point of view returns to the viewer and repetition returns to the uninterpretable dimension.

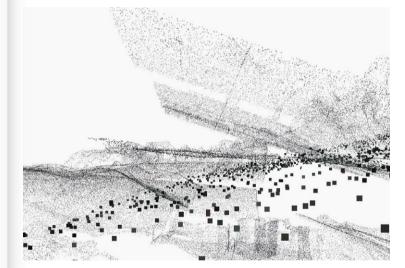
Wunderkammer 10.0
 South Korea/Netherlands,
 2021

Runtime 30 Mins

Director Tianhui Wu

rata na NA/a na da nika na na an 10 O ia

In a virtual city of the future, the operating system Wunderkammer 10.0 is created to provide a more stable and fast autonomous driving service. Faced with the limitations of data accessibility within a specific timeline, Wunderkammer finds a long-expired travel blog on the internet.





Total Runtime 80 Mins Curator Aileen Ye

13 May
Rich Mix

19:00

Pay What You CanPerformance

VISION//ERROR brings together contemporary experimental films with a live performance, tracing the fractures and recompositions of image, movement, and

time. As technology reshapes how we see and experience the world, these works dismantle and reassemble the moving image, testing its limits and possibilities.

The programme offers glimpses into shifting landscapes—of society, of memory, of an unstable future still in the process of being formed.

This screening event features a live performance Moving Watchers in an Irreversible Dream, made by Soyun Park.

Moving Watchers in an Irreversible Dream

China, 2018

Music Inwoo Jung

Performance Soyun Park

How does the machine classify the body in a dream where the past, present, and future are entangled?

This performative experiment explores the writing of a fictional narrative by live-collaging machine-learning classifications of images involving body movements—generated AI images, archival materials, and real-time footage. The experiment intertwines fiction, digital media, and reality into a sensorial experience of time-based media questioning the politics and controlled autonomy embedded in our bodies.



Land, Body and the Sacred: Filipina Ecotransfeminism

Total Runtime

Curator

Giulia Casalini

15 May

Rich Mix 20:00

Pay What You CanPerformance

By travelling to the United Kingdom from the Philippines via Italy, this performative screening aims to create affective bridges through Pinayist and ecotransfeminist

discourses and embodiments. With two films and pole dancing, we will focus on the significance and intersections of land, body and spirituality in Filipino embodiment and imagination, and how, through these, diasporic communities can find proximity to their motherland within the sacredness of their bodies-as-land.

The screening will feature a performance by Alison, followed by a hybrid conversation with the artists Ram Botero, Bunny Cadag and Alison.



Transpositions

Philippines, 2021

Runtime

Director Bunny Cada

Transpositions is the discovery of rootedness in the pre-colonial, towards the creation of rituals of lived experiences in the midst of shifting landscapes and physical displacement.

Diwata

Philippines/UK, 2024

Runtime 15 Mins Directors Ram Botero,

Diwata is a performance for camera, exploring precolonial Philippine mythology from a contemporary, ecotransfeminist lens. Engaging with notions of gender and ecology through a spiritually anitist lens (anito being the locally specific nature spirits), Diwata introduces three manifestations of the divine: Dalikmata, Magindara and Tara, who appear in three different ecologies of Mindanao.







A Sword, A Spectre, A Song

Total Runtime 75 Mins Curator Wingshan

18 May

ESEA Community Centre 14:00

Pay What You CanWorkshop

A Sword, A Spectre, A Song invites viewers into a realm where ancestry, mythology, and diasporic memory collide, reimagining East and Southeast Asian (ESEA)

identities through experimental storytelling and vivid visuals. From matrilineal karaoke to ghostly echoes, neo-mythical figures to diasporic longing, these films delve into resilience, transformation, and belonging.

Through personal histories, cultural legacies, and spectral recollections, the works offer a space for reflection, resistance, and reimagination—an invitation to reclaim the past, reshape the present, and reimagine the future. Featuring Bones Tan Jones, Eelyn Lee, Sadia Pineda Hameed, susan pui san lok, and Tianhui Wu.

This event will be followed by a concersation with bones tan jones and a workshop led by Wingshan.



Grandchildren

UK. 2018

Runtime

time Director

Bones Tan Jones (YaYa Bones), Jade Ang Jackman

Grandchildren celebrates queer community through a vibrant dance and spell-casting ritual. Inspired by the apocalyptic TV show The Tribe and Computer Vision Dazzle paint, the film challenges binaries and hetero-patriarchy, blending creative resistance with imaginative, body-driven storytelling.

● Saam Sing 三星 UK. 2021-24 Runtime

Director Eelyn Lee

Saam Sing 三星 reimagines ESEA identities through neo-mythical characters, blending ancestral stories to challenge stereotypes and redefine Asian and British identities.

● The Land Where Ghosts Could Speak Runtime 14 Mins Director Tianhui Wu

UK, 2024

The Land Where Ghosts Could Speak unearths buried memories, revealing the tension between personal recollection and generational silence.

● The Song of My Life UK, 2024

Runtime

Director

0 Mins

Sadia Pineda Hameed

This karaoke-style video layers familial trauma with matrilineal storytelling, juxtaposing spoken and unspoken narratives passed between generations. The film's format playfully parodies popular karaoke videos while addressing profound emotional and cultural resonances.

● Trailers (RoCH Fans and Legends) Runtime

Director

4 Mins susan pui san lok

UK, 2015

Using martial arts fight sequences interwoven with Google Street View imagery, this work questions authenticity and place-making in the diasporic experience. The playful combination of mundane suburban streets and mythical landscapes evokes the diasporic tension between memory and reality.





Steamy Intimacies: A Shu Lea Cheang Special

Total Runtime 150 Mins Curators

april forrest lin 林森, Jeng Au

2 June

Hackney Wick Community Sauna 18:00

Sauna Bath

Steamy Intimacies is back! For our third edition, we present a selection of Taiwanese video maverick Shu Lea Cheang's early films from the 90s and 00s—desir-

ous and slippery, playful and unrestrained. Splash with us as we deep dive into dripping music video caves where moans and beats echo all around, followed by a long night's unwinding among sweat-soaked comrades, new and old.

A ticket grants you access to the screening, a 60-minute sauna session, and a complimentary snack bag (vegan and gluten-free options available).

Content Notes: Some films in the programme contain explicit nudity, unsimulated sex and flashing images.



Coming Home

Taiwan, 1995

Runtime

Director

Shu Lea Chean

Two women—one white, the other Asian—attempt to fit into a Japanese bathtub. The awkward fitting of bodies into a small space is one of many allegorical scenarios dramatised in a pressing appeal for lesbian rights.

Sex Fish

Taiwan, 1993

Runtime

Director

Vlins Shen Jinghao

A euphoric lesbian sex video features a group of women in a frenzy of erotic scenes accompanied by poetry, dripping water, fancy goldfish, and an ecstatic score.

Sex Bowl

Taiwan, 1994

Runtime

Director

lins Shu Lea Cheang

Sport becomes a site for sexual play and celebratory eroticism in this music video-like collage of fetishes.

Fingers and Kisses

Taiwan, 1993

Runtime

Director

Mins Shen J

Cheang takes her camera to the streets for a candid glimpse of lesbian sexuality in public. If Asian women and lesbians both share a certain degree of invisibility in society, the film offers a bold representation of both, but also a challenge to the question "What do lesbians do?"

LOVEME2030

Taiwan, 2005

Runtime

Director

30 Mins

Shu Lea Cheang

LOVEME not now, not here. LOVEME when I depart. Two young LOVEME agents, Natsuo and Hako, are dispatched from Tokyo to Paris to infiltrate Paris' LOVEME underground in the thick of the night. They make a reservation for a love hotel rendezvous in 2030, deferring all unfinished love stories until the year 2030.



Queer East Industry Day

4 May

BFI Southbank 11:00 - 20:00

Queer East Industry is our initiative to connect with emerging curators, filmmakers, community facilitators, film students, researchers and like-minded

industry professionals. It aims to utilise shared resources, exchange innovative ideas, and advocate for best practices in advancing the film sector.

Since 2020, Queer East has become a beacon for alternative, radical and multifaceted LGBTQ+ and Asian storytelling, and has gained widespread recognition from the industry, creatives, and the wider public in the UK and beyond. This newly launched industry programme will create a space for industry practitioners to discuss the pressing issues affecting the exhibition of queer, Asian, and alternative cinema. Queer East Industry Day is jam-packed with activities, including talks, panels, and networking sessions. We will invite guest speakers from queer festivals and grassroots film collectives who have dared to challenge existing industry frameworks, and facilitate a network for knowledge sharing on audience engagement.

With thanks to the BFI Inclusion Team.





Parallel Voices: Queering (post-)Soviet Central Asia

Total Runtime

130 Mins

Curator

Misha Zakharov

28 April

UCL East Community Cinema

● Free Entry

Through José Esteban Muñoz's and Saidiya Hartman's ideas of queer ephemera and critical fabulation, Misha Zakharov's lecture performance An Ass-Shaped But-

terfly provides a speculative, reparative reading of the stage persona of Erik Kurmangaliev. This Kazakh operatic countertenor had a uniquely high-pitched voice, and became a fixture of the post-Soviet 1990s queer scene by starring in Ukrainian theatre maker Roman Viktyuk's extravagant Moscow production of David Henry Hwang's M. Butterfly.

Accompanied by a specifically designed libretto, the lecture will be followed by the rare screening of Rustam Khamdamov's magical and irreverent Vocal Parallels—Kurmangaliev's single feature film appearance, where he demonstrates his extraordinary vocal prowess alongside some of Kazakhstan's most acclaimed opera singers, including Roza Dzhamanova and Bibigul Tulegenova.

Vocal Parallels

Kazakhstan, 2005

Runtime

Director

Rustam Khamdamov

A queer-coded musical extravaganza set in the Central Asian steppe.

With thanks to Kazakhfilm, Aizhan Kassymbek, and Malika Mukhamejan.



StrangersScotland, 2023

72

Runtime 4 Mins

Two people's worlds collide in a graveyard. One is dealing with a near loss,

Director

Klarissa Webster

Floating in Ecosystems

Total Runtime

Curator Indigo Korres

3 May

Rio Cinema 13:00

Pay What You CanIntroduction

This screening brings together the work of queer East and Southeast Asian artists based in Scotland, showcasing bold explorations of identity, transformation,

and community. The films in this programme experiment with dynamic visual narratives that challenge cultural and bodily boundaries, blurring the lines between reality and fiction, self and other. From fictional work to artist moving image work, these films offer a range of experiences where body and identity intersect with culture and memory.

Florence To will introduce this event by presenting an expansive portrait of queer East and Southeast Asian filmmaking in Scotland today.

Presented in partnership with Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF).



the other still harbours pain after many years.

In the penumbra, the strange wave Runtime 11 Mins Director Wei Zhang

Scotland, 2022

Zhang explores their personal trauma through a blend of various media forms and techniques, creating an alternate reality with symbolic characters representing complex emotions.

Fluid

Runtime

Director

Scotland, 2016

13 Mins

Wei Zhou

The filmmaker traces their personal experiences of love and desire as a queer Chinese woman.

body is/as landscape
 Scotland, 2022

Runtime

Director

13

Joanne Lee

Filming various sites across Scotland, the filmmaker seeks to uncover the frames of references we use to understand and relate to these landscapes.

In Conversation with

Runtime

Director

Scotland, 2024

11 Mins

Eye Suriyanon

A collaborative project between the filmmaker and students about children's rights and Al.

Narratives and Counternarratives Runtime 9 Mins **Director** Chaoying Rao

Scotland, 2022

The fetishisation of Asian women is dissected through collaging.

Wah Yen

Runtime

Director

Scotland, 2024

29 Mins

A neurodivergent Chinese immigrant explores their relationship with a Scottish shipbuilder in 1970s Glasgow.

This programme will feature a live performance with Shibari artist Hua Hua and DroneLarvae.

Kuch Sapney Apne

India/Sweden, 2024

Total Runtime

Director

104 Mins

Sridhar Rangayan

17 May

The Garden Cinema 16:45

Introduction

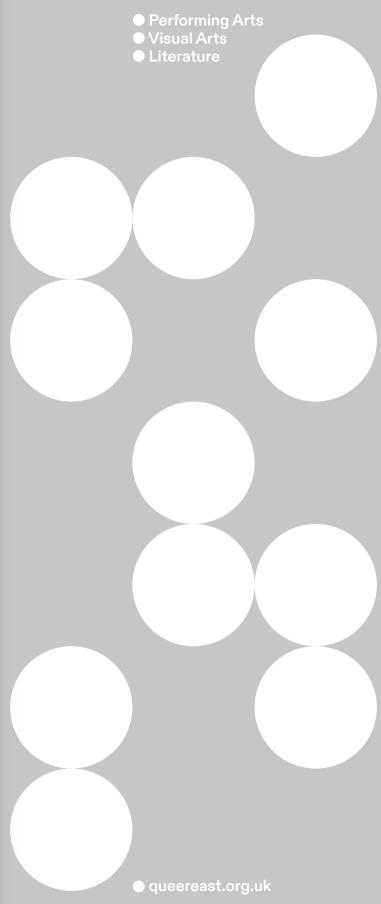
This heartwarming Indian drama is about the struggles of a loving gay couple, Kartik and Aman, who live in Mumbai. Their relationship comes under strain when

74

one of them has a fling, resulting in a domestic crisis. Mean-while, Kartik's parents also face a personal dilemma after they have an argument. Will these two couples ever be able resolve their differences—and can their relationships stand the test of time? A follow-up film to the acclaimed Evening Shadows, Kuch Sapney Apne sensitively explores what happens when relationships are challenged by uncomfortable truths.

Boasting fantastic songs by acclaimed Indian composers and singers, this insightful drama explores love's complicated realities.







When the cloud catches colours

Runtime Playwright & Director
70 Mins Chng Yi Kai

The Pit 24 April (19:45)
Barbican Centre 25 April (19:45)

Theatre Thought-provoking theatre exploring the experience of two queer Singaporeans as they grow older. Based on true accounts, the show delves into relationships, fami-

26 April (14:30/19:45)

ly, insecurity, kindness and safety.

Qing and E are navigating life as queer individuals in their fifties. Qing is struggling to deal with the aftermath of a relationship ending after 20 years, and E is the sole-caregiver to a mother who doesn't fully accept her.

Written and directed by Chng Yi Kai, When the cloud catches colours is a verbatim play that explores what lies ahead for people who have spent most of their lives in the margins, and how a sense of safety can change for a queer person in Singapore as they get older. It offers a timely reflection on queer resilience after the country repealed the British colonial law section 377A, criminalising sex between adult males, in 2023.

Post-show talk on Fri 25 April. Free to same-day ticket holders.



Performing Arts:

aWokening

Runtime 60 Mins	Choreography & Peformance Winnie Ho	
	16 May The Place 19:30	

Dance Longing to reconnect with Hong Kong, her birthplace, the artist Winnie Ho uses the concept of wok chi(鑊氣), the fleeting energy of wok cooking which gives Can-

tonese cuisine its distinct flavour, as a metaphor for her diasporic and queer identity.

Blending physical performance, immersive scenography, and sensory dramaturgy, aWokening transcends the traditional boundaries of contemporary dance, reflecting on cultural loss and identity through past memories, while imagining new horizons. The audience is transported into a universe oscillating between reality and imagination, where food becomes both a cultural anchor and a means of exploring collective memory.

This performance is followed by a post-show talk.



{ guttural },,,{ fleshless }

26 April – 17 May

Curators

Aki Hassan, april forrest lin 林森

Presented in partnership with QUEERCIRCLE



{ guttural },,,{ fleshless } conjures a spectrum of embodiment, exploring artistic projects, experiments, and practices that range from the enfleshed to the ephemeral, the bodily to the intangible. Rooting itself in the body as the site and host of infinite, uncomparable forms of bodily knowledges, the exhibition expands the notion of embodiment into virtual, durational, and participatory realms.

By foregrounding embodied and process-driven practices, { guttural },,,{ fleshless } invites visitors to engage sensorially, and to blur the lines between spectator, witness, and participant. The exhibition presents works across prose, drawing, computer games, sculptural installation and painting, exploring topics ranging from nightlife, foraging, the unseen, past lives, rituals, site responsivity, and translation.

The exhibition's public programme extends the core conceptual investigation by embracing the unrehearsed. Alongside curator tours, artist talks, and playthroughs, Min Yu and By Hand will be activating the exhibition space through a live tattoo performance and an acupressure workshop respectively.

Artists

78

Bontyanak Oscar Chan Yik Long Dri Chiu Tattersfield Clarinda Tse ZULAA

Opening Reception

26 April 17:00-20:00

There will be a series of curated public programmes throughout the exhibition period. Please visit our website for more details and opening times.

27 April QUEERCIRCLE 15:00

Book Talk

Sex on screen is unnecessary, gratuitous, and serves no purpose. This is the sentiment on the rise as cinema becomes less and less sexv.

Marking the publication of Revolutionary Desires, author Xuanlin Tham will be joined by april forrest lin 林森 to discuss this seductive new book, examining why sex scenes in films are more political and subversive than ever.

Literature: Of Cyborgs and Queer Body: Chi Ta-Wei on The Membranes

Book Talk

researcher Chi Ta-Wei will join us for a conversation about his 1995 queer scifi novel The Membranes. Chi will reflect

on his journey over the past decades, as he has sought to advance popular and academic understandings of Taiwanese LGBTQ+ literary history.

The Membranes is a classic of queer speculative fiction in the Sinophone world. Chi Ta-wei weaves dystopian tropes—heirloom animals, radiation-proof combat drones, sinister surveillance technologies-into a sensitive portrait of one young woman's guest for self-understanding.

Literature: Writing **Queers: Shapes, Forms** and Asianness

Roundtable

80

Join us for an evening of conversation about the intersections between queerness, East Asian identity, & literature. The discussion features three award-winning

writers from different generations and writing traditions: Chi Ta-Wei (The Membranes), Eric Yip (Exposure), and Ewen Ma (Where the World Goes Sharp and Quiet).

The three writers will discuss their bodies of work, creative processes, and their hopes for the future of queer Asian literature. This intergenerational and genre-bending conversation explores the shifting landscape of queer writing in Asia, and the expansive possibilities of storytelling.

Literature:

Queering Objects II

Led by	11 May
Eric Yip,	Museum of the Home
Yin Lo	14:30
● Workshop	Our poetry workshop, Queering Objects, returns! Hosted by poet Eric Yip (National Poetry Competition 2021 first prize), the workshop will allow 20 participants to

read, discuss, and appreciate works by queer Asian poets and translators. They will also get a chance to engage in creative writing activities that reimagine daily and unusual objects. By the end of the workshop, the group will share their thoughts on their creative outcomes.

Festival and Programme Director

Yi Wana

Short Film Programme Coordinator

Emily Jisoo Bowles

Festival Assistants

Fllisha Izumi von Grunewald Harry Robinson Penney Chu

Production Assistant

Emile de Watteville

Visual Arts Exhibition **Assistant Producer**

Jialin Hong

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Up Next: Future Film Curators Lab 2024/25 Participants

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3 Centre 151

151 Whiston Road, London, E2 8GU centre151.com / 020 7739 3650

4 ESEA Community Centre

12-14 Englefield Road, London, N1 4LS hackneychinese.org.uk

5 Hackney Wick Community Sauna

The Baths, 80 Eastway, London, E9 5JH community-sauna.co.uk

6 Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)

The Mall, London, SW1Y 5AH ica.art / 020 7930 3647

7 Museum of the Home

136 Kingsland Road, London, E2 8EA museumofthehome.org.uk

8 QUEERCIRCLE

Building 4, 3 Barton Yard, Soames Walk Design District, London, SE10 0BN queercircle.org

9 Rich Mix

35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA richmix.org.uk / 020 7613 7498

10 Somerset House

Strand, London, WC2R 1LA somersethouse.org.uk / 020 7845 4600

11 The Common Press

118 Bethnal Green Road, London, E2 6DG commonpress.co.uk

12 The Garden Cinema

39-41 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5EF thegardencinema.co.uk / 0203 369 5000

13 The Place

17 Duke's Road, London, WC1H 9PY theplace.org.uk / 020 3820 5229

14 The Rio Cinema

107 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2PB riocinema.org.uk / 020 7241 9410

15 UCL East Community Cinema

1 Pool Street, Stratford, London, E20 2AF ucl.ac.uk/ucl-east / 020 8016 8527















































