

# Queer East

Canada  
China  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
Hong Kong  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Netherlands  
Philippines  
Singapore  
South Korea  
Taiwan  
Thailand  
United Kingdom  
United States  
Vietnam

# Festival April

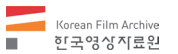
# 17–28

# 2024



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MUSEUM OF  
THE HOME



RICH MIX



Queer  
Brewing



- 90 Films
- 33 Events
- 19 Countries
- 13 Guest Curators
- 12 Days
- 12 Venues
- 8 Exhibition Artists
- 1 Dance Production
- 1 Visual Arts Exhibition
- 1 Literature Workshop

We're turning five this year! When Queer East embarked on its little adventure back in 2020 amidst the pandemic, none of us could have foreseen how far we'd come.

Looking back over the past four years, we've screened over 350 films, collaborated with 42 venues across 23 cities in the UK, Europe, and beyond, and welcomed over 30,000 audience members to our events. To each and every one of you who has contributed, who has supported and believed in us, thank you for making Queer East possible.

This year, the festival presents its most extensive programme to date, featuring over 80 titles from East and Southeast Asia and beyond, spanning more than half a century of film history. With a firm belief in the power of co-creation, I couldn't be prouder of the 13 guest curators who have generously lent their creative vision and voices to this year's dynamic line-up.

We welcome a new strand, Expanded, that launches with the aim of exploring alternative ways of viewing, with five screening events. From serene outdoor garden walks to steamy sauna gatherings, from intimate performances to hot bondage workshops, these events re-imagine our interactions with screen-based content.

Beyond the silver screen, we continue to include more art forms this

year, paving our way to becoming a multi-disciplinary festival in the near future. Alongside performances and workshops led by international dance companies, artists, and creatives, an inaugural Queer East arts exhibition, "shedding::: selves," debuts in partnership with Ugly Duck.

Queer East was born out of communities and for communities. It exists to enable an artistic space for bold, unconventional, and forward-thinking queer narratives originating from and about East and Southeast Asia and diaspora communities. As we mark our fifth anniversary, we want to reaffirm our commitment to diversifying the cultural landscape in the UK, and to serving as a platform that nurtures dialogue on the multifaceted understandings of what it means to be Asian and queer today.

Thank you for being with us, and I cannot wait to see you at the Festival.

Yi Wang 王裔

● Festival & Programme Director

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<sup>1</sup> Opening Night Film

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● Feature

7 Venues

14 Films

April 17–28



## ● A Song Sung Blue

China, 2023

**Runtime**  
92 Min

**Director**  
Geng Zihan

**April 17**  
**Barbican Cinema**  
**18:30**

- Opening Film
- UK Premiere
- Introduction

Harbin, north-east China: after her mother goes abroad for work, 15-year-old Xian is forced to live with her father, a free-spirited photographer whom she has barely seen since her parents' divorce. He's in a relationship with his assistant, who has an 18-year-old Chinese-Korean daughter called Mingmei. A restless summer ensues, as the lonely, shy Xian becomes utterly intoxicated with the extroverted, worldly Mingmei: this will be a summer she will never forget. *A Song Sung Blue* is an exhilarating coming-of-age story, brought to life by vivid cinematography and exceptional performances from young actors Kay Huang and Jing Liang, who perfectly capture the complexities of the girls' friendship and attraction. A testament to the innocence and impulses of youth, Geng Zihan's debut feature signals the arrival of a powerful voice in queer cinema.



## ● Bye Bye Love

Japan, 1974

**Runtime**  
85 Min

**Director**  
Isao Fujisawa

**April 28**  
**BFI Southbank**  
**17:10**

- Closing Film
- 50th Anniversary
- Introduction

Until the 2018 discovery of a film negative in a warehouse, *Bye Bye Love* was long considered lost: a new print gives audiences a rare chance to revisit this radical work from 1974. Following two young people, Utamaro and Giko, on a doomed summer road trip through Japan, Isao Fujisawa's poetic, surreal work reflects on the dissipating promise of 1960s counterculture and free love. The film is stylistically influenced by the French New Wave and American New Cinema, notably Jean-Luc Godard and Arthur Penn. Yet the main character's name – Utamaro – also suggests a rethinking of Japanese artistic traditions, especially male perspectives on feminine beauty. Here, romantic love transcends gender, sexuality, and even the body; a queer challenge to conventional understandings of relationships that adds to the political charge of this rediscovered classic.

## ● The Last Year of Darkness

China / USA, 2023

**Runtime**  
95 Min

**Director**  
Ben Mullinkosson

**April 18**  
**The Garden Cinema**  
**20:25**

- Introduction

As the city of Chengdu changes, the future of Funky Town, a beloved queer-friendly techno club, is unclear. For a vibrant group of DJs, drag performers, artists, lovers, ravers, and skaters, the club is a sanctuary for underground partying and allows them to thrive after the sun sets. It's the one place that accepts them for who they are, while during the day they battle depression, question their sexuality, and struggle to make a living. But with construction cranes looming as a metro station encroaches, the partygoers are forced to face what brought them to the club in the first place – and make the most of their remaining time there. A love letter to the Chengdu underground scene, *The Last Year of Darkness* is a coming-of-age documentary that celebrates the ephemerality of youth.





## ● A Princess' One-Sided Love

South Korea, 1967

**Runtime**  
94 Min

**Director**  
Choi Eun-hee

**April 19**  
**ICA**  
**18:30**

### ● Introduction

The Joseon era: Suk-gyeong is the youngest daughter of the late king, whose brother now sits on the throne; her five sisters have been married off to worthy but dull court nobles, a fate she is determined to avoid. So after meet-

ing a handsome young scholar, Suk-yeong resolves to search for him, contriving to leave the palace grounds in which she has been confined her whole life. In this lively costume drama, director Choi Eun-hee, the third woman to direct films in South Korea, takes aim at the stifling class and gender structures navigated by the stubbornly romantic Suk-yeong. *A Princess' One-Sided Love* is ultimately a film about role-play in all its myriad forms: a sly comic testament to what can be learned by dressing up.



## ● If It's With You

Japan, 2023

**Runtime**  
120 Min

**Director**  
Hana Matsumoto

**April 20**  
**Rich Mix**  
**14:00**

### ● Introduction ● Episodic Series

After a traumatic experience, high school student Amane has given up on the idea of seriously loving anyone. But when he transfers to a new school on the island of Enoshima, he meets Ryuji, a kind-hearted classmate, and the two become close. But what begins as friendship begins to evolve into something more profound and unexpected. Will Amane's feelings for Ryuji change his perspective on falling in love? Comprised of five episodes, *If It's With You* is a Japanese *yaoi* (Boys' Love) series, screened by Queer East as a feature-length presentation. Director Hana Matsumoto draws out sparky performances from her young leads, but what sets this apart from other entries in the BL genre is the subtle depiction of life in a small-town coastal community.



## ● The River

Taiwan, 1997

**Runtime**  
115 Min

**Director**  
Tsai Ming-Liang

**April 20**  
**ICA**  
**18:00**

### ● Introduction

In director Tsai Ming-Liang's shockingly subversive family drama, Hsiao-Kang gets roped into participating in a film shoot, in which he plays a dead body floating in the Tamsui River in Taipei. But the polluted, dirty water provokes a

health crisis, as Hsiao-Kang is suddenly struck by debilitating neck pain. His concerned parents attempt various ways of alleviating his discomfort, but to no avail and soon, the son's misery causes the troubled family unit to further disintegrate. Unveiling domestic secrets and repressed emotions, this uncomfortable work of slow cinema offers a sly, queer critique of the nuclear family and the values it represents. Shot in Tsai's signature minimalist style and starring his muse Lee Kang-Sheng, this controversial work repelled some audiences and confirmed the director's place as a uniquely rebellious voice in queer cinema.

● Supported by the Taiwan Film & Audiovisual Institute



## ● Love Bound

UK, 2024

**Runtime**  
80 Min

**Director**  
Shanshan Chen

**April 21**  
**Rich Mix**  
**12:30**

- World Premiere
- Q&A

LGBTQ+ activist Qiuyan Chen became an unexpected celebrity due to her courageous legal battle against homophobic university textbooks in the 2010s. However, this newfound fame came at a price: she was outed by her tutor, subjected to conversion therapy by her parents, and monitored by the Chinese government. To escape these pressures, Qiuyan left for the UK, where she met her partner Bling; but her struggles were far from over. Interweaving reflections on Qiuyan's sexuality and relationships, Shanshan Chen's documentary examines this inspiring activist's commitment to building a close-knit community designed to support queer East Asian people in the UK: a solo endeavour that evolves into a movement with a growing support base. *Love Bound* is a compelling story about love, resilience, and the ongoing struggle for a better world.





## ● Saving Face

USA, 2004

**Runtime**  
94 Min

**Director**  
Alice Wu

**April 21**  
**BFI Southbank**  
**15:20**

- 20th Anniversary
- Introduction

Alice Wu's debut feature is a romantic comedy about Wil Pang, a young surgeon living in New York, who hides her sexuality from her family. Forced to endure her traditionalist mother's attempts to set her up with eligible bachelors,

Wil instead meets Vivian, a dancer who happens to be the daughter of Wil's boss, and sparks begin to fly. This twentieth anniversary screening allows audiences to revisit this groundbreaking film, which transcends the rom-com format by subtly depicting the allyship between queer and straight women overwhelmed by patriarchal tradition. Anticipating later cinematic trends in which the struggles of LGBTQ+ characters are shown to intersect with other marks of identity, *Saving Face* features fantastic performances by Joan Chen, Michelle Krusiec, and Lynn Chen as the trio faced with the weight of cultural expectation.



## ● Sara

Indonesia, 2023

**Runtime**  
99 Min

**Director**  
Ismail Basbeth

**April 21**  
**ICA**  
**18:00**

- UK Premiere
- Q&A

Sara, a trans woman in her mid-thirties, is made to return to her village in rural Indonesia to attend her father's funeral. Arriving back home, she discovers that her mother has been severely traumatized by the bereavement: not

only does she fail to accept that her husband has died, she also has no memory of Sara and treats her like a complete stranger. Seeking to help her mother, Sara resolves to play-act as her late father, the person she despises the most and the reason she ran away many years ago. Centred on a stunning performance from trans actress Asha Smara Darra, this quietly affecting family drama is about a woman desperate to break free from the past, who must nonetheless confront its enduring and wounding power.



## ● The Missing

Philippines / Thailand,  
2023

Runtime  
90 Min

Director  
Carl Joseph E. Papa

April 22  
Barbican Cinema  
18:20

- UK Premiere
- Q&A

Eric works as an animator in the Philippines. He has a fairly normal life: a well-paying job; a nice, albeit messy, apartment; and he's attracted to a colleague, Carlo, who seems to like him as well. One unusual thing about Eric,

however, is that he does not have a mouth – literally – so communicates via a tablet and sign language. One day, his mother asks him to check on his uncle, who has been missing for a while. Agreeing to help, Eric unwittingly provokes the appearance of a familiar, sinister UFO, and the untangling of traumatic memories. Drawing on themes associated with the New Queer Cinema, Carl Joseph Papa's outstanding animation portrays the psychological journey of a mouthless character who must face up to that which cannot be spoken.



## ● I Am What I Am

Japan, 2022

Runtime  
104 Min

Director  
Shinya Tamada

April 23  
Genesis Cinema  
18:30

- UK Premiere
- Introduction

Kasumi has never experienced any feelings of romantic attraction. Until now, she has managed to avoid too much scrutiny, but this all changes following her sister's marriage and pregnancy, which prompts their mother to demand that Kasumi follow suit. But Kasumi refuses to let others define what happiness is, resolving instead to confront those around her and to challenge the very notion of falling in love. Powered by a terrific performance from Toku Miura, who shot to prominence in *Drive My Car*, Tamada Shinya's compelling drama offers a rare depiction of asexual identity. Exploring the subtle assumptions about sex and human attraction that govern our daily lives, *I Am What I Am* depicts the difficulties of having no romantic feelings in a world where love rules supreme.





## ● Abang Adik

Malaysia, 2023

Runtime  
115 Min

Director  
Jin Ong

April 24  
BFI Southbank  
20:30

- UK Premiere
- Introduction

Brothers Abang and Adik are undocumented orphans who live in Malaysia without ID cards; stranded in Pudu, Kuala Lumpur, they cannot enjoy the basic rights of ordinary citizens. Abang, the older brother, is deaf-mute and works hard to achieve stability, whereas Adik is unwilling to surrender to his fate and turns to criminality, looking to make money fast. But the siblings' divergent perspectives soon evolve into a nightmarish tragedy. Wu Kang-ren and Jack Tan received critical acclaim for their heartbreaking performances as the brothers destined to share an intense bond, with Wu winning Best Actor at the 2023 Golden Horse Awards. While offering an edgy insight into Malaysian street life, *Abang Adik* is at heart a drama about feelings spoken, and unspoken, as the characters hurtle towards their fate.



## ● Summer Vacation 1999

Japan, 1988

Runtime  
90 Min

Director  
Shusuke Kaneko

April 26  
BFI Southbank  
20:40

- 35mm Print
- Introduction

1999: an adolescent boy has recently committed suicide at a single-sex boarding school in a remote Japanese forest. During the summer vacation, only three students remain at the empty school, idling away their time with quiet study. But one day, another boy arrives who exactly resembles the dead student, and violent passions are unleashed. Inspired by *The Heart of Thomas*, a legendary manga series by Moto Hagio, this beguiling, homoerotic film by Shusuke Kaneko blends mystery, horror, melodrama, and sci-fi – with a nod to Alfred Hitchcock and *Vertigo*. Released in 1988 but set in the future, the film is strikingly androgenous: the boys are all played by female actors, lending a subversive, gender-fluid feel to its exploration of teenage yearning and desire.



## ● Asog

Canada / Philippines,  
2023

**Runtime**  
90 Min

**Director**  
Seán Devlin

**April 27**  
**Rio Cinema**  
**15:30**

### ● Introduction

This screwball tragicomedy stars a cast of real-life survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda, focusing on the adventures of Jaya, a non-binary schoolteacher and comedian.

Picking up the pieces in their life, Jaya decides to travel across the Philippines in the hopes of winning a drag beauty pageant. But a chance encounter with bereaved student Arnel complicates their plans, and as they head on a journey together, the unlikely duo find themselves forever changed by the people and places they encounter. Featuring outstanding performances from its non-professional cast, Seán Devlin's unconventional road movie is a riotously funny crowd-pleaser: both an empowering queer fairytale and a profound, politically-charged ode to the power of solidarity in the face of tragedy.

## ● Short Form

7 Venues

57 Films



# ● Dance Baby Dance



April 18  
Genesis Cinema  
18:45

Total Runtime  
72 Min

## ● Pay What You Can

Come dance with us! CinemaAsia and Queer East join forces once again to present a short film programme that showcases the power of the body. Spanning locations in London, Manila, Paris, and Jeju Island, hopping from dance floors to train carriages to abandoned resorts, this collection explores how different forms of movement articulate queer desire. Expressing love and anger, hopefulness and despair, the filmmakers capture a dynamic physicality that breaks through normative boundaries of language, race, gender, and sexuality.

● Presented in partnership with CinemaAsia Film Festival, Amsterdam

## ● Burial of this Order Denmark, 2023

A procession of non-conforming people come together to undo a world order built upon hierarchy and division.

Runtime  
25 Min

Director  
Jane Jin Kaisen

## ● Omarm Netherlands, 2023

Two dancers are caught in a dynamic of struggle and suppression as they fight their inner feelings.

Runtime  
5 Min

Director  
Sara Kerklaan

## ● Everybody's Gotta Love Sometiames France / Myanmar / Indonesia, 2023

Asylum seeker Phyo discovers the joy of dancing freely along the Seine, but the past continues to haunt him.

Runtime  
15 Min

Director  
Sein Lyan Tun

## ● Midnight Rising UK, 2024

An intimate portrait of London's East and Southeast Asian clubbing community.

Runtime  
8 Min

Director  
Aileen Ye

## ● When the House Lights Come On Philippines, 2023

In 2044, a man finds himself aging out of the Manila rave scene, parallel to the impending obliteration of the city.

Runtime  
14 Min

Director  
Apa Agbayani

## ● If You See Something That Doesn't Look Right Hong Kong / UK, 2023

Two drifters from different worlds encounter one another on an underground train.

Runtime  
5 Min

Director  
Ka Ki Wong

# ● Silence Will Not Protect You



● **Qeluar**  
UK, 2023

The first person to receive asylum in the UK on the grounds of LGBTQ+ identity recounts their journey.

Runtime  
20 Min

Director  
Justice Khor

● **The Bus Driver**  
Myanmar, 2024

A queer couple struggles to make ends meet in Myanmar.

Runtime  
22 Min

Director  
Ku Ki

● **Heart Murmurs**  
Hong Kong / UK, 2023

A young man lives in Hong Kong with a congenital disability and HIV.

Runtime  
9 Min

Director  
Dorothy Cheung

● **House of Rencong**  
Indonesia, 2022

Trans survivors of a police raid meet with an artist to explore performance as a means for collective healing.

Runtime  
25 Min

Director  
Rizky Rahad



April 20  
The Garden Cinema  
14:00

Total Runtime  
76 Min

- Q&A
- Pay What You Can

This documentary shorts programme offers an unfiltered look into invisible and unspoken aspects of LGBTQ+ experience: the daily routine of a queer couple under military rule; the difficulties of living through Covid times with HIV; anti-trans persecution; and a man remembering his painful experience seeking asylum in the UK. These films expose the many layers of oppression faced by queer East and Southeast Asian people today. Participants recount traumatic memories to the camera, laying bare their lived experiences of prejudice and violence, while the filmmakers invite the viewer to join in a moment of solidarity.



# ● Growing Pains



April 20  
The Garden Cinema  
16:00

Total Runtime  
93 Min

## ● Pay What You Can

All too often, we're forced to grow up without taking the time to explore who we are. Torn between fitting in and being ourselves, we're overwhelmed with emotions and desires with no means of fulfilling them. From navigating the tumultuous terrain of adolescence, to the confusion of first love, these coming-of-age shorts portray the lives of queer youth with empathy and sensitivity, prompting a reflection on our own pasts that have led us to where we are now.

## ● Beats Per Minute Taiwan, 2023

Yong-Ning, a lonely college boy, gets a call from his old friend, Yi-Jie.

Runtime  
19 Min

Director  
Lin Guan-Chen

## ● A Catholic Schoolgirl Philippines, 2023

A student at an all-girls Catholic school develops a crush on a nun.

Runtime  
18 Min

Director  
Myra Angeline Soriaso

## ● Curve China, 2023

A campus bully harasses his classmate for being gay, but carries a secret in his heart.

Runtime  
30 Min

Director  
Dan Zeng

## ● Dog Story USA, 2021

Feeling suffocated by their environment, Jo finds comfort in acting out fantasies with their confident, edgier friend Lucy.

Runtime  
10 Min

Director  
Grace Zhang

## ● Like Wave Like Cloud China, 2023

On a surfing trip, two women with an age difference attempt to navigate their uncertain relationship.

Runtime  
16 Min

Director  
Yulin Yang





# ● Bakla Bakla Paano Ka Ginawa



April 21  
Rich Mix  
14:00

Total Runtime  
89 Min

Curated by  
Jason Tan Liwag

## ● Pay What You Can

In the Philippines, bakla is a term that stands for both an 'effeminate gay man' and also a transwoman, with its dualities having origins before Spanish colonization in the babaylan. The programme focuses on how being bakla has been represented, negotiated, and resisted in Filipino cinema. As short films are under far fewer restrictions and censorship, the filmmakers behind the programme interrogate with boundless rigour and personal sensitivity the bakla's bodies, friends, age, spaces, and environments. The programme also depicts how digital techniques democratized filmmaking for the local queer community, turning cinema into a medium through which one can explore and confront not only one's surroundings but also the self.

## ● Honey Philippines, 1981

A man wakes up to find that his lover is no longer in bed with him. Chaos ensues shortly after.

Runtime  
5 Min

Director  
Raul Sarmiento

## ● Margins Philippines, 2001

A gay man searches for space in the corners of society.

Runtime  
17 Min

Director  
Paolo Villaluna

## ● Geography Lessons Philippines, 2014

Tib, guided by a map made for him by his best friend, retraces the memories of their friendship before leaving their hometown for good.

Runtime  
20 Min

Director  
Petersen Vargas

## ● When I Wallowed In A Bowl of Sunshine Philippines, 2021

Two trans-folx friends, together with their dog and plants, grieve for and with each other during a 14-day quarantine period.

Runtime  
24 Min

Director  
Kukay Zinampan

## ● Taking My Time to Dance Philippines, 2024

Rana gets in dresses for the first time and is ready for a clubbing night.

Runtime  
23 Min

Director  
Celeste Lapida



# ● A Thousand Words Unspoken



April 22  
Genesis Cinema  
21:00

Total Runtime  
88 Min

## ● Pay What You Can

A series of queer shorts that delve into family secrets, buried pasts, silent longings and lost futures. In these poignant films, the characters grapple with unchosen paths and bittersweet moments of newfound connection. Sculpting into shape what cannot be said in words, the filmmakers capture the crossing over of parallel worlds and the lasting marks we leave in each other's lives.

## ● Don't Forget Me Canada, 2023

A Chinese-Canadian millennial discovers her recently deceased grandmother's secret love letters.

Runtime  
19 Min

Director  
Alice Wang

## ● The River That Never Ends Philippines, 2023

Juggling their roles as a companion-for-hire and caregiver, Baby begins to feel trapped.

Runtime  
18 Min

Director  
JT Trinidad

## ● Alexa, Xander and the Universe Philippines, 2020

Two siblings decorate their room as a Miss Universe arena, and secretly pretend that they are the contestants.

Runtime  
10 Min

Director  
Vahn Pascual

## ● The Nape South Korea, 2023

Da-ye returns to their hometown to help their mother, and encounters a student who is two months behind in his payments.

Runtime  
26 Min

Director  
Kim Yu-ra

## ● Dancing Colours Indonesia, 2022

To please his parents, Dika hides his true self by dancing it out.

Runtime  
15 Min

Director  
Mohammad Reza Fahriyansyah





# ● Stranger Than Fiction



April 23  
Genesis Cinema  
20:45

Total Runtime  
86 Min

## ● Pay What You Can

Queer connections can be found in the most unlikely of places: a messy London flat, an Indonesian ashram, even a deserted playground at night. Through secret codes and subtle signals, queer people have always been able to find each other and form communities. This collection of shorts encapsulates the excitement and mystery of meeting someone new, opening up possibilities for self-discovery and reinvention.

## ● Strange Japan, 2023

An introverted Tokyo high school student encounters a depressed drag queen, and they learn to overcome their fears.

Runtime  
15 Min

Director  
Ken Ochiai

## ● Blue Rain France, 2023

A ruthless underworld figure unwittingly finds himself drawn to a young man.

Runtime  
23 Min

Director  
Qian He

## ● Dismantle Me UK, 2023

A smouldering-hot trans woman helps a heartbroken trans man tidy his messy bedroom.

Runtime  
13 Min

Director  
Max Disgrace

## ● Where the Wild Frangipanis Grow Indonesia, 2023

A loyal assistant in a Balinese ashram is torn between his charismatic guru and an innocent recruit.

Runtime  
15 Min

Director  
Nirartha Bas Diwangkara

## ● My Heart is Going to Explode! South Korea, 2023

Soojin recalls a girl she slept with in a drunken stupor, as a UFO appears in the skies of Seoul.

Runtime  
20 Min

Director  
Jung Inhyuk



# ● Glitch! Rewind. Then We...

April 24  
Barbican Cinema  
18:15

Total Runtime  
70 Min

Curated by  
Hsieh I-Hsuan & Chen Huei-Yin

## ● Introduction

A glitch concerns us and surprises us. It makes us pause, rewind, and (re)view the experience again and again.

The films in this programme transport us to the universe of the pirate distribution of Taiwanese opera, explore the erotic love between a ghost and a woman, postpone unfinished love stories until the year 2030, traverse the Castro Theatre and Fassbinder's classic *Querelle*, and witness a drag king performance portraying a soul that has never felt included. These are the moments when marginal film viewing culture affirms the cinema-going experience; Hong Kong's supernatural romance genre relocates to New York; the US propaganda archive cuts into the homoerotic performance of bread making, and diaspora and migrant dreams are mashed up.

These narratives also reimagine worlds where the lives of the undocumented, the jobless, and the borderless could love freely, be grounded, and feel at home. Together these queer images, bodies, temporalities, and border crossings on screen reassemble our projections of desire onto the past, present, and future.

● Presented in partnership with Women Make Waves International Film Festival, Taiwan

## ● Taiwan Video Club USA, 1999

Asian immigrants to the USA exchange pirate videotapes of their favourite Taiwanese opera.

Runtime  
14 Min

Director  
Lana Lin

## ● I'm Starving USA / Hong Kong, 1999

An erotic love tale between a ghost and a woman who share a small apartment in New York's Chinatown.

Runtime  
12 Min

Director  
Yau Ching

## ● Castro USA / Taiwan, 1996

A super-8mm Maya Deren-inspired queer experimental film shot in San Francisco, exploring queer desire through surrealism.

Runtime  
9 Min

Director  
Tony (Chun Hui) Wu

## ● Looking for Jiro USA, 2011

A queer musical mash-up video on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Runtime  
5 Min

Director  
TT Takemoto

## ● LOVEME2030 Japan / France, 2005

LOVEME not now, not here. LOVEME when I depart.

Runtime  
30 Min

Director  
Shu Lea Cheang





# ● I Will Haunt You Forever



April 25  
Museum of the Home  
18:30

Total Runtime  
85 Min

Curated by  
Cici Peng

- Conversation
- Pay What You Can

**I Will Haunt You Forever: Queer Ghosts Across Time** is composed of moving-image work and archival films that examine queer spectrality. Ghosts are already queer, existing beyond any binary divisions: ghosts are something we fear, yet we are attracted to. Ghosts transgress boundaries, existing between life and death, fear and grief, in the suspension of time. Haunting and its paths can't help but speak to the way queer people in the past have been ghosts, haunting the histories they've been written out of.

## ● Ghost Carnival Taiwan, 1994

A young woman commits suicide and returns to haunt her brother in the days approaching his twentieth birthday.

Runtime  
35 Min

Director  
Qiu Miao-jin & Lin Hsu Wen-Er

## ● Whispering Ghosts Thailand, 2008

The film follows the whispers, poems and prophecies of a mysterious women.

Runtime  
12 Min

Director  
Taiki Sakpisit

## ● River is My Hometown UK, 2021

A revenant's return to a homeland to reconsider memory, ritual and grief.

Runtime  
8 Min

Director  
River Cao

## ● In Our Being Canada / Philippines, 2011

This experimental film combines the perspectives of two queer people of colour, one from the Philippines and one from Canada, into one narrative body.

Runtime  
5 Min

Director  
Ghislan Sutherland-Timm & Jann Earl Q. Madariaga

## ● All Trace is Gone, No Clamour for a Kiss UK, 2023

In a forest, two exiled individuals are about to incarnate into the next life while intimately sharing family legends, collective histories, love tales and folklore.

Runtime  
22 Min

Director  
Chris Zhongtian Yuan





# ● Harvesting the Fruits of Monstrosity



April 25  
Prince Charles Cinema  
20:30

Total Runtime  
86 Min

Curated by  
April Lin 林森

## ● Introduction

A revamped Britney Spears, half-human creatures, and mountains of crawling avatars frolic together in this programme of artist moving image films that queer the concept of ‘the monstrous’. In these works by queer Southeast and East Asian artists, the ‘monster’ figures as a rejection of assimilationist expectations to be normal, legible, or obedient. Whether chaotic or gentle, horny or yearning, haunting or shocking, these ‘monsters’ relish in the opportunities to reworld that being an outcast provides. Reconciling with the monstrosity within is catalysed into a beacon of dissenting hope, a chance for embodied catharsis, and a survival strategy towards liberation.

## ● The Function of Fiction is the Abstraction and Simulation of Social Experience

Philippines, 2021

Runtime  
4 Min

Director  
Mac Andre Arboleda

## ● Wūūwūū

UK, 2021

Runtime  
3 Min

Director  
Rae-Yen Song

## ● I Am a Horse

South Korea, 2022

Runtime  
8 Min

Director  
Chaerin Im

## ● EARTHBODY(S)\_BIOME(TRICS)

USA, 2022

Runtime  
7 Min

Director  
mirrored fatality

## ● Tentacle Eyes

UK, 2023

Runtime  
9 Min

Director  
Yuqing Lin

## ● Flesh Nest

USA, 2018

Runtime  
9 Min

Director  
Andrew Thomas Huang

## ● WHAT U WANNA DO

USA, 2021

Runtime  
3 Min

Director  
Jas Lin

## ● Bold Eagle

Philippines, 2022

Runtime  
16 Min

Director  
Whammy Alcarazen

## ● The Princess and the Magic Birds

Japan, 2021

Runtime  
18 Min

Director  
Fuyuhiko Takata

## ● State of Dreaming

Vietnam, 2022

Runtime  
5 Min

Director  
Hải Quỳnh

## ● Leave Britney Alone!

Japan, 2009

Runtime  
4 Min

Director  
Fuyuhiko Takata

# ● Welcome to Neverland



April 28  
Rio Cinema  
14:00

Total Runtime  
84 Min

## ● Pay What You Can

Vampiric schoolgirls, crocodilian men, and spectral lovers populate this eerie programme, in which myths, the supernatural, and alternative universes spark the queer imagination. Blurring boundaries between reality and fantasy, the filmmakers delve into weird and wonderful experiences that ignite the possibility of change: personal, political, and philosophical. To be queer is, literally, to be strange or odd, which here serves as a means of challenging cultural understandings of gender and sexuality. Through blood, fish scales, and sexy copies of Hegel's oeuvre, the films in this collection make otherworldliness a point of pride.

## ● Chomp It! Singapore, 2023

Two crocodilian men go to a swimming pool to cool off.

Runtime  
12 Min

Director  
Mark Chua & Lam Li Shuen

## ● Still Life USA, 2023

Three friends find themselves in a limbo between life and death.

Runtime  
15 Min

Director  
Sarah Kim

## ● Mom, if I were a Vampire Taiwan, 2022

An insecure teenager becomes infatuated with another girl.

Runtime  
17 Min

Director  
Deborah Devyn Chuang

## ● Wegen Hegel Germany, 2023

During a Covid lockdown, philosophy student Ping is invited to a 'socially-distanced hookup'.

Runtime  
13 Min

Director  
Popo Fan

## ● Fish Boy Canada, 2023

A teenager is forced to choose between his love for God and his fluid sexuality.

Runtime  
11 Min

Director  
Christopher Yip

## ● Their Universe South Korea, 2023

Jun returns to Earth as a ghost to say goodbye to his lover.

Runtime  
16 Min

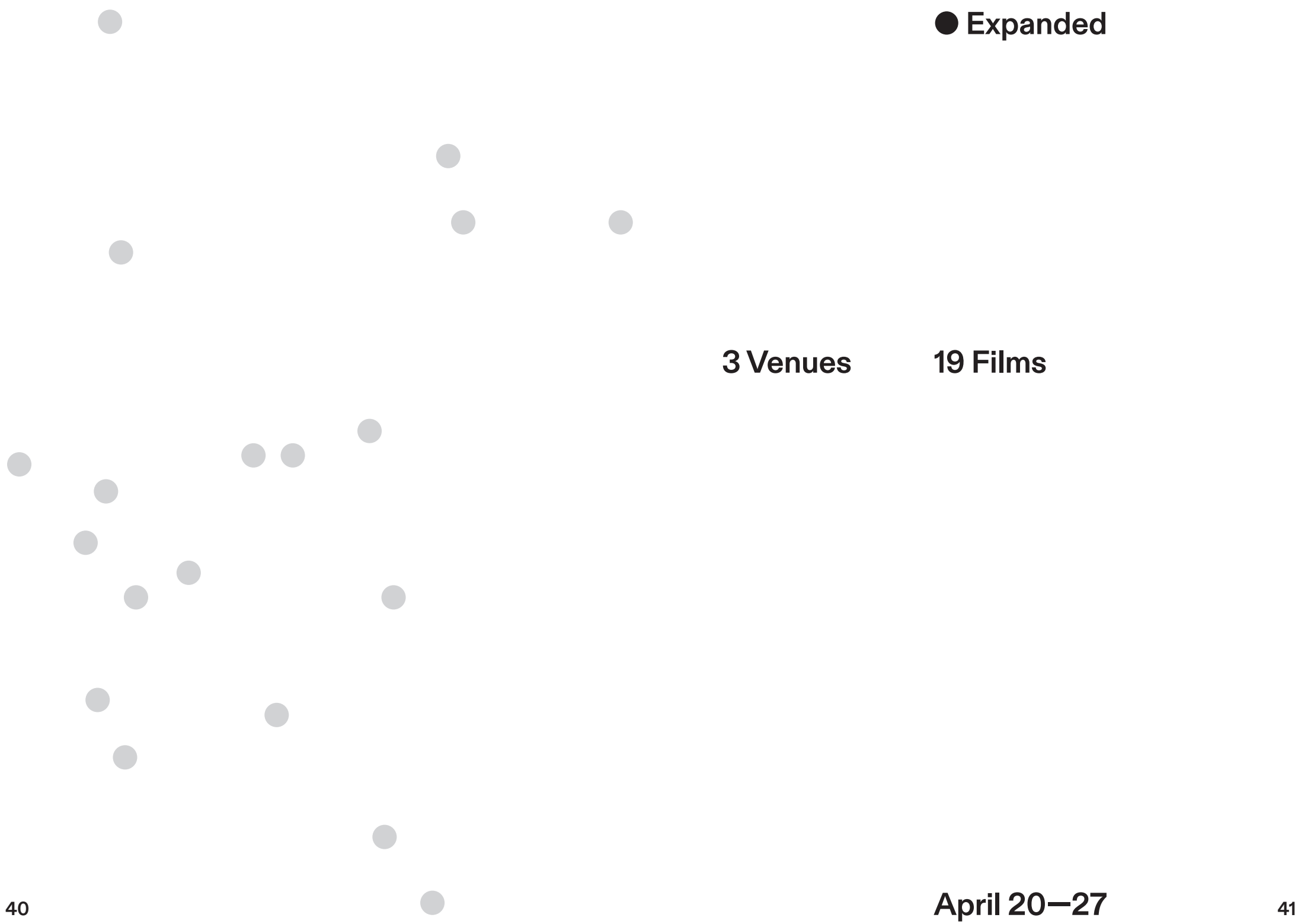
Director  
Han Jeong-gil

● Expanded

3 Venues

19 Films

April 20–27





# ● Re-encountering Sunsets, Waves, Birds and Bees

Curated by  
Goh Wei Hao

April 20  
Museum of the Home  
11:30

Total Runtime  
105 Min

## ● Pay What You Can

Join us in exploring a fictional island set in the Malay Archipelago and the garden of the Museum of the Home to uncover the intricate network of queer relationships that form our ecologies. The programme begins with the film *Long Time between Sunsets and Underground Waves* (2021) by Hu Wei, which depicts the intertwining stories of two protagonists — a man imprisoned on the island and a being who delves the ocean's depths — and those of the island's other human, animal, plant and phantom inhabitants. Through their stories, the film explores the interplay between the island's geography, biopolitics and economy. Following the screening, Connor Butler will lead a guided walk through the Museum of the Home's garden which will explore the diverse and unusual life cycles and relationships found in and between humans, plants and animals, challenging what we think of as being natural and unnatural, human and non-human.



## ● Long Time between Sunsets and Underground Waves China, 2021

*Long Time between Sunsets and Underground Waves* is set on a fictional island in the Malay Archipelago where audience will witness two simultaneously unravelling narratives: that of a man imprisoned on the island and a being who delves the ocean's depths. Through their stories and those of the other inhabitants of the island — human, animal, plants and apparitions — the film explores how the island's ecology is formed from the entanglements between these different beings and the island's geography, biopolitics and economy.

Runtime  
53 Min

Director  
Hu Wei

# ● Image Under the Ground



April 20  
Ugly Duck  
18:30

Total Runtime  
113 Min

Curated by  
If Splash as Your  
Whistle (Xinyu XuXX  
& Yuqing Lin)

● Pay What You Can

Image Under the Ground is a programme showcasing a series of artists' short films and a live performance to create a "cave space", a transitional space that refracts unspeakable diaspora queer experiences. These images capture vulnerability, intimacy, and illusionary multi-sensory experience. In these works by Southeast and East Asian filmmakers and artists, "underground images" can refer to mediation outside of traditional industry filmmaking. Sometimes, it can be associated with the representation of violence or power distribution of the camera, poor image aesthetics, hidden identity, or images as an underground manifesto and action.

● Live sound performance by Nanzhen Yang

## ● A New Day Has Come

Vietnam, 2022

The Purple and the Orange move into a surreal cave and dance through a strange axis of time.

Runtime  
8 Min

Director  
Nguyen Hai Yen (Red)

## ● Yi-Ren

Taiwan, 2015

A collaged love letter made from super 8mm diaries, karaoke videos, and found-footage from the films and poems of Kang-Chien Chiu.

Runtime  
14 Min

Director  
Tzu-An Wu

## ● Silver Cave

China, 2022

Stepping into a cave, sight fluctuates by the firelight, left to right, top to bottom.

Runtime  
15 Min

Director  
Caibei Cai

## ● Lovers

China, 2023

Lovers is an art project aimed at reversing the "treatment" of homosexuality in China, initiated by artist Wu Laobai and gay policeman Lin Gully.

Runtime  
32 Min

Director  
Laobai Wu & Honbin Zheng

## ● KEREL (Sea of Love)

Philippines, 2021

Trapped in a cargo ship during the lockdown, Kerel, a gay Filipino seafarer escapes through his memory, and recalls his complicated past, present, and future self.

Runtime  
14 Min

Director  
Jon Cuyson

## ● Cocoon

UK, 2024

Denied mobility and decision-making power, the metaphorical and physical cocoon embodies political depression.

Runtime  
11 Min

Director  
Holli Xue



# ● Steamy Intimacies: A Queer East Sauna Experience

Curated by  
April Lin 林森 and Jeng Au

April 22  
Hackney Wick  
Community Sauna  
18:00

Total Runtime  
180 Min

Join us for a special screening at Hackney Wick Community Sauna Baths, with a double bill of short film *Who Can Predict What Will Move You* (2020) followed by *Spa Night* (2016). These two films both showcase nascent queer intimacy and sexuality emerging through water, fluids, and gloopiness. In *Who Can Predict What Will Move You*, we accompany two boys on their last night together in Brooklyn. In *Spa Night*, we follow a closeted teenager beginning his part-time job at a Korean spa in Los Angeles.

After the screening, you can let off some steam in the saunas, or cool yourself down in the plunge pools! The event will be catered by juk san, who will be serving congee, sweet soup, and fried dough sticks.

● A ticket gives you all-inclusive access to the film screening, dinner, and the saunas.

## ● Who Can Predict What Will Move You

USA, 2020

Two boys spend one last night together in Brooklyn.

Runtime  
9 Min

Director  
Livia Huang

## ● Spa Night

USA, 2016

A young Korean-American man works to reconcile his obligations to his struggling immigrant family with his burgeoning sexual desires in the underground world of gay hookups at Korean spas in Los Angeles.

Runtime  
96 Min

Director  
Andrew Ahn



# ● Home



April 27  
Museum of the Home  
13:00

Total Runtime  
60 Min

Curated by  
Lisa Chearles

- Conversation
- Pay What You Can

Home holds manifold meanings for East and Southeast Asian communities. It is the love and warmth of family, and also the demands of duty, devotion and filial piety that accompany it. For much of the ESEA diaspora, and the exodus of queer Asian folk who have crossed the pond to experience the world beyond the closet, it is longing to be where we are not, faced with the realisation that we are never quite at home, wherever we go. These are stories of home, of its joys and beauty, its ills and struggle.

# ● Kin Singapore, 2021

This hybrid documentary film proposes a safe space for queer life in Singapore.

Runtime  
3 Min

Director  
Charmaine Poh

# ● Jericho Singapore/ UK, 2021

Moments of tenderness devolve into tension, each party protagonist and antagonist as they wrestle for love, power and control.

Runtime  
8 Min

Director  
Lisa Chearles

# ● Where Sleeping Dogs Lie Singapore/ UK, 2023

An exploration of the lengths one will go to for love and how readily we will bury the truth.

Runtime  
16 Min

Director  
Lisa Chearles





# ● High Hands Small Hands



April 27  
Ugly Duck  
18:30

Total Runtime  
90 Min

Curated by  
Bart Seng Wen Long

● This event will run parallel with a rope performance, that is an opportunity for some audience members to participate. 18+ only.

● Pay What You Can

Part screening event, part immersive bondage endurance test, this licentious line-up of films is most appropriately experienced in the discomfort of rope restraints. Side effects may include rope burns, and also finding out that all things under heaven are inextricably and disconcertingly tied up in each other. The former stings but the latter would injure you permanently. Don't let this wound heal, may it impart to you the sneaky ability of sensing from a subordinated position. Doing so would not only startle the freedom/subjugation dichotomy, but could also, if your lucky stars align, lead to the hallowed arrangement of 'topping from the bottom'. There's something sexy to be found beyond rights and evils, but first you have to resist resisting.

● Dream Catcher  
Japan, 2018

Rapunzel's sweet dream brings chaos into the world.

Runtime  
5 Min

Director  
Fuyuhiko Takata

● MOP  
Malaysia, 2023

During a lunch break in a furniture store, a sadomasochistic stand-off unfolds between a boss and her employee.

Runtime  
9 Min

Director  
Joon Goh

● There's No Sex,  
Only Fans  
Taiwan, 2023

College student A-Hsien meets porn star Hsuan in a hotel.

Runtime  
19 Min

Director  
Chi-Wen Ting

● Disconnect  
Hong Kong / UK, 2024

This is the reminiscence of two souls, narrating in memory their own truths and fantasies of their stories together.

Runtime  
4 Min

Director  
E8 & Janice Key

● glide by  
LILY CHOU-CHOU  
UK, 2024

Is the rubber gimp suffering - but is it suffering enough?

Runtime  
6 Min

Director  
Bart Seng Wen Long

● Pteridophilia 3  
Maokong, 2018

Connecting queer plants and queer people, Pteridophilia explores eco-queer potential.

Runtime  
15 Min

Director  
Zheng Bo

● Obsolescence  
UK, 2021

After a person commits suicide in bed, a doppelgänger turns the body into an art installation.

Runtime  
12 Min

Director  
Cavair to the General



● Dance

2 Days

1 Production



● Image 1:  
@Terry Tsang King Fai

# ● Disco—TECA

China

April 26 / 27  
The Place  
19:30

Concept  
ErGao & Fabrizio Massini

Dancers  
Wang Shaojun  
Zhang Dianling  
Guo Zixing  
Li Runjian  
Han Jinfeng

Director & Choreography  
ErGao  
  
Music  
Liang Yiyuan & Simon Bishop

Light Designer  
Low Shee Hoe

Costume Designer  
Yann Goah

Video Designer  
Zhao Meng

Academic Adviser  
Dr. Wang Qian &  
Tan Xiaoli

Graphic Designer  
Fu Meilin

Commissioned by  
Ibsen International

Prop Designer  
Xiao Luzi

● Produced by Ergao Dance  
Production Group

*Disco-TECA* brings to life a unique moment in history, taking you back to early 1980s China, when a sensational wave of disco

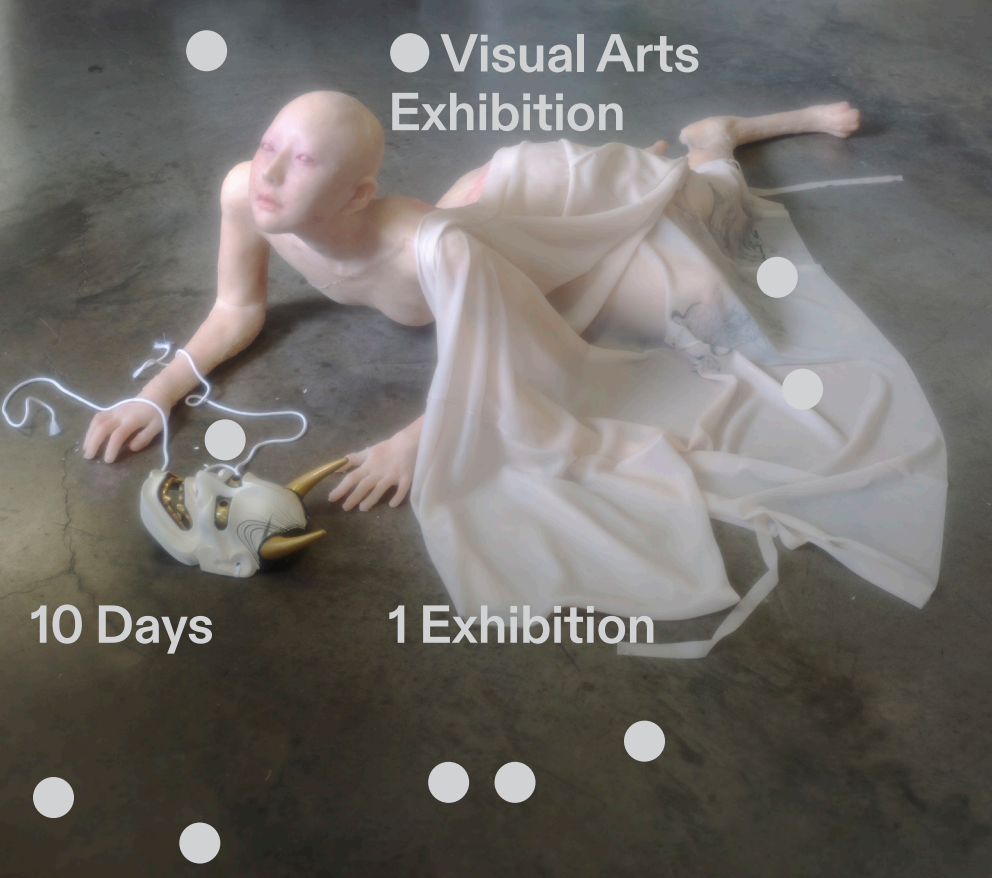
music took the south of the country by storm. After three decades of collectivisation and isolation from the world, the country's doors were swung open, and in stepped disco dancing, sequins, bell bottoms, and batwings. The performance delves into the ecstatic power of disco for a nation that was 'opening up', exploring gender, identity, rebellion, and sexual liberation. Evoking a poignant historical moment with the iconic stylings of disco, *Disco-TECA* will transport you to the dance halls of China's social reform era.

● Thanks to wowtheater, HE INTERACTION (the leading support partner of Southern Dance House by Ergao Dance Production Group), Zuo Tan village



● Image 2:  
@Yin Xing-Lin





● Visual Arts Exhibition

10 Days

1 Exhibition

● Image 1: Mujina+Haori by Megumi Ohata

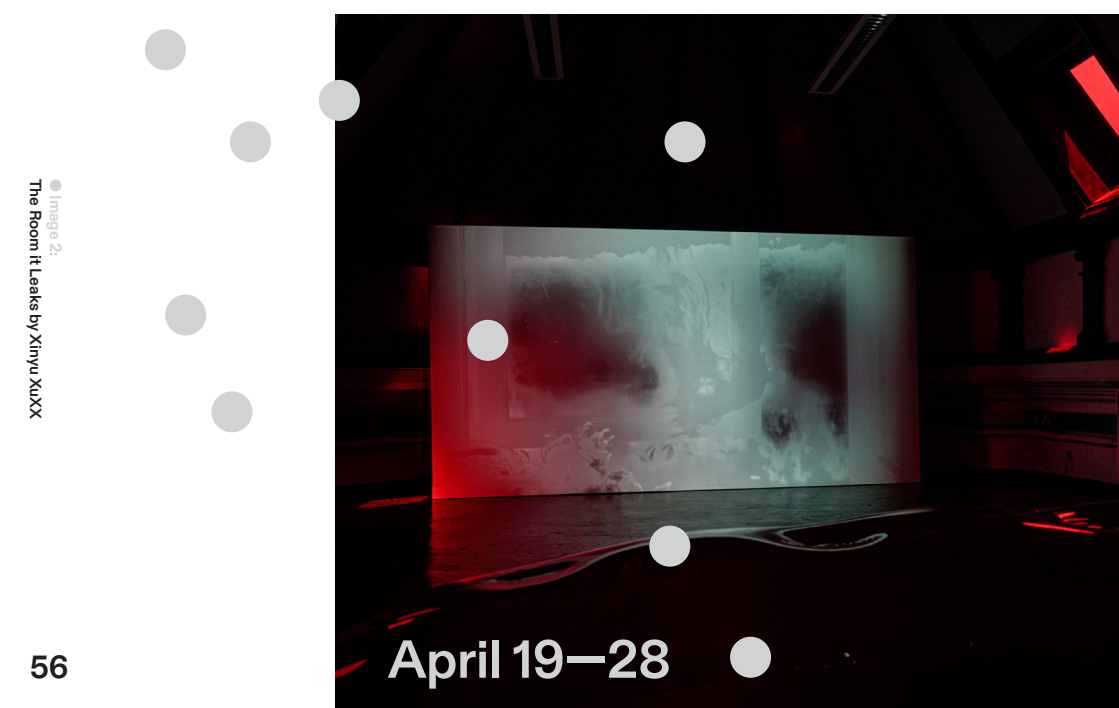
● shedding:::selves

April 19—28  
Ugly Duck

Curated by  
Aki Hassan & April Lin 林森

Assistant Curator  
Jialin Hong

Artists  
Wei Xin Chong  
Yifan He  
Megumi Ohata  
Kianuë Tran Kieu  
Sayang  
Natyada Tawonsri  
Noam Youngrak Son  
Xinyu XuXX



● Image 2: The Room it Leaks by Xinyu XuXX

April 19—28

● Pay What You Can

Diverging from normative ideals and modes of being, shedding:::selves brings together eight artists whose works generate new readings, metamorphoses, and entanglements of personhood. This landmark exhibition of queer East and Southeast Asian artists spans sculpture, painting, diagram, interactive installation, and video in its forging of selves that transcend the limitations of identity labels and categorisation. Instead, new linkages are drawn between technology, science, mythology, the post-human, performativity, and memory, encouraging us to reflect upon our own spectrums of experience.

● Presented in partnership with Ugly Duck



Image 1: Dog Story by Grace Zhang

1 Day

1 Workshop

# ● Queering Objects: A Community Poetry Workshop

April 28  
Ugly Duck  
13:00

Curated by  
Yin Lo



Image 2: Blue Rain by Qian He

April 28

● Free Entry

Queering Objects is a poetry workshop hosted by poet Eric Yip (National Poetry Competition 2021 first prize) where participants will read works by queer Asian poets and translators, as well as engage in writing activities that recontextualize how we see the things around us. There will be readings and discussions of poems from a queer perspective, and an interactive writing game where participants will all get a chance to write a poem by the end of the workshop.

● About Eric Yip

Eric Yip is a poet and writer from Hong Kong. He won the 2021 National Poetry Competition and was shortlisted for the 2023 Forward Prize for Best Single Poem. His poems have appeared in Best New Poets, The Guardian, Oxford Poetry, and The Poetry Review. His debut pamphlet is Exposure (ignitionpress, 2024).



F Feature  
 S Short Form  
 E Expanded  
 A Visual Arts Exhibition  
 L Literature

● Calendar

● Calendar

● April 17

● April 23

A Song Sung Blue Barbican Cinema F 18:30

I Am What I Am Genesis Cinema F 18:30

● April 18

Stranger Than Fiction Genesis Cinema S 20:45

Dance Baby Dance Genesis Cinema S 18:45

The Last Year of Darkness The Garden Cinema F 20:25

● April 24

Glitch! Rewind. Then We... Barbican Cinema S 18:15

A Princess' One-Sided Love ICA F 18:30

shedding:::selves Ugly Duck A 18:00

Abang Adik BFI Southbank F 20:30

(Opening Night)

● April 20

I Will Haunt You Forever Museum of the Home S 18:30

Re-encountering Sunsets, Waves, Birds and Bees Museum of the Home E 11:30

Harvesting the Fruits of Monstrosity Prince Charles Cinema S 20:30

If It's With You Rich Mix F 14:00

Silence Wil Not Protect You The Garden Cinema S 14:00

● April 26

Growing Pains The Garden Cinema S 16:00

Disco-TECA The Place D 19:30

The River ICA F 18:00

Summer Vacation 1999 BFI Southbank F 20:40

Image Under the Ground Ugly Duck E 18:30

● April 21

● April 27

Love Bound Rich Mix F 12:30

Home Museum of the Home E 13:00

Bakla Bakla Paano Ka Ginawa Rich Mix S 14:00

Asog Rio Cinema F 15:30

Saving Face BFI Southbank F 15:20

Disco-TECA The Place D 19:30

Sara ICA F 18:00

High Hands Small Hands Ugly Duck E 18:30

● April 22

● April 28

The Missing Barbican Cinema F 18:20

Queering Objects: A Ugly Duck L 13:00

Steamy Intimacies Hackney Wick E 18:00

Community Poetry Workshop

A Thousand Words Unspoken Genesis Cinema S 21:00

Welcome to Neverland Rio Cinema S 14:00

Bye Bye Love BFI Southbank F 17:10

## ● Team

### Festival and Programme Director

Yi Wang

### Festival Assistants

Emily Jisoo Bowles

Harry Robinson

Hester Yang

Jialin Hong

### Guest Curators and Programmers

Aki Hassan

April Lin 林森

Bart Seng Wen Long

Chen Hwei-Yin

Cici Peng

Hsieh I-Hsuan

If Splash as Your Whistle (Xinyu XuXX and Yuqing Lin)

Jeng Au

Jason Tan Liwag

Lisa Chearles

Wei Hao Goh

Yin Lo

### Production Assistant

Emile de Watteville

### Festival Intern

Marion Le Morvan

### Graphic Design

Kyle Lamond (LA MOND)

### PR

Alternate Current

The Sugar Factory

### Copy Editor - Feature Films

Christopher Brown

### Web Developer

Josh Watts

### Festival Trailer - Editing

Joe Lee 李曜辰

### Festival Trailer – Music

Ngày Mới (Rework) by Tiny Giant feat. Gumn

## ● Venues

### Barbican Centre

Silk St, London EC2Y 8DS

[www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

### BFI Southbank

Belvedere Rd, London SE1 8XT

[www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk)

### Genesis Cinema

93-95 Mile End Rd, London E1 4UJ

[www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk)

### Hackney Wick Community Sauna Baths

The Baths, 80 Eastway, London E9 5JH

[www.community-sauna.co.uk](http://www.community-sauna.co.uk)

### ICA (Institute of Contemporary Arts)

The Mall, London SW1Y 5AH

[www.ica.art](http://www.ica.art)

### Museum of the Home

136 Kingsland Road, London E2 8EA

[www.museumofthehome.org.uk](http://www.museumofthehome.org.uk)

### Prince Charles Cinema

7 Leicester Pl, London WC2H 7BY

[www.princecharlescinema.com](http://www.princecharlescinema.com)

### Rich Mix

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA

[www.richmix.org.uk](http://www.richmix.org.uk)

### Rio Cinema

107 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2PB

[www.riocinema.org.uk](http://www.riocinema.org.uk)

### The Garden Cinema

39-41 Parker St, London WC2B 5EF

[www.thegardencinema.co.uk](http://www.thegardencinema.co.uk)

### The Place

17 Duke's Road, London WC1H 9PY

[www.theplace.org.uk](http://www.theplace.org.uk)

### Ugly Duck

47/49 Tanner Street, London SE1 3PL

[www.uglyduck.org.uk](http://www.uglyduck.org.uk)

## ● Colophon

### Print

Northend

### Cover Paper

Fedrigoni Symbol Freelifa Raster

300gsm

### Inner Paper

Antalis Claro Silk

130gsm

### Typeface

ABC Diatype by Dinamo

### Survey

Scan the QR code to enter our audience survey and unlock a chance to win a one-year cinema membership.



● With thanks to

Alex Davidson  
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Eunji Lee  
Fan Wu  
Fraser Elliott  
Hongwei Bao  
How Wee Ng  
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Peter Howden  
Peter Taylor  
Phuong Le  
Ralph Bogard  
So Mayer  
Victor Fan

# TAIWAN FILM & AUDIOVISUAL INSTITUTE



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