

# Queer East Festival



2023

## Programme Guide

Venues across London  
[queereast.org.uk](http://queereast.org.uk)

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Venues

<b>Barbican Cinema</b> Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS 020 7638 8891 barbican.org.uk/whats-on/cinema
<b>Bertha DocHouse</b> Curzon Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AW 020 7612 9351 dochouse.org
<b>BFI Southbank</b> Belvedere Road, London SE18XT 020 7928 3232 bfi.org.uk
<b>Genesis Cinema</b> 93-95 Mile End Road, London E14UJ 020 7780 2000 genesiscinema.co.uk
<b>Prince Charles Cinema</b> 7 Leicester Pl, London WC2H 7BY 020 7494 3654 princecharlescinema.com
<b>Rich Mix</b> 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA 020 7613 7498 richmix.org.uk
<b>The Garden Cinema</b> 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5EF 020 3369 5000 thegardencinema.co.uk
<b>The Place</b> 17 Duke's Road, London WC1H 9PY 020 3820 5229 theplace.org.uk

Team

<b>Festival &amp; Programme Director</b> Yi Wang
<b>Festival Assistants</b> Hester Yang Jialin Hong Penney Chu
<b>Guest Programmers</b> April Lin 林森 <small>Alien Body, Human Dreams</small> Bart Seng Wen Long <small>Wayward Fruits</small> Dongyun Lee <small>Queer Korea: A Mixtape</small> Sine Screen (Yiru Liu, Hester Yang) <small>A Kind of Queer Utopia</small>
<b>PR</b> Alternate Current Donald Hutera (Dance Programme)
<b>Visual Design</b> Kyle Lamond
<b>Technical Support</b> Left Handed Cinema Collective
<b>Web Developer</b> Josh Watts
<b>Festival Trailer - Editing</b> Joe Lee 李曜辰
<b>Festival Trailer – Music</b> Schadenfreude 아무도 그대를 바라지 않는 by ALEPH 알레프
<b>Programme Advisors</b> Jinhee Choi Christopher Brown Dongyun Lee JaeWook Ryu

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Schedule

<b>Tuesday 18 April</b> BFI Southbank 18:15 – I Love You, Beksman (UK Premiere)
<b>Wednesday 19 April</b> The Place 19:30 – Cyborg DNA + Q&A
<b>Thursday 20 April</b> Prince Charles Cinema 18:00 – AMI: Wayward Fruits + Q&A  Genesis Cinema 21:00 – Peafowl
<b>Friday 21 April</b> The Place 19:30 – Yishun is Burning + Q&A
<b>Saturday 22 April</b> Garden Cinema 14:00 – Shorts: In Between Seasons 15:45 – Stateless Things  The Place 19:30 – Yishun is Burning
<b>Sunday 23 April</b> Bertha DocHouse 14:30 – Lotus Sports Club + Q&A  BFI Southbank 15:10 – Let Me Hear it Barefoot (UK Premiere)  Rich Mix 17:30 – Shorts: First Times
<b>Monday 24 April</b> Prince Charles Cinema 18:00 – Rebels of the Neon God  BFI Southbank 20:15 – What Happened to the Wolf? (UK Premiere)

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<b>Tuesday 25 April</b> Barbican Cinema 18:10 – The Love Eterne (60th Anniversary)
<b>Wednesday 26 April</b> Prince Charles Cinema 18:00 – A Man and a Gisaeng  BFI Southbank 20:30 – King and the Clown (35mm)
<b>Thursday 27 April</b> Barbican Cinema 18:15 – AMI: Alien Body, Human Dreams + Q&A  Bertha DocHouse 18:20 – Bad Women of China (UK Premiere) + Q&A
<b>Friday 28 April</b> Garden Cinema 18:00 – Shorts: A Kind of Queer Utopia  Genesis Cinema 21:00 – Memento Mori
<b>Saturday 29 April</b> Rich Mix 14:30 – Shorts: Queer Korea - A Mixtape 17:30 – About Us But Not About Us (UK Premiere)  Genesis Cinema 18:50 – Sa Bangji 20:55 – Shorts: All About My Mother
<b>Sunday 30 April</b> Rich Mix 14:30 – House of Hummingbird  Barbican Cinema 18:15 – Home Ground (UK Premiere) + Q&A
<b>Tuesday 18 – Sunday 23 April</b> BFI Southbank 14:00 to 21:00 – VR Experience: 5.25m²



Welcome

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07

Four years ago, amidst a global pandemic that dimmed cinema screens across the country, Queer East was born, and it's hard to believe that we have come this far.

Featuring over 50 titles from 17 countries, from UK premieres to documentaries to virtual reality, our fourth edition again affirms our commitment to challenging the status quo and shining a light on marginalised queer voices. We've also collaborated with guest programmers worldwide, creative minds who have helped us curate an expanded series of short films and artists' moving image works, exploring the current queer landscape in East and Southeast Asia.

Themes of queer performance are central to this year's programme. From cross-dressing to gender-reversed casting, from voguing to local queer choirs, many films highlight playful and fluid queerness, showcasing the ways that gender and sexuality are understood and interpreted by filmmakers in different Asian cultural contexts.

This year, South Korea takes centre stage as our focus country, in light of its recent modest, but significant, advancements in protecting LGBTQ+ rights. While social attitudes often remain conservative, delving into the country's cinematic history reveals a surprisingly vibrant tradition of queer filmmaking. The festival's 15-film Focus Korea programme offers a glimpse of this lesser-known heritage, spanning work from the 1960s to the present; films that depict the lived experience of Korea's queer communities, whose stories are rarely told.

Beyond the silver screen, we are excited to welcome two international dance productions for the very first time, in partnership with The Place, London's leading dance venue. Both productions offer an alternative way of navigating intersections between technology, digital art, physical movement, and queer identities.

Queer East directly responds to the systemic lack of Asian representation on the big screen, onstage, and behind the scenes. The festival pushes boundaries, challenging the expectations, norms, and labels commonly associated with LGBTQ+ Asian communities, provoking a conversation on what it means to be Asian and queer today.

Our festival would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, partners, filmmakers, artists, friends, and you, our audience members, who have joined us on the journey, enabling a space for bold and three-dimensional queer storytelling.

Thank you and we can't wait to see you at the festival!

Yi Wang 王裔

Festival and Programme Director

# Feature Film

## I Love You, Beksman (Mahal Kita, Beksman) Philippines, 2022

Running Time  
106 Mins  
Director  
Percival Intalan

April 18  
BFI Southbank  
18:15

In this reverse coming-out story, glamorous make-up artist and fashion designer Dali is assumed by his friends, colleagues, and queer family to be gay. But when he falls for Angel, a beauty pageant queen, Dali comes out as straight. The problem is, nobody believes him – not even Angel. So the make-up artist resolves to prove his manhood, attempting to persuade Angel and her hyper-masculine brothers that he is the right man for her. With vibrantly coloured production design and a catchy soundtrack, this high-camp comedy from the Philippines challenges gender stereotypes, and calls into question our assumptions about what is gay or straight. Award-winning actor Christian Bables shines in the lead role, delicately capturing the vulnerability that underlies Dali's frequently hilarious attempts to win his true love's heart.

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09 Opening Night  
UK Premiere



# Home Ground

## South Korea, 2022

Running Time April 30  
78 Mins Barbican Cinema  
Director 18:15  
Kwon Aram

In the mid-1990s, the first openly lesbian bar in South Korea, LesBos, opened its doors in Sinchon, Seoul. This documentary follows one of the bar's proprietors, Myong-woo, whose witty commentary prompts a broader reflection on Seoul's lesbian scene, and the evolution of the city's queer spaces over the past five decades. In her feature debut, Kwon Aram documents generational change as she makes connections between past and present: from the 1976 police raid on Chanel, a women-only café that existed in Myeongdong in the 1970s, to the more recent threat posed by Covid-19 to community solidarity. This is a film about a shared sense of belonging, and shared environments of kinship. Offering a rare insight into Seoul's often-hidden lesbian history, Home Ground reveals the vibrancy and endurance of South Korea's queer culture.

Presented in partnership with:  
Reclaim The Frame

Closing Night  
UK Premiere  
Q&A with Kwon Aram and  
Melanie Iredale



# Peafowl (공작새)

## South Korea, 2022

Running Time April 20  
115 Mins Genesis Cinema  
Director 21:00  
Byun Sung-bin

Shin-myung is a transgender woman and dancer who competes in waacking, a form of voguing. Having cut ties with her family and rural hometown, Shin-myung seek various ways to fund her gender re-assignment surgery. But one day, she is informed that her estranged father, a master of Nongak folk music, has died. He stipulated that Shin-myung can receive her inheritance money if she returns to the village and performs a traditional drum dance, as part of his memorial rituals. Unwilling to yield to her intolerant father's posthumous demands, the unapologetic Shin-myung is forced to reluctantly reconnect with her past while staying true to herself. Driven by an empowering vision of trans identity, this assured debut feature from Byun Sung-bin contemplates the possibilities – and limits – of forgiveness.

Intro by director:  
Byun Sung-bin



# Stateless Things (줄탁동시)

## South Korea, 2011

Running Time                      April 22  
120 Mins                      The Garden Cinema

Director                      15:45  
Kim Kyung-Mook

The second instalment in Kim Kyung-Mook's acclaimed 'Things' trilogy, this arthouse drama follows two young men in parallel stories. Joon, a young North Korean man who has illegally emigrated to South Korea, works in a gas station. When his colleague Soonhee, a Chinese immigrant of Korean ethnicity, is subjected to sexual harassment, Joon steps in to protect her. Hyun is a young gay man, financially reliant on his older lover, in whose luxury apartment he lives. He feels suffocated by his claustrophobic existence. Although their stories are very different, Joon and Hyun are connected by their loneliness and desperation. A poetic work that draws thematic parallels between the life experiences of homosexuals and illegal immigrants, Stateless Things evolves into a searing indictment of social exclusion and cultural hypocrisy.



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# Lotus Sports Club (ក្រុមបក្សីឡាហាវទាត់ដុកាល្អូក)

## Cambodia / Netherlands, 2022

Running Time                      April 23  
72 Mins                      Bertha DocHouse

Director                      14:30  
Vanna Hem, Tommaso Colognese

Filmed in Cambodia over the course of five years, Lotus Sports Club is an inspiring coming-of-age documentary about Leak, a teenage trans man who plays football in the under-21s women's team of Kampong Chhnang, and Pa Vann, the coach and father-figure to Leak and other LGBTQ+ players on the team. Pa Vann established the football team in 2009 to encourage solidarity among straight, lesbian and gender-diverse players. He also opened his home to more vulnerable, often homeless teenagers including Leak, providing these players with a sanctuary in which to be themselves. However Leak, under pressure to make more money for his family and forced off the football team because of his age, must take the heart-breaking decision to move to Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, leaving behind the one person he loves the most.

13      Q&A with Vanna Hem, Tommaso Colognese, Chhim Putsalun and Shanshan Chen



# Let Me Hear It Barefoot (裸足で鳴らしてみせ)

## Japan, 2021

Running Time  
127 Mins

Director  
Kudo Riho

April 23  
BFI Southbank  
15:10

Naomi, a student dropout, only believes in things he can touch. He works for his father's waste collection company and hopes to escape his claustrophobic existence. One day, he befriends the happy-go-lucky Maki, and the pair begin making sound recordings of imaginary places for Midori, a blind woman with whom Maki lives. She has always dreamed of travelling but never been abroad. As the two young men spend more and more time together, they begin to express their growing intimacy through rough playfighting. But soon, their actions acquire a hurtful intensity that threatens to overwhelm their friendship. Offering a rare female perspective on male coming-of-age, director Kudo Riho crafts an incisive portrayal of sadomasochistic repression, calling into question the relationship between what we see, hear, and touch.

UK Premiere



# Rebels of the Neon God (青少年哪吒)

## Taiwan, 1992

Running Time  
106 Mins

Director  
Tsai Ming-Liang

April 24  
Prince Charles Cinema  
18:00

Director Tsai Ming-Liang's debut feature is a masterful exploration of urban alienation and sexual malaise, widely regarded as one of the best Taiwanese films of all time. The parallel stories are about teenager Hsiao Kang, who feels stifled living at home with his parents, and petty thief Ah-Tze, the object of the teenager's obsessive hero-worship. One of the quintessential Taipei films, *Rebels of the Neon God* captures a transformative moment in the city's history, as the decaying architecture of the nationalist era gives way to technological modernisation, video game arcades, and shiny new shopping malls. Foregrounding themes of queer desire, the film introduced cinemagoers to Tsai's signature minimalist style, and to his muse, actor Lee Kang-Sheng, who has subsequently appeared in every film made by the director.

Intro by:  
Tony Rayns

Supported by:  
Ministry of Culture of Taiwan, Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute, and Taiwan Tourism Bureau



# Myanmar, 2021

Running Time  
133 Mins

Director  
Na Gyi

April 24  
BFI Southbank  
20:15

In Myanmar, two women meet in a hospital. Moe, who is terminally ill, conforms to strict social conventions and though outwardly calm, fears her impending death. Way, who has a heart defect, is rebellious and free-spirited, and shuts everyone off, wanting to die anonymously. Moe and Way find solace in each other's company, and forming a close bond, begin to contemplate a journey to the fabled sea of clouds. Portraying the subtle shifts in the women's relationship over time, this kind of story is rare in a country in which queer narratives are suppressed. This deeply moving, troubling film is a testament to the creative conviction of its director and stars, who were targeted following the country's military coup in 2021.

Intro by:  
ꠘꠘ Pearl Fedeles

UK Premiere

Intro by:  
 ∞ Pearl Fedeale

UK Premiere



## The Love Eterne (梁山伯與祝英台)

Hong Kong, 1963

Running Time  
122 Mins

Director  
Li Han-Hsiang

April 25  
Barbican Cinema  
18:10

In this sumptuous musical adaptation of one of China's most famous folk tales, Betty Loh Ti plays fourth-century maiden Chu Ying-Tai, who yearns for an education. So she disguises herself as a boy in order to attend school; there she meets the dashing Liang Shan-Po, with whom she falls passionately in love. This retrospective screening offers audiences the chance to revisit this classic film six decades after its release. Gender-bending roleplay was traditional in Huangmei opera and here features as part of the story. But from a contemporary perspective, the decision to cast a female actress – Ivy Ling Po – in the male role complicates the onscreen sexual dynamics. Presenting desire as fluid and uninhibited by gender, this playful and hugely popular musical made Ling Po an icon and picked up numerous major awards across East Asia.

Intro by:  
How Wee Ng

60th Anniversary

Presented in partnership with:  
Hong Kong Film Festival UK

Intro by:  
How Wee Ng

60th Anniversary

Presented in partnership with:  
Hong Kong Film Festival UK



# A Man and a Gisaeng (남자와 기생)

## South Korea, 1969

Running Time                      April 26  
86 Mins                              Prince Charles Cinema

Director                              18:00  
Shim Wu-seob

In this rediscovered comedy from South Korea, a man named Tae-Ho is fired from his office job for being 'unmanly' but is soon offered an unusual means of making money: he can work as a gisaeng, a traditional hostess and entertainer. Tae-Ho is initially hesitant to dress up as woman, but is so convincing in his newfound profession that he inadvertently becomes successful. Things become complicated, however, when he starts to receive proposals from several of his male clients – including Mr. Heo, the boss who fired him. Raucously funny, the film is ultimately constrained by the prevailing ideologies of the time, yet pushes at the edges of what was considered acceptable in 1969. Fully restored, A Man and a Gisaeng showcases a society in transition, and calls into question traditional views on gender and sexuality.



# King and the Clown (왕의 남자)

## South Korea, 2005

Running Time                      April 26  
119 Mins                              BFI Southbank

Director                              20:30  
Lee Jun-ik

The late 15th century: Jangsaeng and Gong-gil are jesters who tour the country performing tightrope acts and bawdy comic routines. The beautiful Gong-gil takes the female roles, and out of the public eye, offers his sexual services to rich customers. Jangsaeng and Gong-gil become tremendously popular after developing a treasonous act that mocks King Yeonsan, and brought before the monarch, they soon become ensnared in a web of dangerous passions. Released in 2005, this was highest-viewed film of the year in South Korea, making a star out of Lee Joon-gi and attracting attention for its frank portrayal of queer attraction, which was unusual and controversial at the time. Contemplating the fluid nature of desire, The King and the Clown depicts violence as a force that is both repressive and repressed.



# Bad Women of China (中华坏女人)

## China, 2023

Running Time  
82 Mins

Director  
He Xiaopei

April 27  
Bertha DocHouse  
18:20

Filmmaker and activist He Xiaopei's first feature-length documentary commences with an attempt at reconciliation with her mother, before taking the audience on a journey from the 1920s through to the 2020s. With a raw, DIY aesthetic, the film brings to life the experiences of three generations of Chinese women – He's mother, herself, and her daughter – as they come to terms with political and social change. Combining interview, video essay, and home movie formats, the film offers a refreshingly irreverent perspective on historical experiences, while wryly documenting the potential of lesbian and polyamorous lifestyles to challenge established ideas of feminine propriety. Through intimate conversations, Bad Women of China demonstrates how women are unconsciously led to belittle their own desires, experiences and hopes.

Presented in partnership with:  
Club des Femmes

UK Premiere  
Q&A with He Xiaopei  
and So Mayer



# Memento Mori (여고괴담 두번째 이야기)

## South Korea, 1999

Running Time  
98 Mins

Director  
Kim Tae-yong, Min Kyu-dong

April 28  
Genesis Cinema  
21:00

This Korean horror from the late 1990s is regarded as a breakthrough for LGBTQ+ representation. Min-ah discovers a secret diary and realises that her schoolmates Hyo-shin and Shee-eun are not just close friends but have, in fact, begun a forbidden romance. The mysterious diary begins to consume Min-ah. But when one of the diary's writers is found dead from an apparent suicide, rumours spread, and Min-Ah begins to sense a strange presence. Soon, the once tranquil school is transformed into a morbid, uncanny place of terror, as the words in the diary begin to take on a life of their own. Transcending exploitative and misogynistic portrayals of queer desires as monstrous, Memento Mori offers a frank and empowering portrayal of lesbian characters, who are finally allowed to step out of the shadows.

Presented in partnership with:  
Queer Horror Nights



# About Us But Not About Us

## Philippines, 2022

Running Time April 29  
91 Mins Rich Mix  
Director 17:30  
Jun Robles Lana

In this experimental mystery-drama from the Philippines, literature student Lance has dinner with his university professor Eric, who is gay and coming to terms with the recent death of his partner. Their trip to a restaurant in Manila begins innocuously enough, with the enthusiastic Lance gratefully acknowledging his mentor's help and encouragement. But as disturbing revelations about the past begin to emerge, the encounter evolves into a venomous battle of wills. Romnick Sarmenta and Elijah Canlas are outstanding in this tense, claustrophobic work about false narratives, distorted memories, and the masks we wear in order to project an image to others. Shooting largely in one location, director Jun Robles Lana exploits restrictions to dramatic effect, with the film playing out in real time over a restaurant sitting of 90 minutes.

UK Premiere



# Sa Bangji (사방지)

## South Korea, 1988

Running Time April 29  
94 Mins Genesis Cinema  
Director 18:50  
Song Kyung-shik

Presented in 4K restoration, this rediscovered classic dramatizes the mythology of Sa Bangji, an intersex person who according to historical records lived during Korea's Joseon Dynasty. Taken in by a kindly benefactor, Sa Bangji lives in a monastery that is one day visited by a young widow, Lee So-sa, who is in mourning following the death of her husband. The pair's meeting seems predestined, with the erotic attraction between Sa Bangji and Lee So-sa soon evolving into something far more transcendent – and dangerous. Lee Hye-young gives an incredible performance as the hero-heroine in this unsettling and provocative work, a film that refuses to shy away from the horrendous stigmatization faced by its character. While aspects of the film – its stylised depiction of female actors and sex – identify it as a product of its time, Sa Bangji is undeniably a milestone in screen representations of intersex people.



# House of Hummingbird (벌새)

## South Korea, 2018

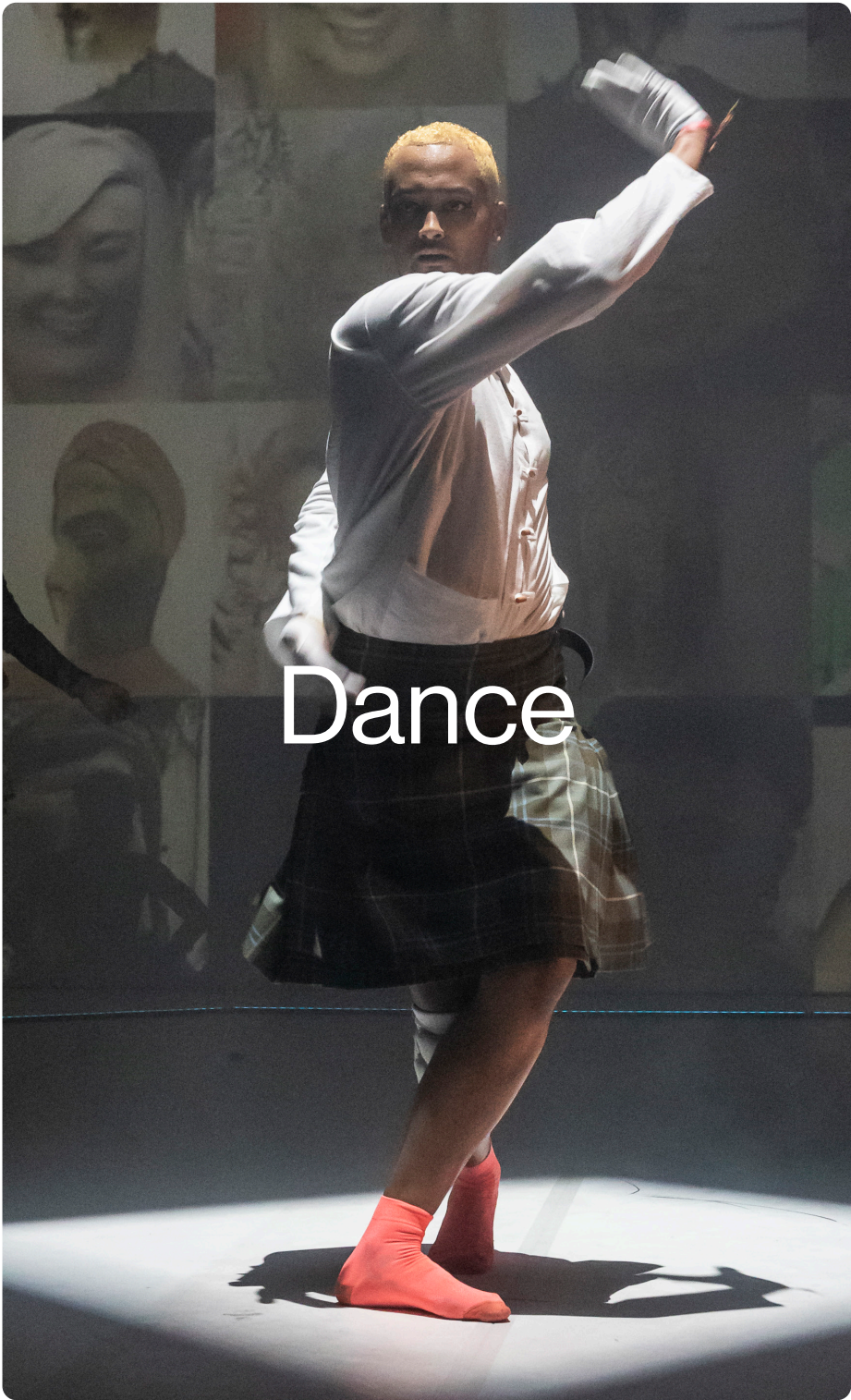
Running Time                      April 30  
138 Mins                          Rich Mix  
Director                              14:30  
Kim Bo-ra

Seoul, 1994: fourteen-year-old Eun-hee's chaotic life is bearable thanks to her secret boyfriend and best friend at Chinese cram school. But at home, her parents are overbearing and distant, while her brother beats her. Eun-hee's world changes when a new, free-spirited Chinese tutor arrives at the school, taking a genuine interest in her feelings, and teaching her about things beyond her own experience. But for Eun-hee, even the good times seem like they won't last forever. This warmly nostalgic coming-of-age story uses the historical backdrop of South Korea in the summer of 1994 to evoke the teenager's feelings of discovery and change. In her debut feature, director Kim Bo-ra pays tribute to the confusion and joys of adolescence, assisted by a captivating performance from Park Ji-hu in her first leading role.



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25



# Cyborg DNA

## Netherlands

Cyborg DNA is a hypnotic and hypersensitive futuristic queer performance installation blending digital art, synthesised music and contemporary dance. A boundary-breaking collaboration between dance artist and creative producer Robin Nimanong and digital artist Luxnautilus, this new cross-disciplinary work was inspired in part by Donna Haraway's Cyborg Manifesto. Her influential 1985 essay explores how language evolves, and envisions a future that embraces the complexity of the body and technology.

Presented in partnership with:  
The Place and Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest

### Cast & Creatives

Dance Artist and Creative Producer  
Robin Nimanong

Digital Artist  
Luxnautilus

Sound Design and Dance Artist  
Clara Cozzolino

Dance Artist  
Phabpi Ngo

Intern Dancers  
Erikas Žilaitis and Dovilė Krutulytė

Dramaturgy  
Lara Van Lookeren

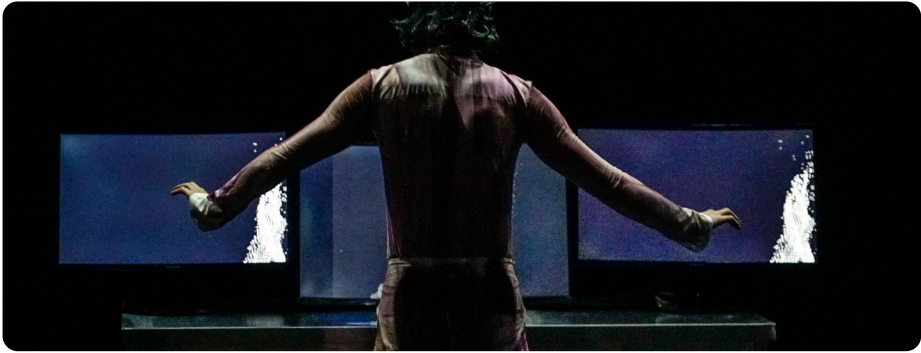
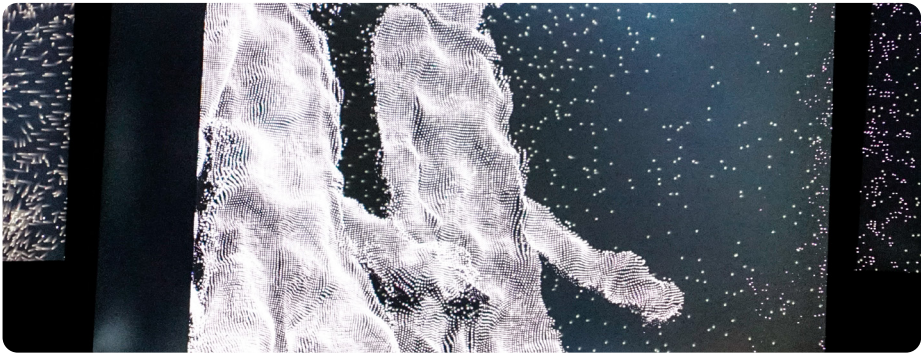
3D Images  
Thomas Van Rijk

ICK Artist Space (New Adventures)  
Suzy Blok And Astrid Haneveld

Supported by:  
The Embassy of the Netherlands &  
Arts Council England

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# Yishun Is Burning

## Germany / Singapore

Supported by:  
Arts Council England

Shamanism meets voguing in choreographer Choy Ka Fai's fascinating, scintillatingly queer adaptation of Singaporean ritual dance. In this transcendental multimedia voguing dance party led by Norwegian-Thai dancer Sun Phitthaya Phaefuang, a.k.a. Aurora Sun Labeija, shifts between states of ecstasy, trance and drag.

April 21 / April 22

The Place

19:30

Presented in partnership with:

The Place and Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest

Yishun Is Burning is developed with the support of tanzhaus nrw Düsseldorf and Singapore Art Museum. Additional support was received from the Nationales Performance Netz (NPN) Coproduction Fund for Dance, which is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Germany. The research process was supported by the National Arts Council, Singapore and Kunststiftung NRW, Germany

Yishun Is Burning is part of the CosmicWander Series, an on-going project exploring shamanic dance culture in Asia. Inspired by the Singaporean phenomenon of reverencing deities in their struggle against evil, this UK premiere arrives thirty-plus years after the iconic documentary Paris Is Burning. Crossing and blurring boundaries of gender, race and religion, it is a liberating and celebratory attempt to manifest a supernatural dance experience and a bold signpost in the search for one's own spirituality through movement.

It also features, not incidentally, the galvanising music of the Singaporean-Malay band NADA (Rizman Putra and Safuan Johari) and Chinese drummer Cheryl Ong.

## Cast & Creatives

Concept, Documentary and Direction  
Choy Ka Fai

Dramaturgy  
Tang Fu-Kuen

Spiritual Presence  
Kali and Kuan Yin

Choreography and Dance Performance  
Sun Phitthaya Phaefuang

Sound Design and Musical Performance  
NADA (Rizman Putra & Safuan Johari) & Cheryl Ong

3D Visual Design and Technology  
Brandon Tay

Light Design, Installation and Technical Direction  
Ray Tseng

Visual Operator  
Damjan Šporčić Technical

Direction Singapore Studio  
ARTFACTORY

Tour Manager  
Tammo Walter

Production Manager  
Mara Nedelcu

# Shorts Programme



# In Between Seasons

—	—	Boy Queen, 2021	April 22
—	—	Seance of the Past, 2022	The Garden Cinema
—	—	Truthless, 2021	14:00
—	—	Memori Dia, 2022	
—	—	Tank Fairy, 2022	
—	—		
—	—		
—	—		
—	—		
30	31	Spring, summer, autumn and winter: each new season marks a beginning, an act of trans-formation, signalling the ever-changing fluidity of nature. In this programme, whether trapped in psychological minds or physical bodies, each protagonist discovers a way to escape from reality, and embark on a personal journey of finding the past or envisioning the future. These films centre on the theme of metamorphosis, piecing together a multifaceted recollection of queer memories and futures.	
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—	—		
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—	—		
—	—	Programmed and presented in partnership with:	Total Running Time
—	—	CinemAsia Film Festival, Amsterdam	84 Mins

# Boy Queen

Myanmar / Germany, 2021

Running Time  
19 Mins

Director  
Sai Nyi Min Htut



This short documentary follows Agyip, a 19-year-old who works as a hotel receptionist by day, but blooms into his drag alter ego 'Violet Katy' at night. Together with his friend, they are determined to live life as their true selves, despite the societal pressures they face.

# Seance of the Past

Singapore, 2022

Running Time  
9 Mins

Director  
Adelaide Sherry



A person spends most of their life mourning the things they have lost, unable to move on. They frequent a silent but helpful medium, embarking on a spiritual journey where they linger among their past lives.

32

# Truthless (林月珍女士)

China, 2021

Running Time  
27 Mins

Director  
Zhao Badou



Stand-up comedian Lady Lin revisits her hometown after her mother's death and confronts the lies her family spread about her passing, in order to conceal her trans identity. Unable to process her conflicting emotions, her only hope of reconciliation with her family is an onstage act.

33

# Memori Dia

Indonesia / Germany, 2022

Running Time  
19 Mins

Director  
Asarela Orchidia Dewi



Triggered by an old family photograph, a young adult named Azka starts to trace back their childhood. While revisiting these long-forgotten memories, Azka discovers unresolved pains they never knew existed. This experience marks the beginning of a journey of profound self-acceptance.



## Tank Fairy (桶妝仙女)

Taiwan / US, 2022

Running Time

10 Mins

Director

Erich Rettstadt

34

35

The fierce Tank Fairy delivers her magical gas tanks with sass, stilettos and a healthy helping of glitter. When she meets 10-year-old Jojo, a lonely boy who dreams of being a drag queen, the fairy godmother unleashes Jojo's queer power.

Book now  
[queereast.org.uk](http://queereast.org.uk)

## 36

37

106 Mins

# i get so sad sometimes

## Philippines, 2021

Running Time  
20 Mins

Director  
Trishtan Perez



High-school teenager Jake lives in a small town in Pagadian and only hangs out with very few friends. Secretly, he develops an anonymous sexual relationship on-line with a faceless mature man. When the stranger promises to reveal his face the next day, Jake cannot contain his excitement.

# Swimming in the Dark (悄悄告诉她)

## Taiwan, 2022

Running Time  
27 Mins

Director  
Chen Pin-Ru



Inseparable friends Wen-chi and Ann are teammates on the school's swimming team. As a national competition approaches, the mounting pressure on Wen-chi creates tensions between them and strains their friendship, so Ann decides to confront her feelings towards Wen-chi.

38

# The Voice

## Mongolia, 2022

Running Time  
15 Mins

Director  
Maral Ayurzana



A teenager records his a personal diary on a voice recorder. One day, envisioning his future self listening to this diary, he decides to come out to himself. This leads to an intimate conversation about self-acceptance.

39

# Rooted (防己)

## Taiwan, 2022

Running Time  
29 Mins

Director  
Wu Yi-Wei



During a summer by the sea, Xiao Wu is rescued by Shuo, a lifeguard who mistakenly thought he was drowning. This encounter stirs up long-restrained desires in Xiao Wu's heart as he finds himself unable to take his eyes off Shou.



— We Were Never Really Strangers  
— Philippines, 2022

— Running Time  
— 15 Mins

— Director  
— Patrick Pangan

40

41

Gio and Miguel, two strangers, spark a strong connection in a random encounter outside a church. As their conversation deepens, they discover in each other an escape from their present selves and a source of inspiration for who they aspire to become, leading them towards a different fate.

— Book now  
— [queereast.org.uk](http://queereast.org.uk)

# Shorts Programme



# A Kind of Queer Utopia

Strangers in Paradise, 2022  
Adju, 2021  
Leo & Nymphia, 2021  
The Choir of Our Kind, 2022

28 April  
The Garden Cinema  
18:00

42

43

A collection of short documentaries celebrating the power of queer performances in different forms, through which atypical identities are expressed and embraced. These films explore the queer party scene in Chengdu, offer a portrait of 25-year-old drag artist Leo, tell the story of two gender non-conforming singers from the indigenous Paiwan community, and follow the ups and downs of Nanjing's first-ever LGBTQ+ choir. In this programme, the lenses of the filmmakers break away from dominant social gazes, exploring live performances as sites of liberation and collective empowerment, a queer utopia found in one another.

Programmed and presented in  
partnership with:  
Sine Screen

Total Running Time  
107 Mins



## Strangers in Paradise (末路狂欢)

China, 2022

Running Time

17 Mins

Director

Huang Yihong

Today's twenty-somethings are forced into a small safety bubble by systems, labels and meaningless routines. Huizit and Jimmy embark on a brave quest in the face of socially defined gender norms, warmly and firmly absorbing their friends who need a safe place to belong.

44

45

## Adju (歌舞的我們)

Taiwan, 2021

Running Time

25 Mins

Director

Elvis A-Liang Lu

Mo Fan and Chen Wei are ADJU, a word meaning sisters in the Paiwan language. The traditional mindset of the community, paired with their Catholic upbringing, have forced Mo Fan and Chen Wei to avoid confrontation; to keep silent and accept the hierarchy and the conventions of their society.

# Leo & Nymphia (雙面曹里歐)

Taiwan, 2021

Running Time  
27 Mins

Director  
Pan Hsin-An

Twenty-five-year-old Leo is a drag queen who supports himself by performing in nightclubs. In his role as queen Nymphia, he shows his heart and desires to the public. Leo's work is bizarre, constantly challenging social boundaries and norms, and full of curiosity about the world.

# The Choir of Our Kind (我们这种合唱团 )

China, 2022

Running Time  
38 Mins

Director  
Xu Zai, Wang Sisi

The film follows the journey of a queer choir in Nanjing. From initial recruitment to their first performance, the story of New Jump offers a lens to observe how current social and cultural situations affect a small queer community. What should a queer choir in China look like?



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A...

14

Drug

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103 Mins



## Ice (아이스)

South Korea, 2019

Running Time

28 Mins

Director

Lee Seong-wook

Seung-jin and Tae-yoon, friends with benefits who engage in chemsex, embark on a road trip to meet their drug dealer and end up spending a night in a hotel. Despite their anxiety and fear of getting caught by the police, they cannot resist their desire for pleasure.

50

51

## Cicada (매미)

South Korea, 2021

Running Time

17 Mins

Director

Yoon Dae-woen

This horror short is about Chang-hyeon, a transgender sex worker, who meets a client with mystifying questions about her past. The uncomfortable conversation between her and this strange, yet familiar, intruder soon becomes violent.

# Don't Worry (걱정도 팔자)

## South Korea, 2022

Running Time  
19 Mins

Director  
Kim Tae-yong

Hanyeol, a openly gay man, has a secret crush on Suho, his soon-to-be-married best friend. Suho has secret affection for Hanyeol. A night, Suho decides to make a move that could change the pair's relationship completely.

# How Do I Kill That B? (저 녀를 어떻게 죽이지?)

## South Korea, 2022

Running Time  
27 Mins

Director  
Seo Ji-hwan

Ha-Yoon works as a maid in a luxurious mansion, and is not too fond of a new employee, Ji-Young. When a forest hunting game is proposed by the mansion owner, the tense relationship between the two maids reaches an extreme level.



# Butch Up!

## South Korea, 2022

Running Time  
12 Mins

Director  
Lee Yu-jin

Mi-hae, the lead vocalist in a band, has just been dumped by her girlfriend and band. Miserable, she cannot get herself to sing her old band's most popular hit, Oppa's Girl, but then she meets Chaechae, a transgender TV celebrity.

## A photograph showing several pieces of fruit floating in a shallow pool of water. There are three red apples and two green cucumbers with dark green stripes. The water is contained between large, dark, textured rocks. The scene is lit with soft, natural light, creating gentle reflections on the water's surface.

## 54

55

97 Mins

## Fictions

### Canada, 2022

Running Time  
12 Mins

Director  
Alice Charlie Liu



Jessie, a Chinese Canadian photography student takes on a self-portraiture assignment. After discovering the work of Cindy Sherman, she is torn to reflect on her own shifting identity and artistic voice, while juggling her role as a daughter to meet her mother's expectations.

## Skin Can Breathe

### US, 2022

Running Time  
11 Mins

Director  
Chheangkea



After moving to America with his mother, a Cambodian teenager named Soda struggles navigating his queer identity both at home and within the awkwardly erotic nature of his school's all-boys swimming team. Finding no place to be, Soda seeks refuge in the water of the swimming pool.

56

## A Good Mother (굿 마더)

### South Korea, 2020

Running Time  
24 Mins

Director  
Lee Yu-jin



Su-mi is a respected school teacher and proud mother of her daughter Ji-soo, who works as a human rights lawyer. However, Su-mi struggles to fully embrace Ji-soo's lesbian identity, especially in front with their old family friends.

57

## Fishbowl

### US, 2021

Running Time  
15 Mins

Director  
Jacqueline Chan



Natalie drives back home with her childhood friend, Joanne, to celebrate Chinese New Year. But the supposedly festive and inviting family gathering is now tinged with animosity. Natalie finds herself juggling the growing affection between her and Joanne and the unnerving attention placed upon them by both their families.

# Rising Sun (浮陽)

## Taiwan, 2018

Running Time  
15 Mins

Director  
Cheng Ya-chih

After the tragic death of her son, a grieving mother discovers an exam paper with his portrait, which she believes is a message from beyond. She embarks on a quest to unravel the mystery and find closure, hoping to have a chance to get closer to her child for one last time.

# Will You Look at Me (当我望向你的时候)

## China, 2022

Running Time  
20 Mins

Director  
Huang Shuli

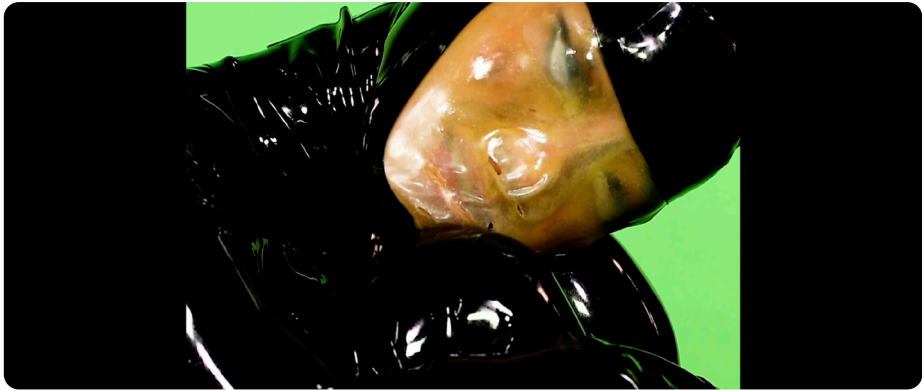
As a young Chinese filmmaker returns to his hometown in search for himself, a long overdue conversation with his mother plunges the two of them into a quest for acceptance and love.

58

59



# Artists' Moving Image Programme



## Wayward Fruits

Dikit, 2021  
out in the world, 2022  
Boy-Taste, 1973  
I shudder with pleasure that at last the time has come, 2022  
Sexy Sushi, 2021  
Super Taboo, 2017

April 20  
Prince Charles Cinema  
18:00

Supported by:  
Arts Council England

Content warnings:  
Full-frontal nudity, S&M practices, violence, and explicit sexual acts

60

61 A series of short films and artist moving images that work intimately and unapologetically with and through stereotypical elements of racialised East and South East Asian media, leading to lubricious slippages and unexpected relationships between the filmmakers and the motifs they consort with. It's like chancing upon a seedy late-night cinema hall only to find the films they show to be uncanny subversions of the usual classics, where even the cliché perverse finds itself perverted further more.

Q&A with Akira-Kai Kitazono and Bart Seng Wen Long

Programmed by  
Bart Seng Wen Long

Total Running Time  
85 Mins

# Dikit

## Philippines , 2021

Running Time  
16 Mins

Director  
Gabriela Serrano



A young woman with a monstrous secret desperately longs for a different body. When the new couple in town moves in next door, she sees her chance to finally get one. A silent, split-screen deconstruction of an ancient Filipino legend.

# out in the world

## Singapore, 2022

Running Time  
9 Mins

Director  
Bart Seng Wen Long



Composited over found footage of patrons eating out at Chinese restaurants, a latex-clad figure spins in tandem with their characteristic lazy susans. The exaggerated, cartoonish and sometimes flirtatious performances that this fetishistic body brings out of these folks, blur the line between derision and affection, othering and intimacy.

# Boy-Taste

## Japan, 1973

Running Time  
12 Mins

Director  
Michio Okabe



Naked men play innocently in an Esoteric Buddhist temple, returning to their boy-hood. Model aeroplanes, paper butterflies, vehicles, tiny toys, the objects they loved as boys emerge one after another from the darkness. Made in 1973, this work visualises the dreams and attachments of a bygone boyhood.

# I shudder with pleasure that

## at last the time has come

## Japan , 2022

Running Time  
27 Mins

Director  
Mari Terashima



One day, with hesitation, a young man visits the room of a mythical Mistress. The young man's pain turns into sweet love, a kind of rooted love, and he becomes one with Mother, with himself, and finally connects with the universe.



## Sexy Sushi

### Singapore, 2021

Running Time  
3 Mins

Director  
Calleen Koh

Life on a conveyor belt seems great for Sushi and his Topping friends. But as he begins to contemplate his existence, Sushi wonders if there's more to life than pimping himself out to savage consumers.

64

65

## Super Taboo (超級禁忌)

### Taiwan, 2017

Running Time  
18 Mins

Director  
Su Hui Yu

Based on a pornographic book from the 1980s, Su's immersive video work brings frozen tableaux of a forest orgy to life. Actor Chin Shih-Chieh reads out a titillating story from the pages of the book, after which he recalls his childhood memories of letting his erotic imagination run wild. Accompanied by a crackling drone soundtrack, the camera tracks naked bodies and finds the surrounding river turned vibrant pink and yellow.

# Artists' Moving Image Programme



## Alien Body, Human Dreams

to boyhood, i never knew him, 2022  
Longing for the Sun to Set Upwards, 2022  
beast, 2022  
Disease of Manifestation, 2011  
Yummy Body Truck, 2021  
BXYBY, 2022  
Garden Amidst the Flame, 2022

April 27  
Barbican Cinema  
18:15

Supported by:  
Arts Council England

Content warnings:  
Flashing lights and distressing scenes

66

67 Alien Body, Human Dreams is a series of cinematic investigations that centre the body as a potent site of hybridity, rejecting false divisions of man/woman, human/animal/alien, and self/other to construct their own embodied and multifaceted ways of being. Artists in this programme purposefully employ queering as a technique to misread, re-appropriate, and puncture the systems of power projected onto the body. In these works by queer Southeast and East Asian filmmakers, we meet a speculative reality where human body parts are sold in food trucks and witness a dance-fight between a lion dancer and a contemporary dancer. Bodyhacking, ritualising, and ceremonialising is used to knead cosmologies, folding knowledges in upon themselves.

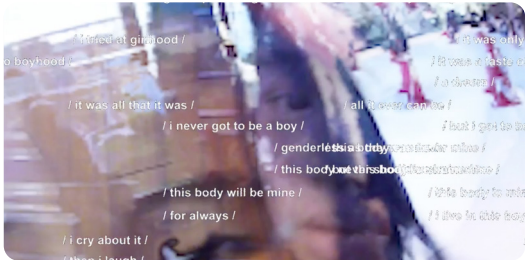
Programmed by  
April Lin 林森

Total Running Time  
93 Mins

to boyood, i never knew him  
Vietnam / Canada , 2022

Running Time  
3 Mins

Director  
Trâm Anh Nguyễn



Archive footage from 2006 to 2010 of a young girl growing up between the age of four and eight. Words from a transgender man float to the surface as fleeting memories go on. Only fragments of what is remembered exists.

Longing for the Sun to Set Upwards  
Philippines, 2022

Running Time  
3 Mins

Director  
Jao San Pedro



Longing for the Sun to Set Upwards is an ode to the multiplicity, mutability, and expansion of what constitutes a body, a self, through imaging and technological mediations.

68

beast  
Netherlands, 2022

Running Time  
6 Mins

Director  
Aileen Ye



beast follows a dreamscape nightmare about the fragile complexities grappled within diasporic Asian cultures and identities. Embodied and expressed through a martial arts inspired dance-fight between a traditional lion dancer and modern queer dancer, this film symbolically highlights diasporic identity displacement and coming to terms with one's own cultural grief.

69

Disease of Manifestation (宣(言)癖)  
Taiwan , 2011

Running Time  
9 Mins

Director  
Wu Tzu-An



This work is an argument initiated by Wendy Brown's article Resisting Left Melancholy. There is the thingness of the thoughts that can be seen as the lost object. Extending this idea, the thingness of thoughts that comes from one's personal or collective memories could become a pathological fixation.

# Yummy Body Truck

## Netherlands, 2021

Running Time  
7 Mins

Director  
Noam Youngrak Son



Yummy Body Truck is a fictional food truck selling human body parts mixed with other organisms in a biotechno-queer fantasy of interspecies mixing. A computer-generated video shows a fluidic chimera creating a malleable paste of diverse cells, organelles, DNA, hormones, and pigments, molded into human body shapes and served in a lunchbox.

# BXBY

## UK, 2022

Running Time  
37 Mins

Director  
Chang Soojin



Soojin Chang's BXBY is a year-long performance that merges forms of documentary and ritual practice, following Chang as a hybrid, shape-shifting being attempting reproduction. Sampling scientific methods such as IVF, biohacking, and voluntary self-touch, BXBY addresses the legacy of colonial science to open up other possibilities found in queer, interspecies kinship.

70



# Garden Amidst the Flame

## Indonesia, 2022

Running Time  
28 Mins

Director  
Natasha Tontey

The film explores the psychology of many fictional characters; young girls of the Minahasa tribe in North Sulawesi, a new behemoth of the Coelacanth monster and Rooster beast. All of these characters interact with each other to reject the hyper-masculine presentation of Minahasan ritual culture and everyday life.

71



# VR Cinematic Experience

5.25m<sup>2</sup>

South Korea, 2022

Running Time

20 Mins

Director

Kim KyungMook

April 18–23

BFI Southbank NFT2 Foyer

14:00–21:00

72

73

In 2015, filmmaker Kyungmook Kim was sentenced to 18 months in prison for objecting to Korea's mandatory military service. He then came out as a queer, which left him in solitary confinement, isolated from other prisoners for thirteen months, until his parole. Kim's haunting VR work 5.25m<sup>2</sup> recreates a virtual cell of the same size, 1.5 x 3.5 metres, enabling viewers to experience a prisoner's sense of time and space. We encounter the figure of an inmate wandering like a ghost, while hearing his voice as he writes a letter to a friend who is serving in the military. This powerful work uses VR to recreate a claustrophobic environment in which contact with others is completely prohibited, while acknowledging the possibilities of a rich, meditative inner life.

Free Entry

Presented in partnership with:

BFI Expanded

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More information here:



Taiwan

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A cross-disciplinary festival that showcases  
boundary-pushing LGBTQ+ cinema, live arts, and  
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and its diaspora communities.

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#QE2023