

# Welcome to the 2019 Leeds Queer Film Festival!

9-12 May 2019, Woodhouse Community Centre

We are excited to be at Woodhouse Community Centre for the first time for the main event of our year: a four-day festival featuring some of the best and freshest feature-length and short films in queer cinema from around the world.

Close to 500 films were submitted for consideration this year. We're delighted that so many great films are being made, and regretful that we can't share them all with you.

The programme represents a range of styles, subject matter, countries, and emotions, while always aiming to centre those who are often pushed to the margins.

This has been a very exciting and busy year for us. Our festival opens with *Something Said*, winner of Leeds International Film Festival's first ever Queer Shorts Competition. We are extremely proud to have curated the Queer Shorts programmes in collaboration with LIFF. It is an excellent opportunity to bring great queer films to a wider audience at such a prestigious event, and we will be back to help LIFF again this year.

The first ever Alternative Pride Leeds was also a great success. In partnership with several organisations (Love Muscle, The Bayard Project, Our Space and others), we presented a weekend of workshops, film screenings, discussions, crafts, games and a drag ball to create a space for radical queers to come together and celebrate during Pride.

We were very happy to contribute to the Hear Trans Voices panel which Trans Leeds organised in November, by selecting a few films to show at the start. Trans Leeds is putting on another panel as part of our festival, which will be in the Angela Morley Room.

All of this hard work and collaboration was recognised by Cinema for All when they named us Community Event of the Year. We are thrilled to have been chosen from events around the country, based on the contributions we are making to the queer community of Leeds and beyond.

All of this happens because of the hard work of some tireless volunteers. The people who organise and staff the festival all do so for free; any money we take in from ticket or food sales goes directly into covering the costs of the festival, including financial awards for filmmakers so they can continue their awesome work. We wouldn't have a festival without the talent and passion of these amazing artists. Special thanks also to the folk who helped us screen the film submissions; some watched more than 200!

And none of it would be at all possible without our kick-ass audience: you! So thank you for buying a ticket, watching a film, attending a workshop, visiting a stall, eating a hot dog, dancing at the party, or shouting about us on social media. Keep telling us what we're doing right and what we can do better. We want our festival to be the best it can be!

-The Organising Team

Clare, Emily, Freya, Kit, Mara, Nicola, Olivia and Samra

## **Thursday 21 March**

### **7:30pm: Angela Morley Room**

Short films; total running time: 44:51

#### **Lähekkäin (Closeness)**

Joonas Mötö, Finland, 2:38, Finnish [E]

Two asexual people explore what kind of closeness works for them.

#### **Löftet (The Promise)**

Paula Gustafsson, Sweden, 14:30, Swedish [F]

After getting married in their 80s, Maj-Briht and Helle put "in sickness and in health" to the test when Helle suffers a stroke soon after.

#### **Turn it Around**

Niels Bourgonje, Netherlands, 9:23, Dutch [F]

During a game of spin the bottle, a teenager takes his fate into his own hands.

#### **Days Off**

Filip Blažek, Czechia, 10:47 [E] [ND]

Urban living, unspoken longings, and yogurts of unusual size all come to life in this offbeat animation.

*CN: butchering of a fake pig (animated)*

## **Johnny**

Hugh Rodgers, Ireland, 7:33, English [D]

A young man reflects on his journey toward acceptance as a gay Irish Traveller.

*CN: discussion of homophobia and anti-traveller racism*

## **7:30pm: Pratibha Parmar Room**

### **QTIPoC Space:**

This space is for LGB, queer, trans and intersex people of colour to connect, chat, make friends and build community. It will be a closed space, which means that it is only for people of colour. PoC organisers of the festival will be loosely facilitating the space. Feel free to get in touch in advance if you have specific ideas/discussions you want to see happen: [samramayanja@gmail.com](mailto:samramayanja@gmail.com)

Facilitator: Samra (she/her) is volunteer at LQFF who enjoys slow moving documentaries, hates Love Actually and writes about love.

## **8:30pm: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

### **Game Girls**

Alina Skrzyszewska, USA, 85:17, English [D]

Teri and her girlfriend Tiahna try and navigate their relationship through the chaotic world of Los Angeles' Skid Row, aka the "homeless capital of the USA".

*CN: scenes of violence and partner abuse, racist language, drug taking*

## **10:15pm: Angela Morley Room**

### **Rituals for Change**

Emma Frankland, UK, 44:00, English [E]

A series of rituals created by artist Emma Frankland to explore gender transition and the fluid notion of change.

*CN: discussion of sexism and transphobia*

## **Friday 10 May**

### **7:00pm: Angela Morley Room**

Short films; total running time: 42:00

#### **Dani Boi**

Logan Fletcher Mucha, Australia, 5:22, English [D]

Between chaotic onstage performances and their own personal struggles, non-binary dragtivist Dani fights to be a vital voice for a community in need.

#### **Switch**

Marion Renard, Belgium, 17:43, French [F]

During her first sexual experience, a teenage girl's body does something she could never have expected.

*CN: explicit sex, nudity, blood, vomit, mild self-harm*

#### **Regalia: Pride in Two Spirits**

Jen Sungshine & David Ng, Canada, 5:18, English [D]

Duane Stewart-Grant, who is from Xà'islak'ala (Haisla) and nuučaanuł (Nuu-chah-nulth) First Nations in Canada, explores his identity as someone who is Two-Spirited - a queer, indigenous community.

#### **Ontem (Before Today)**

Thiago Kistenmacker, Brazil, 13:37, Portuguese [F]

This short drama follows a woman after she suddenly runs away from a promising date, and asks the pertinent question: what would you want to tell your younger self?

*CN: sex, nudity, transphobia, transmisogyny and dysphoria*

## **8:00pm: Angela Morley Room**

### **Panel: Hear Trans Voices**

Join TransLeeds for a panel discussion and Q&A featuring voices from the local trans community. Inspired by the phrase originally coined by disability rights activists “Nothing about us without us,” Hear Trans Voices aims to centre diverse trans people talking about the issues that matter to them. This is a space for all people to hear from the trans community. Cisgender allies are welcome. The discussion will be moderated and we welcome questions asked in good faith.

BSL provided.

Facilitators: Kit (he/they) is a member of the LQFF organising team. Olivia Thomas (she/her) is Outreach Officer for TransLeeds and a member of LQFF.

## **9:30: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

### **Préjugés Coupables (Guilty Prejudices)**

Jean-Philippe Tranvouez, France, 84:00, French [F]

A police lieutenant is determined to uncover the truth after a gay man is brutally attacked and his boyfriend is arrested for the crime.

*CN: homophobic language and violence*

## **Saturday 23 March**

### **11:00am: Angela Morley Room**

Short films; total running time: 62:37

#### **Silvia dans les Vagues (Silvia in the Waves)**

Giovana Olmos, Canada, 13:00, French [F]

Noa struggles to honour the identity of his recently deceased parent while his mother tries to uphold the appearance of a conventional family.

*CN: death, misgendering, deadnaming*

#### **Dubbel Geluk (Double Lucky)**

Esmée van Loon, Netherlands, 24:29, Dutch [D]

Children of gay parents talk about growing up, fitting in, coming out, and how their "normal" differed from their peers.

#### **Hi Mrs. Friedman!**

Rachel Epstein, Canada, 7:48, English [F]

A comedy where a mother and daughter both show up at a queer sex club.

#### **Mariposa**

Candy Guinea, USA, 17:20, English [D]

This documentary follows the challenges of Castro, a masculine-of-centre high school teacher, as she becomes pregnant and grows a family with her wife, Candy.

### **12:15pm: Angela Morley Room**

#### **Refugees under the Rainbow**

Stella Traub, Germany, 31:41, English [D]

Three refugees from Uganda share their stories of courage and hope as they make new lives for themselves in Germany.

*CN: discussion of homophobic violence, torture, rape*

### **1:00pm: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

#### **Outitude: Irish Lesbian Community**

Sonya Mulligan, Ireland, 88:32, English [D]

Tales of coming out, activism and experiences of homophobia offer an insight into the richness of the Irish lesbian community.

*CN: discussion of homophobia, violence, misogyny, conversion therapy, sexual assault, racism*

## **1:00pm: Pratibha Parmar Room**

### **Learn to Crochet Workshop**

Join Kit (he/they) who will introduce you to the basics of crocheting. Equipment provided. No previous experience needed. There is limited space, so first come, first served.

## **2:45pm: Angela Morley Room**

**Queer Freedom:** a brand new LGBTQIA+ screening, celebrating the queer community, love and self expression. These shorts have been selected by Oska Bright, an award-winning film festival based in Brighton. Oska Bright show films made by, or featuring, autistic people and people with learning disabilities or additional needs.

Total running time: 26:48

### **John and Michael**

Shira Avni, Canada, 10:48, English [A]

Two men with Down's Syndrome who shared an intimate and profoundly loving relationship.

### **Pili Y Yo (Pili and Me)**

Igancio Garcia Sanchez, Spain, 8:00, Spanish [D]

Pili has Down's Syndrome and her inability to say what she wants makes her nephew reflect on the importance of listening.

## **Life on Two Spectrums**

Elizabeth-Valentina Sutton, UK, 6:11, English [D]

Meet Tia Anna, a drag queen with Asperger's Syndrome from Sheffield.

## **Versions**

Matthew Kennedy, UK, 1:49, English [A] [E]

An exploration of individual identities and family ties using collage and silhouettes.

## **3:15pm: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

## **Block and Censor**

Awei Chen, China, 65:00, Chinese [D]

Film maker Popo Fan is on a quest to fight China's systemic use of censorship.

## **3:15: Pratibha Parmar Room**

Feature film

## **Blindsided**

Lisa Olivieri, USA, 60:00, English [D]

Fifteen years in the life of Patricia Livingstone, a feisty artist losing her sight and hearing while trying to survive her abusive girlfriend.

*CN: scenes of intimate partner violence and control*

## **4:30: Pratibha Parmar Room**

### **Period Poverty Workshop**

Period poverty refers to having a lack of access to sanitary products due to financial constraints.

Join Quinn (they/them) and Nicola (she/her) in this sewing workshop. We will make re-usable sanitary pads which will then be donated. This workshop will cover some sewing basics so no experience needed. Materials provided.

## **4:45pm: Angela Morley Room**

Short films, total running time: 48:22

### **Naked Tongues**

Ernesto Sarezale, UK, 17:20, English [D]

Queers using their queer bodies as creative vessels and political tools on the naked spoken word scene in London.

*CN: nudity, erotic language, explicit description of BDSM activity and rape/abuse*

### **Four Billion Reasons**

Krissy Mahan, USA, 6:43 [A] [ND]

A journey of 8 metres becomes an epic odyssey, thanks to the inaccessibility of the New York City subway system.

### **Guillermo en el Tejado (Guillermo on the Roof)**

Miguel Lafuente, Spain, 16:05, Spanish [F]

As Guillermo is trying to fix his romantic life by making a film of it, he meets Samir, who will help him gain some much-needed perspective.

*CN: discussion of homophobic violence*

### **Splendid Case of Doubt**

Daniel Moshel, Austria, 4:09 [E] [ND]

Just your average love story between a furry and a dodgems operator.

### **The Brother**

Kai Fiáin, UK, 4:05, English [E]

You never know when you might accidentally end up as a pallbearer in Bethnal Green.

### **5:45pm: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

### **Dyke Jails**

Cecilia Montagut, Spain, 65:30, Spanish [D]

Prisoners and researchers document the reality of women behind bars and how gender inequality affects their lives.

*CN: discussion of rape and transphobic violence*

## **7:00pm: Angela Morley Room**

Short films, total running time: 54:22

### **Skoldiscot (Slow Dance)**

Christian Zetterberg, Sweden, 5:30, Swedish [F]

During a middle school disco, a boy works up the courage to ask his crush for a dance.

### **Passage to Womanhood**

Inaya Graciana Yusuf, Malaysia, 31:08, English/Malay [D]

A group of Muslim trans women stand their ground against social marginalisation in secular Malaysia. Redefining femininity in Islam, they are painting their own portrayal of womanhood.

*CN: discussion of transphobia*

### **Tommy Brilho**

Sávio Fernandes, Brazil, 17:44, Portuguese [F]

Despite being invisible, Tommy Brilho has impeccable style. Will it be enough to get noticed by his crush?

## **8:15: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

### **Dirty Sexy Comics: The Uncensored Story of Gay Erotic Comix**

Robert Chandler, USA, 96:00, English [D]

A deep dive into the world of explicit gay comics: the artists who create them and the men who learned how to be gay from them.

*CN: nudity and sex (illustrations)*

## **10:00pm: LQFF After Dark**

Short films; total running time: 55:44

These films contain nudity and strong sexual content.

### **Scrotalus**

Werther Germondari, Italy, 2:20, [E] [ND]

Some unusual creatures come to life in their natural habitats.

### **Driven**

Toni Karat, Germany, 13:07, German [F]

A punk boidyke, handcuffed and facing the wall in a sparse, empty room, breathes heavily with anxiety and expectation.

### **Lördags Godis (Saturday Sweets)**

Tom of Tottenham, Sweden, 5:00 [E] [ND]

Genderqueer bodies enjoy the tender intimacy of BDSM, power exchange and gummy bears in this experimental film, beautifully conveying the intense connection enjoyed through shared desires.

### **Our Alphabet**

Coco Schwarz & Alina Mann, Switzerland, 16:40 [E] [ND]

26 short episodes, taking us through the filmmakers' A-Z of kink and sexuality.

## **In the Dark**

Rory Midhani, Germany, 4:37, English [A]

A chance encounter in the basement darkroom of a Berlin cruisebar, set to a track by Russian queer party band Sado Opera.

## **Piedad (Piety)**

Naya (The Outdoor Cat), Germany, 14:00, Spanish [F]

When Rodolfa and Maria Antonieta help their pal Asunción fulfill an unusual promise, they all discover how easily sexual desire can cross the borders between the dead and the living.

## Sunday 12 May

### 3:30pm: Angela Morley Room

Short films, total running time: 73:26

#### **Laissez-moi danser**

Valérie Leroy, France, 16:40, French [F]

Cleaners on a ferry throw a party for their colleague Mylène, but someone else has a different kind of surprise in store.

*CN: deadnaming, trans slur, vomiting*

#### **A Bunch of Queers Doing It in Public**

Sandra Sordini, UK, 4:07, English [E]

Strange creatures inhabit cemeteries, backyards and notorious cruising spots in London, in a manifesto of queer aesthetics and politics. (No rubber gloves were harmed in the making of this film.)

#### **I'm Sorry**

Lovisa Lara, Iceland, 16:39, Icelandic [F]

Addy and Salka look like they have the perfect relationship, but there's another story behind closed doors. Will Addy be able to ask for (and get) the help she needs?

*CN: intimate partner abuse (physical, emotional, sexual)*

#### **Carla and Hayfa**

David Ng & Jen Sung, Canada, 8:53, Arabic/English [D]

Hayfa shares her coming out story as a queer person to her Palestinian-Lebanese family; her mother Carla shares her story of coming to acceptance.

### **Danny Didn't Feel Like Himself Anymore**

Johnny Gibbs, UK, 5:10 [A] [ND]

Danny doesn't fit in the box they've been put in.

### **Pinky Gurung**

Gopal Shivakoti, Nepal, 13:00, Nepali [D]

A young trans woman goes door-to-door campaigning to be elected to parliament in Nepal.

### **Brothers**

Mike Mosallam, USA, 8:57 [F] [ND]

From childhood to adulthood, brothers Bilal and Nassim support each other no matter what.

*CN: implied homophobia*

## **3:30pm: Pratibha Parmar Room**

### **ASMR Workshop: make. discuss. stimulate.**

An online community creating ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response) video content has been growing steadily over the past few years. Increasingly, more people are able to identify the sensation which until recently, has been unnamed. In this workshop we will be both discussing our ASMR experiences and creating our own ASMR content ourselves.

Facilitators: Samra (she/her) is volunteer at LQFF who enjoys slow moving documentaries, hates Love Actually and writes about love. Mara (they/them) is a volunteer at LQFF and freelance graphic designer and photographer

## **5:00pm: Angela Morley Room**

Short films, total running time: 60:31

### **I'm Not There**

Ajita Banerjie, India, 12:04, English [D]

Two non-binary activists tell their stories of fighting for trans rights in Bangalore.

*CN: discussion of transphobia and possible suicide or murder*

### **Rabbi Knows Better**

Elena Osipova, UK, 5:32, English [F]

On the Sabbath, is a wife allowed to spank her husband if he's begging? Are two drag queens allowed to sew if it's an emergency? Avoiding work can be hard work.

### **Swarm of Selenium**

Maude Matton & SJ Rahatoka, Germany, 23:08, English [F]

Shortly after the apocalypse, two rival gangs of queers try to rebuild.

*CN: vomiting*

**Real**

Cass Dennis, Australia, 19:47, English [F]

A teen, struggling to find her place, finds comfort and strength from a fictional TV show hero.

**6:15pm: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

**The Whisper of the Jaguar**

Thais Guisasola & Simon(e) Jaikiriuma Paetau, Brazil, 79:00,  
Portuguese [F]

This queer-punk road movie flows as freely between performance art, political comment, and fictional filmmaking as the bodies and identities of its characters.

*CN: death, drug taking*

**6:30pm: Pratibha Parmar Room****Workshop: Queer Love 2k19: Interracial, Cross Cultural and Inter-faith Queer Couples**

I believe that love is a verb. It's something that we do with other people. Part of that is trying to understand one another. This will be an open discussion sharing thoughts and feelings on our personal experiences of relationships, intimacy and love across racial, cultural and religious lines. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to contact Samra

the facilitator if you have any thoughts to share or questions before the workshop: samramayanja@gmail.com

Facilitator: Samra (she/her) is volunteer at LQFF who enjoys slow moving documentaries, hates Love Actually and writes about love.

### **7:45pm: Angela Morley Room**

Feature film

#### **Dykes, Camera, Action!**

Caroline Berler, USA, 60:58, English [D]

Spanning eight decades this retrospective takes us on a journey to see how far lesbian cinema has come, and where it might be going.

### **9:00pm, Angela Morley Room**

#### **Audience Choice Dyke Film**

As a special treat, we'll screen one of the films discussed in Dykes, Camera, Action directly after - the audience will vote on which one!

## **Festival Information**

### **Aims**

We create spaces to showcase queer cinema with a focus on independent and DIY films. We screen films that elevate and prioritise the voices and work of those most marginalised within our LGBTQ+ communities. LQFF is run by unpaid volunteers and we are not for profit; money raised from our festival goes towards future events and supporting queer filmmakers. We aim to make our events as friendly, affordable, accessible and inclusive as we can. By bringing people together and building links, we hope to strengthen our communities.

### **Spaces**

#### **Angela Morley**

(1924-2009) was born in Kirkstall, Leeds. She composed and arranged music for many films and TV shows including Watership Down, Peeping Tom and Dynasty. In 1977 she was the first openly transgender nominee for an Oscar for her work on the film, The Slipper and the Rose.

#### **Pratibha Parmar**

(1955-) is an award-winning lesbian film maker. After earning her degree in Human Purposes and Communications from Bradford University she has gone on to make documentaries and feature films. These include Khush (1991), about the erotic world of South Asian

queers and Nina's Heavenly Delights (2006), a Scottish-Bollywood lesbian romcom!

## **Key for film descriptions**

[F] fiction [D] documentary [A] animation [E] experimental [ND] no dialogue

**PLEASE NOTE:** All films start at the stated times - there are no adverts/trailers.

## **Tickets**

We are committed to making the festival affordable for everyone.

We decided that a sliding scale was the best way to allow everyone to afford a ticket that is within their financial reach whilst also ensuring the festival can continue each year. We ask that you be honest with yourself and your financial situation. If you purchase a ticket at the lowest end of the scale when you could afford the higher ticket prices, it makes it harder for us to provide financial flexibility to those who most need it. Tickets are grouped by day and are available on the door.

### **Tier 1**

**Thursday:** £ 0-2

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday:** £ 0-3

**Party:** £ 0-2

I frequently stress about meeting basic\* needs and don't always achieve them

I have debt and it sometimes prohibits me from meeting my basic needs

I rent lower-end properties or have unstable housing

I sometimes can't afford public or private transport. If I own a car/have access to a car, I am not always able to afford petrol

I am unemployed or underemployed

I qualify for government and/or voluntary assistance including: food banks and benefits

I have no access to savings

I have no or very limited expendable\*\* income

I rarely buy new items because I am unable to afford them

I cannot afford a holiday or have the ability to take time off without financial burden

\* Basic needs include food, housing, clothing and transportation.

\*\* Expendable income might mean you are able to buy coffee or tea at a shop, go to the cinema or a concert, buy new clothes, books and similar items each month, etc.

## Tier 2

**Thursday:** £ 3-4

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday:** £ 4-6

**Party:** £ 3-4

I may stress about meeting my basic needs but still regularly achieve them

I may have some debt but it does not prohibit attainment of basic needs

I can afford public transport and often private transport. If I have a car/access to a car I can afford petrol

I am employed

I have access to health care

I might have access to financial savings

I have some expendable income

I am able to buy some new items and I buy others second hand

I can take a holiday annually or every few years without financial burden

### **Tier 3**

**Thursday:** £ 5-6

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday:** £ 7-9

**Party:** £ 5-6

I am comfortably able to meet all of my basic needs

I may have some debt but it does not prohibit attainment of basic needs

I own my home or property OR I rent a higher-end property

I can afford public and private transport. If I have a car/access to a car I can afford petrol

I have regular access to healthcare

I have access to financial savings

I have an expendable income

I can always buy new items

I can afford an annual holiday or take time off

## **Passes**

Save over a third off the full ticket price with a Weekend Pass. For £20 you will receive:

Free entry to all films

Free entry to all talks/workshops

Free entry to WET CAKE party

Some official LQFF swag

## **Workshops**

All workshops are included with the purchase of a film festival ticket for that day and are drop-in unless otherwise stated. Some workshops may have limited capacity so it is first come first served.

## **Venue and access**

### **VENUE**

All rooms at Woodhouse Community Centre are on the ground floor with step free access from street level. Doors to all rooms are wide enough for wheelchair use. WCC is [Safe Place](#) registered.

### **TOILETS**

There are three disabled access toilets. All toilets are for all genders.

### **SEATING**

There is a range of seating available in the screening room: hard backed chairs, sofas, beanbags. If you need to enter the screening

room first or need a particular place in the room please let an organiser know. People are free to come and go from the screening rooms at any time.

## **FILMS**

All films will be screened with English subtitles and a few will have subtitles and captions.

## **BSL**

On Sunday, there will be BSL communication support for the introductions to the films as well as the Love 2K19 panel that day. There will also be BSL for the Hear Trans Voices Panel on Friday. We may be able to provide BSL on other days of the festival as well - please get in touch to discuss.

## **CONTACT**

If you would like to discuss any specific access needs please contact us in advance: [leedsqueerfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:leedsqueerfilmfestival@gmail.com)

## **Safer spaces**

Leeds Queer Film Festival is a community event in a shared space. We strive to make that space welcoming; audience members, organisers, speakers and volunteers are all expected to act with care and respect. We would like people to think about the impact their behaviour may have on others and to act accordingly, and we know that some people do face abusive, oppressive and discriminatory behaviour in queer spaces. The organising team behind Leeds Queer

Film Festival have written a safer spaces agreement which can be found on our website and front desk at the festival.

**Please take the time to have a read and, if there are any issues, please speak to any of us or email [LQFFSaferSpace@gmail.com](mailto:LQFFSaferSpace@gmail.com).**

### **Other information**

Throughout the weekend there will be vegan hot meals, snacks, cake and soft drinks for sale. (It is a dry space.) Cash or card payments accepted.