

18.

XPOSED

QUEER FILM FESTIVAL BERLIN

30.
May
- 2.
June
2024

• Movimiento •
Wolf Kino • IL Kino
Babylon Kreuzberg
• • • & Online



BOOKLET CONTENT

Welcome to XPOSED!	3
XPOSED Membership	4
Opening Night Shorts: Poetics of Perspective	5
POWER ALLEY by Lillah Halla	6
I'M NOT EVERYTHING I WANT TO BE by Klára Tasovská	7
Shorts 2: Until We Meet Again	8
VERA AND THE PLEASURE OF OTHERS by Romina Tamburello & Federico Actis	9
CIDADE; CAMPO by Juliana Rojas	10
Shorts 3: Flaring up	11
QUEENDOM by Agniia Galdanova	12
Midlength Special: Close to You	13
Shorts 4: Intergenerational Bonds	14
STORIES OF OUR LIVES by Jim Chuchu & The Nest Collective	15
Shorts 5: Glitchy Romance	16
STOP-ZEMLIA by Kateryna Gornostai	17
AVANT-DRAG! by Fil Ieropoulos	18
Shorts 6: Artist's Odyssey	19
SOLIDS BY THE SEASHORE by Patiparn Boontarig	20
ASOG by Sean Devlin	21
Shorts 7: Narrative Youth	22
CINEMA FOUAD by Mohamed Soueid	23
Shorts 8: Falling into place	24
MOTHER SAIGON by Khoa Lê	25
BLUE ID by Burcu Melmailekoğlu & Vuslat Karan	26
BX & FLUIDØ by Shu Lea Cheang	27
RIPTIDE by Afrad Vk	28
Accessibility Audio Descriptions Online Program	29
Content Notes	30
Structural Aspects	31
Queer Short Film Fund Workshops, Talks and Panels at Aquarium	32
Lolly Awards	33
IT'S LOVER, LOVE: Wake for Aërea Negrot and Lost Ones	34
IT'S LOVER, LOVE: Wake for Aërea Negrot and Lost Ones	35
Program Overview	36

WELCOME TO THE 18TH XPOSED QUEER FILM FESTIVAL BERLIN!

XPOSED is back for another festival of queer cinema. We take space to offer space, and we take space to make space: to and for you, to and for the filmmakers. We witness, grief, and protest the events unfolding globally and locally. We make space for the filmmakers who share with us their stories, visions, and interventions, and we offer space for you to watch, listen, and feel.

Loss is prevalent, and the grief it evokes is present through many of our films. How can we grieve for others and ourselves, by ourselves and in community? How do we connect on a deeper level? How do we exist beyond this body – in memory, in digital data, in others? How can

we shift from individual suffering to collective healing? With rituals, performances, essays, and fiction, the films in this year's program explore these questions with visual poetry. Some return to the former aesthetics of the 1990s in the millennium's nostalgic trip: the 8-bit video game, the arcade, the old familiar technological sounds. Through the lens of nostalgia, they create a new sense of belonging. The aesthetics of "glitch", either cinematic or narrative, reclaim the holes left by memory or history. And we, with XPOSED, claim space, which we hope to share with you.

XPOSED TEAM 2024

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Graphic Designer & Website Content Manager: Aaron Sammut

Website Designer: Benjamin Mossop

Festival Photographer: Stanley Reagh
Photographydesigns

Queer Short Film Fund Manager: Pierre Emö

... and thank you to the many volunteers that support us during the festival!

XPOSED MEMBERSHIP

The XPOSED Queer Film Festival Berlin was founded in 2006 as a passion project – a passion for queer film, its ever expanding possibilities of storytelling, and its community around the globe. As curators and organizers of this delicate and lively festival in Berlin, it brings us enormous joy to share films of all length and all forms with our audience. We love to invite filmmakers to discuss their vision, and to provide a platform for debate. Each year, we support the production of one short film with the Queer Short Film Fund. Apart from the festival, we organize queer film screenings in Berlin and other cities. In the past eighteen years, we have established long standing ties with filmmakers, other festival makers, and researchers – and of course with you, our most amazing audience.

Our festival runs on generosity – the generosity of the team, who dedicate their

time and energy to XPOSED, the generosity of our funders, and the generosity of our members. In 2019, we founded a non-profit organization to put our festival structure on a more solid and financially independent basis. We'd love to invite you to be part of the XPOSED family – by becoming a member and supporting our festival with 30€ per year. In return, you will not only receive a free ticket to a screening of your choice at our festival, but also one or two carefully crafted digital letters each year (and, above all, eternal gratitude).



Please send us an email to info@xposedfilmfestival.com or visit our website: <https://xposedfilmfestival.com/2024/membership/>



THU – 18:30 – BABYLON KREUZBERG

Opening Night Shorts – 88min

POETICS OF PERSPECTIVE

We often cite the power of images, and our opening shorts are testament to this: their power to construct realities and shape our perceptions. From the struggle to find a place to live, and ultimately a place for oneself in a society, to the collective struggle of resistance... These shorts move from pretentious paradises to magical mysteries. In *Soft Bwoi*, the filmmaker invites queer Caribbean heritage to explore vulnerability. The desktop essay *getty abortions* takes us on a humorous journey through stock photo databases. *Paradise Europe* is a mockumentary about a migrant's struggle to find an apartment while his personal life falls apart, as does the city around him. *Les Sports X-trem* showcases the glitchy and seemingly video-game-inspired imaginary dating story

of two trans men in a gym. The program ends with a futuristic narrative, *If I'm Here, It Is By Mystery*, which is all about the power of queer community in bending space and time.

Content notes: suffocation, racism, abortion



SOFT BWOI
Danny Bailey / UK / 2023 / 6min
English/Caribbean Dialect – German and English subtitles

Did you take pictures of your abortion?

GETTY ABORTIONS

Franzis Kabisch / Germany, Austria / 2023 / 21min
German – German and English subtitles



DU BIST SO WUNDERBAR (PARADISE EUROPE)

Paulo Menezes & Leandro Goddinho / Germany, Brazil / 2023 / 17min
English, German, Portuguese – German and English subtitles



LES SPORTS X-TREM
Gio Ventura / France / 2023 / 19min
French – German and English subtitles



SE EU TÔ AQUI É POR MISTÉRIO
(IF I'M HERE IT IS BY MYSTERY)

Clari Ribeiro / Brazil / 2024 / 22min
Portuguese – German and English subtitles

THU – 21:00 – MOVIEMENTO

LEVANTE (POWER ALLEY)

Lillah Halla / Brazil, France, Uruguay / 2023 / 99min
Portuguese, Spanish – German and English subtitles

Sofia is 17 and plays volleyball in a team full of rebels. Just as her coach informs her that she might have the opportunity to get a promising scholarship, a positive pregnancy test drowns out all of her dreams. In Brazil, abortions are criminalized. At first, she is hesitant to tell the news to anybody. In search for a way to abort, Sofia gradually gets support and solidarity from the people around her, including her single-raising father. They help her to face the cruel ways in which the state and religious neighborhood groups are trying to rob her of the agency over her body. Carried by an ever-resistant attitude, Lillah Halla's energetic

and urgent film highlights the importance of relationships and solidarity against repression.

Content notes: Pregnancy, abortion, physical violence



FRI – 16:00 – MOVIEMENTO

JEŠTĚ NEJSEM, KÝM CHCI BÝT (I'M NOT EVERYTHING I WANT TO BE)

Klára Tasovská / Tschechien/Slowakei/Österreich / 2024 / 90min
Czech – English subtitles

Libuše Jarcovjáková's photography captures the dynamic environments she has inhabited throughout her life to this day. Starting in 1960s Czechoslovakia, rhythmic black and white photography re-creates the atmosphere of everyday life heavily impacted by Soviet invasion. The lens continuously switches between the photographer and the life around her, making for personal, genuine encounters with the struggles of herself and of people around her. This creates a story delving into the lives of women, queer individuals, and factory workers, illuminating the subtle yet powerful effects of the era on these intersecting communities. Jarcovjáková's photography became more than just a documentation of moments; it served as an outlet for the destructive forces surrounding her.

Each snapshot captured not only the subjects but also the essence of the times, marking an ongoing journey of love for people, places, and the imprints they leave on Jarcovjáková. As she navigated through struggles, transitions, and self-discoveries, the photographer's work evolved, reflecting her ever-changing perceptions of herself and the world around her. Her photographs stand as a testament to her unwavering dedication to depicting the human experience in an honest way – despite, or especially because of, its tumultuous circumstance.

Content notes: Depiction and mention of military violence, police violence, war and occupation, mention of misogyny, mention of abortion



FRI – 18:00 – MOVIEMENTO

Shorts 2 – 83min

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

This short film program deals with grief and longing – the intense yet essential process of all queer persons in dealing with loss. It opens with *Nyame MMA*, which creates a space for queer/ male mourning, re-kindling the tie between a queer Ghanaian migrant in the West and their biological kin. Later on we are invited to pray, accompanied by *everything in our house did not seem to fit*. Part cinematic ritual, part exorcism, an homage to her ancestor in Nigeria. *Heart Murmurs* brings us into an intimate dialogue space with Dean, a queer person in Hong Kong, who shares his story of congenital disability and HIV during the first years of the COVID pandemic, as “things leave you with scars, in the name of love”. This dialogue continues onto *Congratulations, Dx!*, which portrays how Dextor finally returns to his hometown after long disappearance to confront the social scars of his past and social stigma. The program

concludes with *I don't want to be just a memory*, the collective homage to queer persons in the Berlin nightlife scene who lost their lives to substance-related mental health situations.

Content notes: grief, loss of lives, family issues, bodily sickness, mention of surgery



親密雜音 (HEART MURMURS)

Dorothy Cheung / Hong Kong / 2023 / 9min
Cantonese – English subtitles



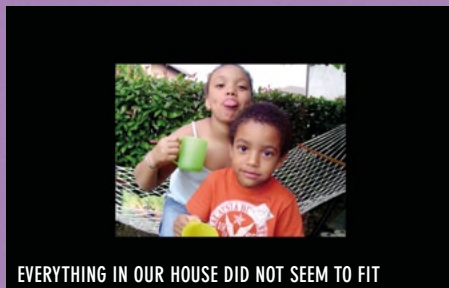
NYAME MMA

Joewackle J. Kusi / Ghana / 2024 / 28min
Fante, Ewe – English subtitles



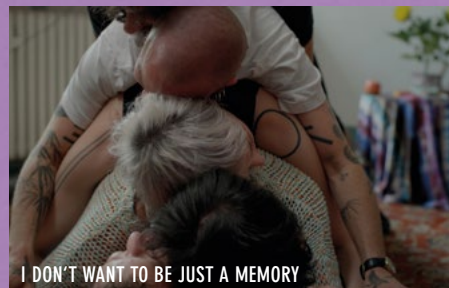
CONGRATULATIONS, DX!

Mark Felix Ebreo / Philippines / 2023 / 20min
Filipino – English subtitles



EVERYTHING IN OUR HOUSE DID NOT SEEM TO FIT

Alicia Abieyuwa Bergamelli / Italy/Nigeria / 2023 / 6min
No dialogue



I DON'T WANT TO BE JUST A MEMORY

Sarnt Utamachote / Germany / 2024 / 20min
English, Spanish – English, German subtitles

FRI – 19:00 – IL KINO

VERA Y EL PLACER DE LOS OTROS (VERA AND THE PLEASURE OF OTHERS)

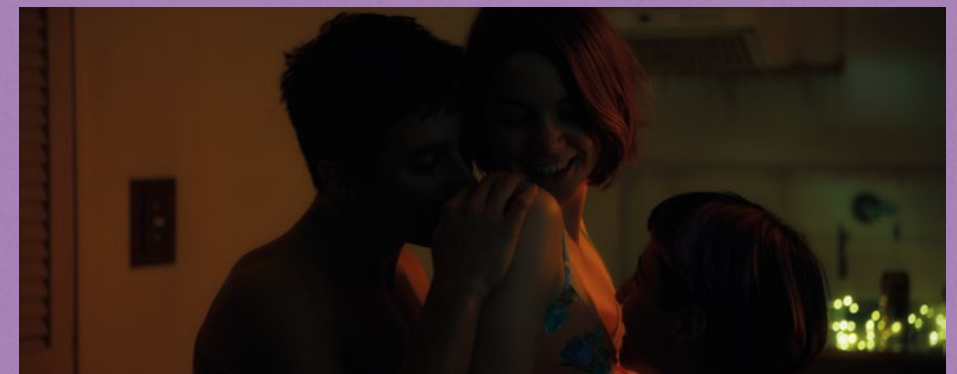
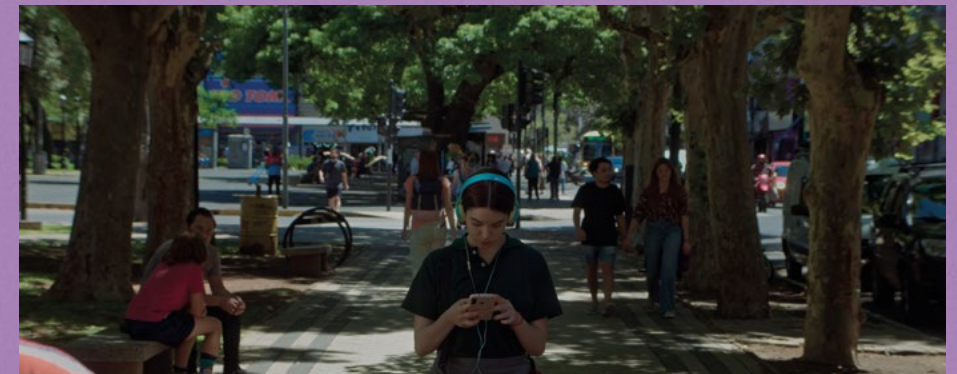
Romina Tamburello & Federico Actis / Argentina / 2023 / 103min

Spanish – English subtitles

17-year-old Vera divides her days between volleyball, school, and a secret hobby: she rents out an empty apartment to teenagers looking for a place to have sex. She steals the keys from her distracted mother, who manages different properties, and organizes everything. The teenagers come and go, using the apartment for a few uninterrupted hours. Playing invisible, Vera stays behind the closed door; her own sexual desires unfolding as she listens to other people's pleasure.

With a tender gaze, this feature film by Romina Tamburello and Federico Actis captures the perspective of a teenager exploring

sex, money, friendship and romance. As the pleasure of others turns into the (mis) adventures of Vera, she follows her very own story of personal growth.



FRI – 20:15 – MOVIEMENTO

CIDADE; CAMPO

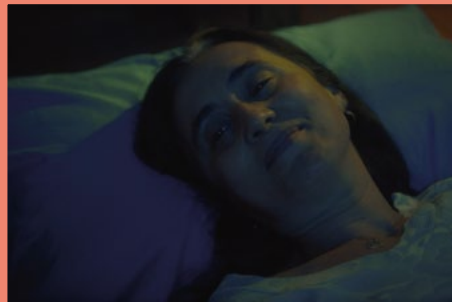
Juliana Rojas / Brazil / 2024 / 119min

Portuguese (Brazil) – English, German subtitles

Two tales of migration between city and countryside. In the first part, after a tailings dam disaster floods her hometown, rural worker Joana moves to São Paulo to find her sister Tania, who lives with her grandson Jaime. Joana struggles to thrive in the „working city“. In the second part, after the death of her estranged father, Flavia moves to his farm with her wife Mara. Nature forces the two women to face frustrations and cope with old memories and ghosts.

Against the cinematic backgrounds of city and countryside, the *Cidade; Campo* is a quiet, beautiful narrative that explores the meaning

of ancestral home. Sometimes, it is violently taken away, other times, carefully rebuilt. Connections between different generations, loss and mourning, ritual and healing run through this film like tender, caring threads.



FRI – 20:30 – BABYLON KREUZBERG

Shorts 3 – 91min

FLARING UP

The body as a site of restriction, the body as a portal of potential: In this program, the filmmakers and their protagonists explore the physical. *Issues with my other Half* takes us on a surreal journey of body-object-relations. In *Flare*, the filmmaker navigates illness in friendship and in solitude, while the protagonist in *Enlightenment* yearns to grow wings and fly away. Dreams and desires shimmer throughout. *Hold on to me* celebrates mother LaTravious,

a Black Trans matriarch, emphasizing the importance of community. Connection and pleasure are found in unusual spaces, with *Alex's Machine* bringing a whole new level to the notion of fleshly desires. Last but not least, in that search for desire, *Bold Eagle* explores mind-altering states and digital space. “All I want is to be happy”, the voice-over concludes.

Content notes: cutting with knife, medication, drugs



Anna Vasof / Austria / 2023 / 5min
No dialogue



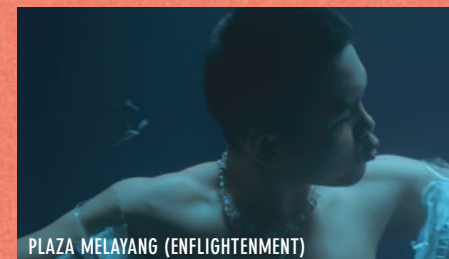
Te Shima Anusha Brennen and Rajvi Desai / United States / 2022 / 5min / English – English subtitles



Kate Blamire / Germany / 2023 / 27min
English – English subtitles



Mael Le Mée / France / 2022 / 25min
French – English subtitles



Teo Wey Yinn / Malaysia / 2023 / 11min
Malay, Cantonese – English subtitles



Whammy Alcazaren / Philippines / 2022 / 16min
Filipino – English subtitles

FRI – 21:00 – WOLF KINO

QUEENDOM

Agniia Galdanova / US, France / 2023 / 98min
Russian – English subtitles

Queendom boldly explores the intersection of drag, politics, and personal courage. At its heart is Jenna, a fearless person navigating the harsh realities of discrimination in Russia. Using drag as both a personal expression and a political statement, Jenna challenges the status quo and protests against the oppressive Russian government and their involvement in the war in Ukraine. Jenna fearlessly confronts injustice, even at the risk of arrest. She crafts a unique drag style that serves as a powerful medium for queer activism. Her drag performances are characterised by motifs of pain, resistance against dominant narratives of Russian identity, and a sense of otherworldly rebellion. Despite limited resources, Jenna's drag creations are nothing short of spectacular, often assembled from little more than junk and tape. *Queendom* is a testament to the transformative power of self-expression and the resilience of those who dare to challenge societal norms.

Content notes: Police violence, homophobic and transphobic language, misgendering



FRI – 22:00 – MOVIEMENTO

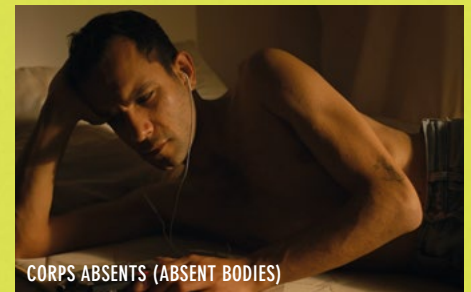
Midlength Special – 79min

CLOSE TO YOU

Journeys through the past, the mysteries of the present, and the possibilities of the future, all in pursuit of that fleeting, yet essential, force: love. In *Absent Bodies*, the absence of past love is tangible, with memories echoing between empty walls. Longing defies time, memory, and dimensions, and haunts the soul.

Bright Heart delves into the mysterious energy of a nocturnal museum excursion. In the shadows of the night, solitude holds space. Loneliness persists as the desire for proximity to one another intensifies. While love is close, there is a fear to hold on to it.

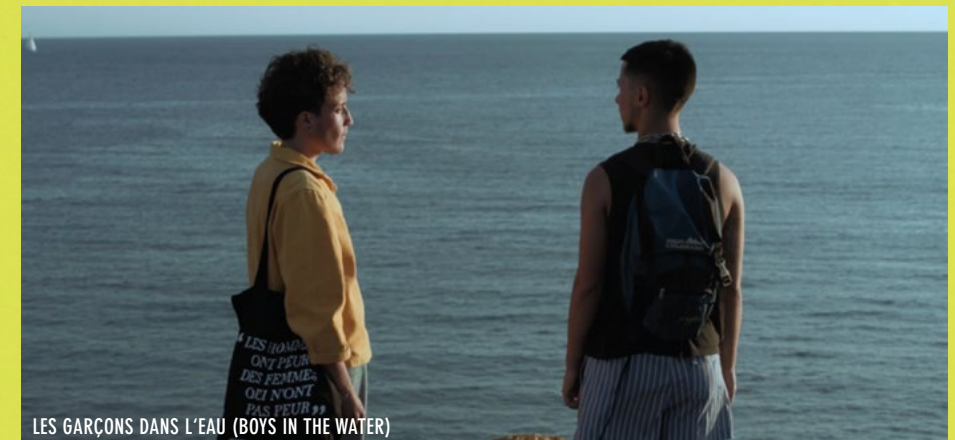
Finally, *Boys in the Water* presents an exploration of love with the potential for a future. Intricacies of trans masculinities unveil unexpected encounters with love. Intimacies defy convention, evoking a profound desire to never let go again.



Antonius Ghosn / Lebanon / 2022 / 26min
Arabic – English subtitles



Tarek Lakhri / France / 2023 / 14min
French – English subtitles



Pawel Thomas Larue / France / 2023 / 39min
French – English subtitles

SAT – 14:00 – MOVIMENTO

Shorts 4 – 86min

INTERGENERATIONAL BONDS

This programme explores the dynamics of family relationships and the significance of fostering connections across different generations. Through narrative, film essay or found footage, we move through a landscape of emotions, from tenderness to love and care. A tender summer love story develops between two boys, while Kwesi awaits the news about his residence permit in *I was never really here*. An uncle sends his nephew a letter of unconditional love in *Never stop shouting*, raising questions on with whom and how we can be ourselves in the family nucleus. At the age of 60, two women's teenage love is still very much present in their memories and bodies in *Manting*. *Grandmamauntsistercat*, a somewhat uncanny cinematic collage, brings us closer to motherhood in a matriarchal context.

In *Bull's Heart*, the father's illness allows the bond with his child to become closer than ever. In the moments of greatest vulnerability, the most tender emotions sweep us away.



MANTING

Shuyao Chen / China, USA / 2023 / 15min
Chinese – English subtitles



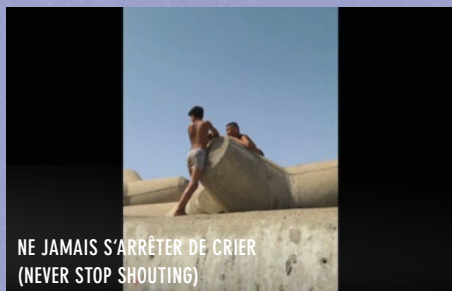
I WAS NEVER REALLY HERE

Gabriel Bihina Arrahnio / Germany / 2022 / 23min
Twi, English, German – English, German subtitles



GRANDMAMAUNTSISTERCAT

Zuza Banasinska / Netherlands, Poland / 2024 / 23min
Polish – English subtitles



NE JAMAIS S'ARRÊTER DE CRIER
(NEVER STOP SHOUTING)

Abdellah Taïa / France, Morocco / 2023 / 10min
French – English subtitles



BUQANING YURAGI (BULL'S HEART)

Margarita Bagdasaryan /
Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine, Germany / 2023 / 14min
Russian, Uzbek – English Subtitles

SAT – 16:00 – MOVIMENTO

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Jim Chuchu / Kenya / 2015 / 60min

Swahili and English

Starting out as an audio-based documentation project of real queer stories in Kenya, this anthology of five short films turned into a cinematic experience in stark black and white. This year, *Stories of Our Lives* by Nairobi-based The NEST collective is celebrating its 10th anniversary. In *Ask Me Nicely*, two high school students have a secret relationship that is disrupted by rules of society, followed by a young man's first visit to the gay club in *Run*. *Athman* tells the story of a farm worker who expresses his love to his understanding, but baffled best friend and in *Duet*, a researcher nervously opens the door to a white escort while on a trip to the UK. Facing the threat of an anti-gay legislation, the final vignette *Each Night I Dream* imagines a future for queer Africans.

Content notes: Homophobia, Transphobia, Physical Violence



SAT – 18:00 – MOVIEMENTO

Shorts 5 – 73min

GLITCHY ROMANCE

Funny, strange, awkward, yet possibly tender, this program shows short films that deal with queer romance and care, but also the politics of image-making and the intimacy that carries. In *You can't get what you want but you can get me*, we are invited on an emotional ride, accompanying the relationship between two transmale persons across continents. *Feet Fear Freedom* tells the possibly not so romantic and sometimes comedic relationship between the body-owner and a body part that is often fetishized in queer community: feet. Next up, *the river that never ends* is a tender exploration of a Filipinx trans woman's life in her double role as care/sexworker and a daughter. In *Naval Gays*, the filmmaker links feelings of insecurity and dating with the act of filmmaking itself. *Crazy Lotus* brings us onto the full-on journey of pop idols, Thai music, and digital space for

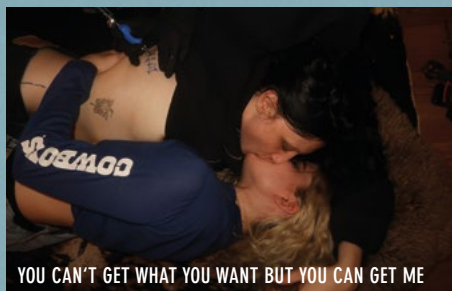
self-alienation, as the characters found the Heart Glasses that would bring them onto another realm of avatar possibility.

Content notes: Flashing lights - sensitive to persons with epilepsy



THE RIVER THAT NEVER ENDS

JT Trinidad / Philippines / 2022 / 18min
Filipino, English – English subtitles



YOU CAN'T GET WHAT YOU WANT BUT YOU CAN GET ME

Samira Elagoz & Z Walsh / Netherlands, Finland / 2024 / 13min
English – English subtitles



FEET FEAR FREEDOM

Joris Keller / Switzerland / 2023 / 13min
Swissgerman – English subtitles



NAVAL GAYS

Grant Gulczynski / UK / 2023 / 12min
English – English subtitles



บัวบาน (CRAZY LOTUS)

Naween Noppakun / Thailand / 2024 / 15min
Thai – English subtitles

SAT – 19:00 – IL KINO

STOP-ZEMLIA

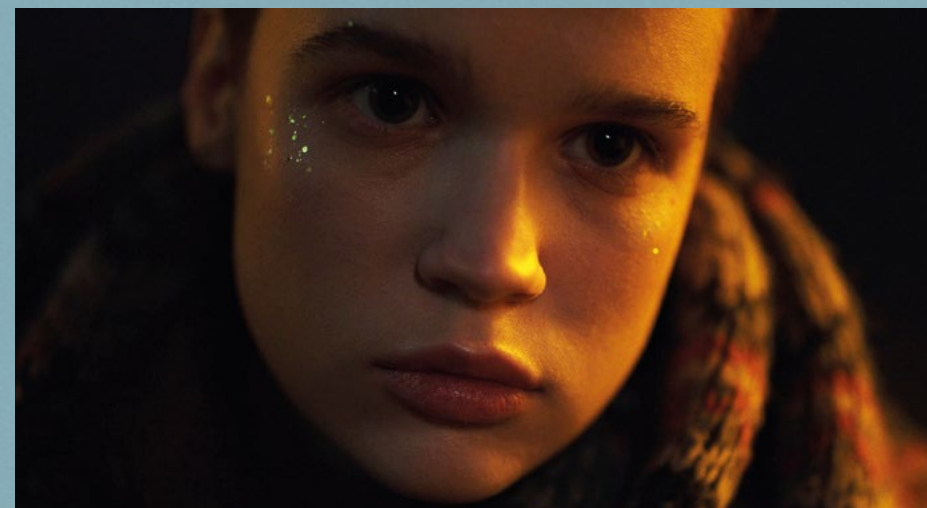
Kateryna Gornostai / Ukraine / 2021 / 122min
Ukrainian – English subtitles

The introverted high-school girl Masha sees herself as an outsider unless she hangs around with Yana and Senia, who share her non-conformist status. While she is trying to navigate through an intense time of the pre-graduation year, Masha falls in love in a way that forces her out of her comfort zone.

Capturing the essence of Ukrainian youth, the debut film by Kateryna Gornostai offers an intimate portrayal of their experiences: navigating first love, pondering life after school, facing friendship dramas, and

negotiating relationships with parents. *Stop-Zemlia* delves into the challenges of wanting to understand oneself in one's own terms. It deals with topics like depression and bullying, and reflects the complex emotions and struggles of adolescence. Produced before the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the film provides a bittersweet glimpse into growing up in times of uncertainty.

Content notes: Self-harm, use of homophobic language





SAT – 20:15 – MOVIEMENTO

AVANT-DRAG!

Fil Ieropoulos / Greece / 2024 / 92min
Greek – German and English subtitles

Like a tour guide, a voice introduces us to Athens and bridges the gaps between some of its more underground landmarks: Ten wildly original drag performers, who use their art to tread the space between self and performance. In the realm of their worlds, we encounter different characters; a punky clown that is mostly occupied as a housewife, a turbo-folk girl with Albanian roots, a freewheeling and unsuccessful artist and her daughter who is nourished by

videotape of European arthouse films... to name but a few. In a series of vignettes that combine acting, video art, public performance and many other talents, each of them gets to hold the mic to express their art and aesthetic, telling stories about living queerness and performing gender and identity in the Greek capital.

Content notes: blood, mention of nationalism, police brutality, queerphobia, hate crimes, death



Three of the performers in *Avant-Drage!*, McMorait, Parakatyanova, and SerGay Parakatyano, as well as Spyros Patsouras from the production team will host a German premiere after party at the Torte Bar (Brusendorfer Str. 12, 12055 Berlin). Expect an atmosphere filled with tunes from our friends, performances and abundant mingle and giggle.

SAT – 20:30 – BABYLON KREUZBERG

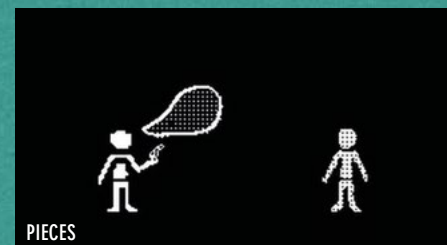
Shorts 6 – 91min

ARTIST'S ODYSSEY

From an electronically generated virtual world in *Pieces* to a tangible three-dimensional one equally challenging, this short film program brings us closer to the passions and self-discoveries that drive creativity. A student faces numerous obstacles in dating apps through a Hegelian philosophical lens in *Wegen Hegel*. Photographer Ajamu gets lost in 1990s Brighton while trying to make it to the opening of his first solo exhibition in *The Homecoming*. While in *Dildotectonics*, Rebeca creates a collection of non-phallic ceramic dildos as they delve into the time of the Inquisition.

In a fantasy world, the deepest desires are discovered by a mother and her teenage son in *Carrotica*. The wonderful Valerie reveals her fascination with the Italian diva Milva, in a journey that transitions from the wild 80s in Berlin to a present filled with serenity in *Valery Alexanderplatz*. Undoubtedly, the creative drive is unstoppable, but perhaps these films, instead of providing us with answers, will generate even more questions. Hegel himself already said: „Contradiction is the root of all movement“.

Content notes: flashing lights, suicide (*Pieces*)



Nyx Horne / Germany / 2024 / 4min
English



Tomás Paula Marques / Portugal / 2023 / 16min
Portuguese – English subtitles



Popo Fan / Germany / 2023 / 14min
German, English, Mandarin Chinese – English subtitles



Daniel Sterlin-Altman / Germany / 2024 / 13min
English – German subtitles



Topher Campbell / United Kingdom / 1996 / 17min
English



Silvia Maggi / Italy, Germany / 2023 / 28min
Italian – English subtitles

SAT – 21:00 – WOLF KINO

ทะเลของฉัน มีคลื่นเล็กน้อยถึงปานกลาง (SOLIDS BY THE SEASHORE)

Patiparn Boontarig / Thailand / 2023 / 93min
Thai and Southern Thai – English subtitles

A captivating journey reveals the tender beginnings of a romance and a deep, unconditional love for nature in the face of environmental change. *Solids by the Seashore* (ทะเลของฉัน มีคลื่นเล็กน้อยถึงปานกลาง) offers a meditative experience that gently guides us through the beautiful landscapes surrounding a city in southern Thailand, through the soothing rhythm of a sea breeze. On a once-sandy beach eroded by high tides and now guarded by artificial rock sea walls, two young women meet. Fon, an activist turned visual artist, is

passionate and inspired by the landscape, while Shati, a local Muslim woman, experiences internal conflicts due to her traditional roots, which prohibit same-sex relationships. Caught between fear and desire, Shati is reminded of the old cautionary tales from her childhood told by her beloved grandmother. As events from these tales gradually come to life, the line between dream and reality blurs, between the sea and the shore, between the walls that protect us and simultaneously challenge us on our journey towards self-discovery.



SAT – 22:00 – MOVIE MENTO

ASOG

Seán Devlin / Canada, Philippines / 2023 / 101min
Waray and Tagalog – English subtitles

As the former teacher in a school adopts her former student as an apprentice in her journey to compete in the Philippines' Miss Pageant Competition, what follows entails this road movie, which brings together issues of climate change, Filipino mythology (such as Babayan, the traditional non-conforming healer and oceanic origin of humans), pageant queen, chosen kinship, and the urban landscape of this complicated yet interconnected archipelago. Together, they, amongst the native populations on various islands, discover

what we share in common: that something has been taken from them, be it natural resources or a sense of belonging and family. This inspires them to turn inwards and ask, "what am I here for?" resulting in the union between queer performers and local natives against capitalist landlords. This film signals that true queer liberation lies not in mere gender diversity or rainbow flags, but in liberation for all.

Content notes: mention of suicide, homo/transphobia, misgendering



SUN – 14:00 – MOVIEMENTO

Shorts 7 – 91min

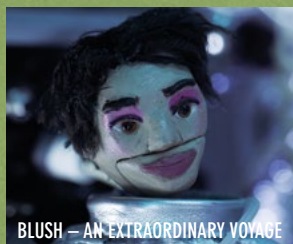
FIRST VOYAGES

What does queer coming-of-age feel like? Like a trip to the moon? Like flowers burning in the snow? Or like embracing glitches? We take you on six journeys of young narratives, all exploring themes of discovering something (or someone) for the first time. *Blush - An Extraordinary Voyage* is a trip of a young person defying societal biases around gender expression, with the support of their sidekick/best friend. In *Unmasking*, neuroqueer time opens up new possibilities of understanding oneself in a disabling society and offers insights into creating one's own language. First love, tender touches: *Flowerboys* dives deep into defining one's own existence through loving another person for the first time. This story of first love continues in *Eating Papaw on the Seashore*

the Seashore, adding the layer of love flourishing in an environment that deems it wrong. *Soma and Rasmus* turns around the canon event of falling for a best friend, in a way that makes it no less relatable. To close this programme of young struggles, *Skate* imagines a dreamy, neon-coloured meet cute of two people roller skating into a queer future.

TW (for *Unmasking*): mention of self-harming behaviour; flashing lights; fresh mastectomy scars and old scars; mention of racist, sexist and other discriminatory experiences.

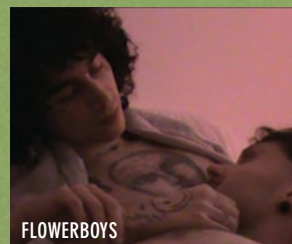
Content notes: use of homophobic language (*Soma and Rasmus*)



BLUSH – AN EXTRAORDINARY VOYAGE
Iiti Yli-Harja / Finland / 2022 / 15min
Finnish – English subtitles



UNMASKING
Florin Garzotto / Switzerland / 2023 / 21min / English – English subtitles



FLOWERBOYS
Nikol Urbanova & Luca Peres-Bota / Czech Republic / 2023 / 8min
No Dialogue – English subtitles



EATING PAPAW ON THE SEASHORE
Rae Wiltshire and Nickose Layne / Guyana / 2022 / 18min
English – English subtitles



SOMA AND RASMUS
Tim Lanzinger / Germany / 2024 / 15min / German – English subtitles



SKATE
Zoë Hodge / USA / 2023 / 14min
English – English subtitles

SUN – 16:00 – MOVIEMENTO

CINEMA FOUAD

Mohamed Soueid / Lebanon / 1993 / 41min
Arabic – English subtitles

In *Cinema Fouad* (1993) by Mohamed Soueid, a Syrian trans woman who lives in Beirut is questioned by the filmmaker, while dancing, eating and putting make-up on. In face of some of the more brash questions, she reacts with directness and finds space to muse about

her life, the movies, her goal to undergo gender-affirming surgery, her Palestinian lover and her dreams.

Content notes: mention of violence, transphobia

The film will be accompanied by a conversation and a parallel program, that will be announced.



* We want to let you know that some artists invited to the Xposed Queer Film Festival have chosen to withdraw their films. We won't be replacing these films with others. We respect the decision of the artists who, in solidarity with the Palestinian people, have decided not to work with German institutions. They're calling for the protection of artistic freedom and action against anti-Semitism and racism.

However, we hope to have the chance to screen their films again at the festival in the future, under different circumstances. We also aim to help bring about these changes.

As a result, the following film will not be shown: *Neo Nahda* by May Ziadé

SUN – 18:00 – MOVIEMENTO

Closing Night Shorts – 88min

FALLING INTO PLACE

This program navigates through feeling lost and grasping for belonging. *Pipes* follows a plumber who has a hard time to focus on the job in a gay fetish club. “I like the company of other exiles” the protagonist of *Queer Exile* tells us about living in Berlin. In the melancholy of *Pacific Club*, a man reminisces on the nights in an Arab club that used to exist below the business district of Paris. In *Beyond The Golden Line*, the protagonist makes his way through

a club trying to focus on the upcoming gig, pondering ancestry and destiny. In *Flores Del Otro Patio*, ancestors are conjured to fight the violent oppression of queer and indigenous life, and in *Taking My Time To Dance*, a young queer learns to approach their own body as home with the encouragement of others.

Content notes: Physical violence (*Flores Del Otro Patio*), mention of racism and homophobia (*Queer Exile*), explicit sexual content (*Pipes*)



PIPES

Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, Sujanth Ravichandran / Switzerland / 2022 / 4min / No Dialogue – English subtitles



PACIFIC CLUB

Valentin Noujaïm / France, Qatar / 2023 / 16min
French – English subtitles



QUEER EXILE

Ahmed Awadalla / Germany / 2024 / 10min
English, Arabic, German – English subtitles



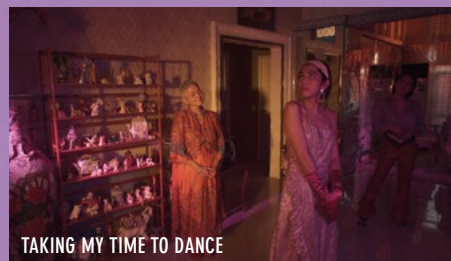
BEYOND THE GOLDEN LINE

SJ Rahatoka / Germany / 2024 / 19min
French and English – English subtitles



FLORES DEL OTRO PATIO

Jorge Cadena / Colombia, Switzerland / 2022 / 16min
Spanish – German subtitles



TAKING MY TIME TO DANCE

Celeste Lapida / Philippines / 2022 / 23min
English and Filipino – English subtitles

SUN – 19:00 – IL KINO

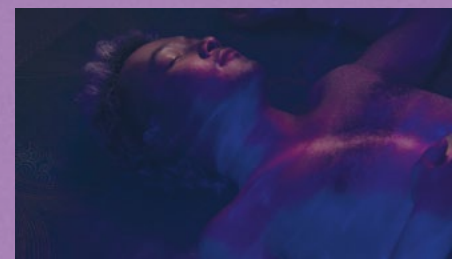
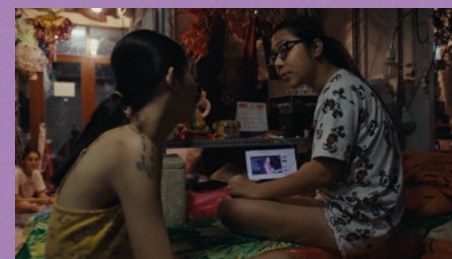
MÃ SÀI GÒN (MOTHER SAIGON)

Khoa Lê / Canada / 2023 / 98min

Vietnamese – English subtitles

Em đứng lên mùa Xuân vừa mờ
Nụ xuân xanh cảnh thên thang
Chim về vào ngày tuổi em trên cành bão bùng

(Here I stand as the spring arrives,
With the greens blossomed and trees abundant,
And the birds returned to these windy branches,
having grown old as me)



The lyrics from the song *Gọi Tên Bốn Mùa* (Name of the four seasons, 1974) by Khánh Ly, the “diva of Saigon”, represent the motif of diasporic return and Buddhist-Asian belief in cycle of life. This motif can be found commonly amongst diasporic Vietnamese artists who left the country, one of them being the filmmaker Khoa Lê. It is this song that appears as a closing soundtrack to his film *Mother Saigon*, which, during Khoa’s return journey, weaves poems written by queer locals with queer kinships in today’s Ho Chi Minh city. A performing trope (perhaps “drag”) house, a couple in their pre- and post-gender transition, a party scene, a biological family in process of accepting, and a comment on politics of representation... This “symphony” film pays homage to the notion of home: By calling it “Mã”, it is a bittersweet ode to a comforting yet disturbing mother, to a city that is as liberating as it is oppressive. To queer lives and generations that grow old and flourish.



SUN – 20:15 – MOVIEMENTO

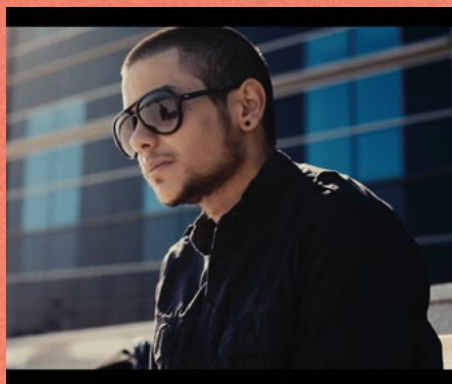
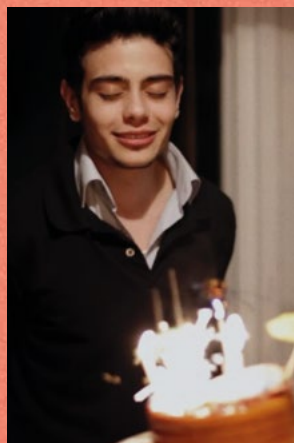
MAVI KIMLI (BLUE ID)

Burcu Melekoglu & Vuslat Karan / Turkey / 2022 / 84min
Turkish – English subtitles

Rüzgar goes to the pharmacy, beaming with excitement. He gets his first hormone shot, one of many moments of his transition that are documented by two of his friends. A few months later, his deadname is all over media outlets in Turkey, even topping the list of the most googled names in the country. Due to his public appearances as an actor pre-transition, Rüzgar's private journey to the male Blue ID becomes permeated by the public eye and the legal process gains another layer of intrusion

and scrutiny. This documentary captures the charismatic protagonist in intimate moments full of doubts, pressure and resistance, with family, friends, at work, the doctor and in front of the computer or TV; pairing them with the public perception of transmasculinity and queerness in Turkey over the years, to perhaps set the record straight.

Content notes: transphobia, misgendering, deadnaming



SUN – 20:30 – BABYLON KREUZBERG

BX (OF 3X3X6)

Shu Lea Cheang / USA, Germany / 2019 / 10min

BX derives from the real life stories of women, i.e. Lorena Bobbitt and Catherine Kieu who cut off her husband's penis and threw it into a garbage disposal unit. The film is one of the chapters of the mixed media installation 3x3x6, created by Shu Lea Cheang.

It constructs a collective counter-history of sexuality, where cases of subjects incarcerated because of gender or sexual dissent, including Marquis de Sade and Michel Foucault are re-written as trans-punk-science fiction, queer, and anti-colonial imagination, providing visual and critical frameworks to think through the histories of subjection and resistance and to activate political actions.



FLUIDØ

Shu Lea Cheang / Germany / 2017 / 80min
English

FLUIDØ is VIRUS, SEX, HACK, DRUG & CONSPIRACY. Set in the post-AIDS future of 2060, where the Government is the first to declare the era AIDS FREE, mutated AIDS viruses give birth to ZERO GEN - humans that have genetically evolved in a very unique way. These gender fluid ZERO GENs are the bio-drug carriers whose white fluid is the hypernarcotic for the 21st century, taking over the markets of the 20th century white powder high.

The ejaculate of these beings is intoxicating and the new form of sexual commodity in the future. A new war on drugs begins and the ZERO GEN are declared illegal. The Government dispatches drug-resistant replicants for round-up arrest missions. When one of these government android's immunity breaks down and its pleasure centers are activated, the story becomes a tangled multi-thread plot and the

ZERO GENs are caught among underground drug lords, glitched super agents, a scheming corporation and a corrupt government. Check yourself in as a fluid junkie for a super hyper viral ride.



SUN – 21:00 – WOLF KINO

RIPTIDE

Afrad Vk / India / 2024 / 85min
Malayalam – English subtitles

Lying on the seashore, one lover tells the other to close their eyes and imagine a sailor, alone in the depths of the sea, gazing at the soft melancholy of the waves, awake and untouched by sleep. Seconds later, the two lovers fall asleep on the beach, and it is in this state of half-sleep that we are drawn into Afrad Vk's beautiful and intriguing debut. The two students and lovers, Suku and Charlie, prepare to part ways as their university life comes to an end. In their final days together, they discuss literature, make love, and take long drives on deserted roads, until a health emergency forces Suku to leave the city prematurely. Returning to his

room following a paranormal vision, Suku finds his lover Charlie leading a spectral existence, intimate to him but invisible to everyone else. Afrad Vk presents a warm and delicate love story that transitions from a novelistic world infused with literary references to a violent and cruel reality in a society that does not accept the love between two young boys. *Riptide* is definitely a film for literary enthusiasts, but not only that, it is also a journey for those who want to enter the state of fantasy and confusion we experience between sleep and awakening.

Content notes: physical violence, homophobia, suicide



ACCESSIBILITY

Please contact accessibility@xposedfilmfestival.com if you need more information or have access requirements.

Movimento:

Stepped Access (There is one step up to the main entrance and a set of stairs of approx. 25 steps with an intermediate landing. Handrails to both sides). Up to five steps down to the bar, without handrails. Resting places available. Assistant animals welcome. Quiet room available.

Il Kino:

Threshold (<5cm) into the venue. Limited circulation and manoeuvring spaces. Assistance is required for step-free access into the screening room. Wheelchair-accessible toilet.

Wolf Kino:

Threshold (<2cm) into the venue and step-free within the venue. The second leaf can be opened for wider opening. Heavy entrance and internal doors. Wheelchair-accessible toilet. A reserved seat is available.

Aquarium Südblock:

Step-free access into and within the venue. Wheelchair-accessible toilet and changing room. A reserved seat is available. Assistant animals welcome. Quiet room available.

AUDIO PROGRAM

Audio transcription for deaf and hard-of-hearing people and subtitles in German language

Due to constrained financial capacities, we unfortunately can only provide three screenings with audio transcriptions. Thanks to our partner No Limits Media, the following screenings will, in addition to English subtitles, include German-language subtitles and audio transcription for deaf and hard-of-hearing people:

- Opening Night Shorts on Thursday, May 30th, at Babylon Kreuzberg
- *Power Alley* by Lillah Hallo on Thursday, May 30th, at Movimento
- *Avant-Drag!* By Fil Ieropoulos on Saturday, June 1st, at Movimento

ONLINE PROGRAM

Thanks to the support of Salzgeber, our festival is also able to offer a selection of its films to our audience online via Salzgeber Club. The selected films, which include several

feature-length films as well as one short film program, will be online from June 1st until June 7th, 2024.

Please visit our website for more information:

<https://xposedfilmfestival.com/2024/streaming/>



CONTENT NOTES

Content notes and trigger warnings can help to make an informed decision on whether to view a particular film or be mentally prepared for disturbing and difficult content. Our films often discuss and portray the beautiful but also harsh moments of queer realities in a racist, cis-heteronormative, sexist, ableist, classist and otherwise discriminatory society.

Psychological triggers work differently for every one of us. We cannot provide a comprehensive list of triggers, but if you have a specific question about a film or short film program, please email info@xposedfilmfestival.com.

Physical violence

Shorts: Programme 7 (*Unmasking*; mention of self-harm), Programme 8 (*Flores Del Otro Patio*)

Feature Films: *Power Alley*, *Stop-Zemlia* (self-harm), *Stories Of Our Lives*, *Queendom*, *Avant-Drag!*, *Riptide*

Verbal violence & hate speech

Shorts: Programme 8 (*Queer Exile*; mention of verbal violence)

Feature Films: *Blue ID*, *Stories Of Our Lives*, *Queendom*, *Asog*, *Cinema Fouad*, *Avant-Drag!*, *Riptide*

Abortion

Shorts: *Opening Night* (getty abortions)

Feature Films: *Power Alley*, *I'm Not Everything I Want To Be*

Suicide

Feature Films: *Asog* (mention of suicide), *Riptide*

Shorts: Programme 6 (*Pieces*)

Death

Shorts: Programme 2 (*I don't want to be just a memory*), Programme 3 (*Hold On To Me*)

Feature Films: *I'm Not Everything I Want To Be*, *Avant-Drag!*

Flashing Lights

Shorts: Programme 5, Programme 6 (*Pieces*), Programme 7 (*Unmasking*)

JUST SOME THOUGHTS...

... on organizing and curating the 18th XPOSED Queer Film Festival Berlin. First of all: We love to do it. Secondly, we often face barriers to doing it. And thirdly, we involuntarily, sometimes unknowingly, uphold obstacles for others to be a part of it. We'd like to change both, which is an ongoing process. If you have critical feedback, please approach us during the festival, drop us a note anonymously in our feedback box at [Movimiento](https://www.xposedfilmfestival.com) or send us an email to info@xposedfilmfestival.com.

We'd like to support filmmakers from all walks of life and films from all over the world. Unfortunately, within queer film production, certain regions are heavily underrepresented. The same is true for trans, inter and non-binary filmmakers, filmmakers from working-class families, and disabled filmmakers, to name but a few marginalized groups within larger society and within queer communities and film production. With our curatorial choices, we hope to counteract these oppressive structures while recognising that we meet limits, make mistakes and fail. As a first step towards more transparency regarding structural aspects, here is an overview of the countries listed for (co-)production of our selected films. Moreover, during the film

invitation process, we have asked filmmakers on how they identify. While not everyone has filled out the form, an overview of the responses can be found below.

Country of Production

Short films:

Austria (1), Austria/Germany (1), Brazil (1), Brazil/Germany (1), China/USA (1), Colombia/Germany (1), Colombia/Switzerland (1), Czech Republic (1), Finland (1), France (4), France/Morocco (1), France/Qatar (1), Germany (10), Germany/Austria (1), Germany/Brazil (1), Ghana (1), Guyana (1), Hong Kong (1), Italy/Germany (1), Italy/Nigeria (1), Lebanon (1), Malaysia (1), Netherlands/Finland (1), Netherlands/Poland (1), Philippines (4), Portugal (1), Switzerland (3), Thailand (1), UK (3), USA (1), USA/Germany (1), Uzbekistan/Russia/Ukraine/Germany (1)

Feature films:

Argentina (1), Brazil (1), Brazil/France/Uruguay (1), Canada (1), Canada/Philippines (1), Czech Republic/Slovakia/Austria (1), Germany (1), Greece (1), India (1), Kenya (1), Lebanon (1), Thailand (1), Turkey (1), Ukraine (1), USA/France (1)

Film Directors: 76

Race/Ethnicity:

Arab/North African: 1
Asian: 17
Black/African/
Caribbean: 9
Middle Eastern: 5
Latin American: 7
White: 16
Don't know / Prefer not to say: 9
Unknown: 12

Sexual orientation:

Asexual: 1
Bisexual: 4
Gay: 10
Lesbian: 4
Pansexual: 3
Queer: 24
Straight: 4
Don't know / Prefer not to say: 14
Unknown: 12

Gender identity:

Agender: 1
Cis man: 16
Cis woman: 11
Genderqueer: 4
Non-binary: 16
Trans man: 5
Trans woman: 2
Don't know / Prefer not to say: 10
Unknown: 11

Disabilities:

Yes: 7
No: 30
Don't know / Prefer not to say: 20
Unknown: 19

FRI – 14:00 – AQUARIUM

QUEER SHORT FILM FUND

Staying true to the festival's dedication and support for queer film production, the Queer Short Film Fund will be awarded for the 10th time. The fund was set up to facilitate the development and production of queer short film projects in Germany. Submissions are accepted for documentary, narrative, animated or experimental projects that are queer in content and/or form. In addition, projects should broaden their vision to topics beyond traditional LGBTQIA+ representation of the mainstream-niche market. Five projects – be they narrative, documentary, animated or experimental queer shorts with a maximum length of 10 minutes – will be pre-selected as our finalists for 2024.

The five finalists will pitch their projects on Friday, May 31st, 2024, at 14:00pm in a public session at aquarium (next to Südblock). The jury will announce the winning project during the Lolly Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening.

The fund is awarded a cash prize of 1.500 €, donated by XPOSED, and a 5.000€ Jury Prize donated by VFF - Verwertungsgesellschaft der Film- und Fernsehproduzenten.

In addition, the fund is accompanied by a mentoring programme: An industry expert advises the winner in five sessions from script development to the production phase and post-production.

WORKSHOPS AT AQUARIUM

Throughout the festival, we will have more activities at aquarium, including a talk on cuteness in art, and a panel discussion on

structural challenges for film curation and spaces. Please check out our website for updated information!

WIKIPEDIA EDIT-A-THON ON QUEER EXPERIMENTAL FILM

Friday May 31st – 14:00-17:00

Saturday June 1st – 14:00-17:00

Location: aquarium (next to Südblock), Skalitzer Straße 6, 10999 Berlin-Kreuzberg

Queer history and queer culture are not as represented on Wikipedia as they should be. Many of the filmmakers and films that we screen this year at XPOSED or have screened in the past do not have Wikipedia articles in any language, despite having won awards and being of relevance for queer and feminist film history. We want to change this – and would love for you to be a part of it!

The best thing is: You don't need any previous knowledge! In this workshop, you will learn how to edit Wikipedia articles in English,

German or any other language that you want to write in. We will show you the basics you need to know to edit Wikipedia. You can then choose an article to work on by yourself or in collaboration with others – and help to give queer experimental film more online exposure.

You could come on either Friday or Saturday or on both days. Please let us know that you're coming by writing a short email to thomas@xposedfilmfestival.com. If possible, please bring a laptop – they work much better than smartphones for editing Wikipedia.

SUN – 20:00 – MOVIEMENTO LOUNGE

THE XPOSED LOLLY AND AUDIENCE AWARDS

Over a decade ago, XPOSED introduced its friendly competitive side with the Lolly Awards! The awards were born out of a passionate night of love between a Lola and a Teddy Award, bringing together the extraordinary in queer experimental filmmaking. We know that competition is not nice, and we often debate



whether to keep the awards. Here are three reasons for doing so: awards give visibility to filmmakers and their films, thus ultimately supporting queer voices in film distribution. Each Lolly Award comes with a €250 cash prize, which is our small financial contribution to future filmmaking. And by inviting a film jury, we create the space and experience for queer cinephiles to intensely discuss films over four days.

The three Lolly Awards for Short Film and the winner of the 10th Queer Short Film Fund will be presented by our XPOSED 2024 Jury in the Moviemento Lounge on Sunday, June 2nd, at 8 pm. In addition, the XPOSED team will announce the winners of the XPOSED Audience Award for Feature-Length Film and the XPOSED Audience Award for Short Film.

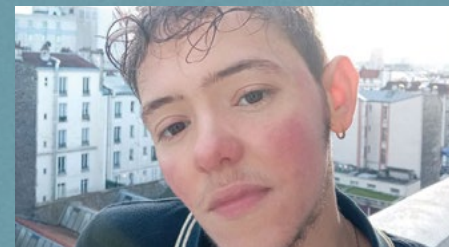
THE LOLLY AWARD JURY



Zain Salam Assaad
Freelance Journalist and Translator



Yulia Serdyukova
Documentary Film Producer and Curator



João Carvalho
Filmmaker and Visual Artist



Ronnie Vitalia
Activist and Writer

SUN – 17:00 - 20:00 – AQUARIUM

IT'S LOVER, LOVE - WAKE FOR LOST ONES

A wake, also known as a funeral reception, is an event where close friends and family of the deceased gather together to pay their respects to their loved ones. In our queer community, we love and be loved; we seek love and lost love; we party hard like there is no tomorrow. Walking home in the deep of the night is unbearable, we go on with after-party at dawn, swinging into late morning. Waking up, we face us alone, we caress the fragile trans-mutant-hybrid techno bodies. With a deep breath, we tidy up, we dress up, we brave ourselves to walk out into the sunlight.

Over the years and years, we have lost many loved ones either by violation or self-termination. Paying homage to Aérea Negrot and taking her song *It's Lover, Love* (2011) to bring us together, we invite our community members to a collective wake for lost loved ones - to memorize, to reflect, to consult, to console, to hug and to love, not over, but forever.

We invite all community members to join with tales, talks, reads, songs and mini-performances, food and drinks.



Image credit: Trans Angel Sculpture by Svar Simpson
Photo by Kim Jakonsen To

Commissioned by The Outside Project, installed at Crossbones Graveyard in London (2022)

Food and drinks will be arranged on a long table for all to enjoy. Feel free to bring something to share with both lost loved ones and the living souls.

Shout-out names of lost ones with a little tribute is volunteered by any community member present.

ACTS of tales, talks, reads, songs and mini-performances are self-motivated and activated at any self-determined moments throughout the evening.

SIGN UP for ACTS

If you want to propose an act, send us a note with technical needs. With your consent, we list your names for the release of the program.

If you don't sign up, we also welcome your intervention/acts at any given moments during the evening.

Contact: alex.dimitriou@zoho.com

The title is a tribute to Aérea Negrot's song:

It's Lover, Love (3:41, 2011)



Six Aérea Negrot's songs will play through the duration of the wake:

It's Lover, Love (2011)

Todeloo (2011)

I know that I'm Hot (2015)

Listen to the People (2009)

The Alphabet (Skinnerbox & Aérea Negrot) (2013)

16h Aquarium (Free entrance)

Short films by Simon(e) Jaikiriama Paetau, Nadia

Granados and Aérea Negrot

Mojana (2021, 18min)

Halloween (2021, 6min)

Trying to Forget You (2019, 8min)

Right body, wrong time (2024, 29min)

20:30 Babylon Kreuzberg

Films by Shu Lea Cheang featuring Aérea Negrot

BX (of 3x3x6) (2019, 10min)

FLUIDØ (2017, 80min)



XPOSED 2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

THU – 30 MAY	FRI – 31 MAY	SAT – 1 JUNE	SUN – 12 JUNE
		14:00 SHORTS 4 Intergenerational Bonds Moviemento	14:00 SHORTS 7 Narrative Youth Moviemento
	16:00 I'm Not Everything I Want To Be D: Klára Tasovská Moviemento	16:00 Stories of Our Lives D: Jim Chuchu Moviemento	16:00 Cinema Fouad D: Mohamed Soueid Moviemento
18:30 OPENING NIGHT SHORTS Poetics Of Perspective Babylon Kreuzberg	18:00 SHORTS 2 Until We Meet Again Moviemento	18:00 SHORTS 5 Glitchy Romance Moviemento	18:00 CLOSING NIGHT SHORTS Falling Into Place Moviemento
	19:00 Vera and the Pleasure of Others D: Romina Tamburello, Federico Actis Il Kino	19:00 Stop-Zemlia D: Kateryna Gornostai Il Kino	19:00 Mother Saigon D: Khoa Lê Il Kino
21:00 Power Alley D: Lillah Halla Moviemento	20:15 Cidade; Campo D: Juliana Rojas Moviemento	20:15 Avant-Drage! D: Fil Ieropoulos Moviemento	20:15 Blue ID D: Burcu Melekoglu & Vuslat Karan Moviemento
	20:30 SHORTS 3 Flaring Up Babylon Kreuzberg	20:30 SHORTS 3 Artist's Odyssey Babylon Kreuzberg	20:30 BX (of 3x3x6) & FLUIDØ D: Shu Lea Cheang Babylon Kreuzberg
	21:00 Queendom D: Agniia Galdanova Wolf Kino	21:00 Solids by the seashore D: Patiparn Boontarig Wolf Kino	21:00 Riptide D: Afrad V/k Wolf Kino
	22:00 Midlength Special: Close to You Moviemento	22:00 Asog D: Seán Devlin Moviemento	

DON'T MISS OUR SPECIAL EVENTS:

FRI – 14:00
 Queer Short Film Fund
 aquarium

FRI & SAT – 14:00-17:00
 Panels, talks, workshops
 aquarium

SUN 17:00–20:00
 Wake for Lost Ones
 aquarium

FUNDERS 	PARTNERS 	VENUES 	
MEDIA PARTNERS 	design booklet@ aaronsammuto.com artwork@ www.marionhabringer.com		