

Leeds Queer Film Festival 2025



19th - 23rd March



WELCOME!

Welcome to Leeds Queer Film Festival 2025: the 20th anniversary edition!

The first ever LQFF was in a squat in 2005, and we're delighted we're still going strong while staying true to our DIY roots. This year you'll have the chance to hear from those who remember the early days, and also share your own memories – including with Leeds Industrial Museum for a special upcoming exhibition on the history of film in our wonderful city.

When we packed up and left CLAY last year, we had no way of knowing it would be the last time we held LQFF there. We'll treasure the memories we made there, from the joyous abandon of a queer ceilidh to the debauchery of Wet Cake. We're so grateful to Jess, Marie, Charlotte, Thistle and the rest of the CLAY team for giving LQFF a home for so many years: there's a part of our festival that will always be synonymous with your fairy lights, tureens of curry and motley assortment of chairs. The departure of CLAY leaves a massive hole in Leeds's DIY arts and queer scenes.

This year though, we're really excited to be welcoming you all to a new venue, Heart in Headingley! Films in the main hall, food and social space next door, and an extra room on the first floor for workshops and a few special films we couldn't quite squeeze into the main track. As well as your usual assortment of queer films, thought-provoking discussions, and cheap vegan meals (from a tureen of course - some things never die) you'll also be able to sample the delights of Heart's Assembly Bar and Kitchen. For more info about the venue, including accessibility, see page 32.

Besides organising the main festival, this year we took some time to work on the accessibility of our events, and to become a Community Interest Company (get us). Our organisers Olivia and Barnaby still found time to curate an incredible double programme of Queer Shorts for Leeds International Film Festival. We're delighted to be showing a couple of those selections at our festival, including the winner of the Queer Short Film Competition, ¡Beso de lengua! (Thursday @ 6.45pm)

Being a CIC doesn't change LQFF's DIY ethos one bit, and we're still powered entirely by volunteers. We're really grateful for the support of Heart, Hyde Park Picture House, The Bookish Type, and everyone who's made it possible for the festival to happen this year. And we're super thankful to everyone who pitches in to volunteer during the festival itself: we couldn't do any of this without you!

Big love, and here's to another 20 years!

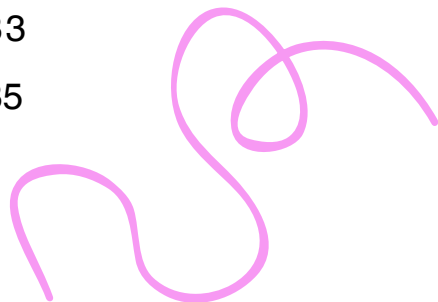
Barnaby, Clare, Els, Emily, Haworth, Kit, Nicola & Olivia

The LQFF organising team

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CONTENT NOTES



We always try to alert people to content in our programme that may be triggering or traumatic. Last year, we tried out a slightly different approach. In addition to the content warnings, we added “content highlights” to draw your attention to the uplifting stuff too! As this was well received, we’ve carried that on this year. Look out for the 🌂 to indicate potentially difficult content and the ✨ emoji to indicate things that we hope will give you a boost!

6.00PM • OPENING NIGHT •

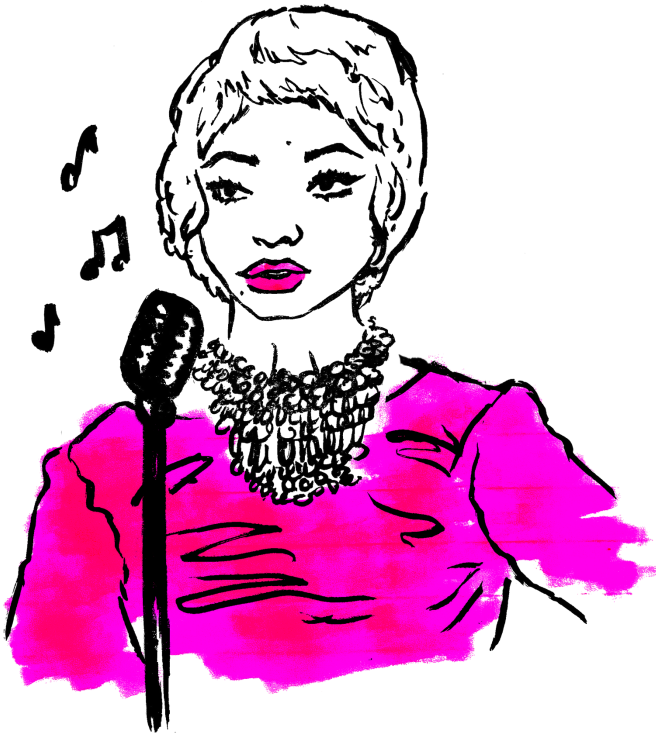
We are pleased to return to the wonderful Hyde Park Picture House for our opening night. Many thanks to Wendy, Mosa and everyone on the HPPH team for their continued support in bringing awesome queer films to one of Leeds' greatest cinemas!

Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story

1hr 38min • Dir. Michael Mabbott, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee • 2024 • USA • English

An R&B star who once eclipsed Etta James and Little Richard, trans soul singer Jackie Shane blazed an extraordinary trail with an unbreakable commitment to her truth. Forty years after vanishing from public view, Jackie's story is brought to life in her own words through never-before-heard phone conversations, dazzling rotoscope animation and her amazing music.

🌈: discussion of racist violence and police violence, Jim Crow segregation, discussion of transmisogynoir and homophobia / ✨: black trans woman lives her life on her terms and tells her story in her own words, great music and filmmaking style



5.00PM • SHORTS •

Old Lesbians

29min • Dir. Meghan McDonough • 2023 • USA • English •

For 25 years, a retired schoolteacher travelled the USA collecting oral herstories from lesbians across the country. These journeys of first loves, coming out, loss, and ultimately connection are ones you won't want to miss.

🌈: discussion of homophobia, sexism and grief / ✨: celebration of loads of badass women

Lesbian Jesus Is Pregnant With Vibes

12min • Dir. Reid Pope • 2024 • USA • English

A hyperactive TikTok musician is plucked off the internet, thrust onstage, and declared "Lesbian Jesus!". She tours the country with her helicopter "Momager" and loving girlfriend Avery who runs the merch table selling shirts that say "Eat Crotch!". A funny and moving examination of gender, power, choice and fame.

🌈: Heavily implied retelling of a rape, controlling parents, mentions of drug use / ✨: Supportive partner helps a woman tell her truth, funny

NEVER STOP SHOUTING

10min • Dir. Abdellah Taïa • 2024 • France • French

The writer and filmmaker Abdellah Taïa writes a letter to his gay nephew, Brahim, to help free him from fear, to support him, to walk beside him. To love him strongly.

🌈: Homophobia / ✨: Intergenerational queer support, affirming queer history

Queer Exile

10min • Dir. Ahmed Awadalla • 2024 • Germany • Arabic, English, German

Ahmed flees Egypt during the 2011 revolution, resettling in Berlin. He struggles to find new community amidst far-right anti-immigrant sentiment in his new country. A film with a perfect blend of the poetic and political.

🌈: Nazis, racism, Islamophobia, homophobia / ✨: Refugee resilience, taking ownership of your own narrative

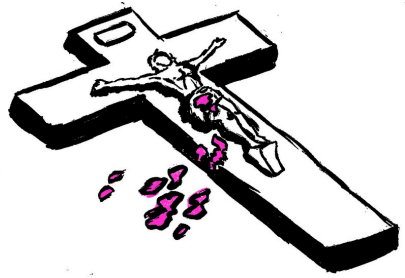
Dr. XYZ: A Medical Drag Transtholgy

14min • Dir. El Jaunts • 2024 • UK • English

Part satire, part training video, this experimental doc brings to life the real stories of real trans people just trying to get some damn healthcare.

🌈: references to suicidal thoughts and attempts, healthcare gatekeeping / ✨: empowering, funny, educational, DIY drag aesthetic

6.45PM • TERROR THURSDAY •



The Martyr

30min • Dir. Alejandro Mathé • 2024 • Germany • Spanish

A young man's obsession with the half-naked figure of Jesus Christ leads him down a dangerous path of self-harm and masochism..

🩸: body horror, blood, vomit, blasphemy / ☼: perfectly squirmy gory gay horror

Thank You

5min • Dir. Nicolle Marquez • 2023 • USA • English

We all know that plastic carrier bags are a plague on the environment, but who knew they could be *this* dangerous?

🩸: suffocation / ☼: flirty lesbians, funny satire

Crave

12min • Dir. Mark Middlewick • 2024 • France • English

Atmospheric and mysterious, a meeting at a bar leads to more behind closed doors.

🩸: blood, vampirism, consent being crossed / ☼: mysterious and great mood piece

Veneralia

5min • Dir. Kate Canning, Abi Welch • 2024 • UK • No dialogue

An erotic retelling of the Last Supper, with a touch of lesbian vampirism thrown in too!

🩸: blood, vampirism, mild erotica, flashing lights / ☼: delightfully weird and subversive

¡Beso de lengua!

16min • Dir. Jose Luis Zorrero • 2024 • Mexico • Spanish

An unusual game on a first date in an ice cream parlor takes a twist into the surreal and the unsettling. Winner of the 2024 LIFF Queer Shorts competition.

🩸: blood, body horror / ☼: delightfully quirky

Gender Reveal

12min • Dir. Mo Matton • 2024 • Canada • English, French

A throuple's bid for survival at a colleague's even-more-horrific-than-usual gender reveal

🩸: death, blood / ☼: funny camp horror

Layla

1hr 33min • Dir. Amrou Al-Kadhi • 2024 • UK • English

Layla is a British-Palestinian drag artist. Their close-knit friendship group spend their time in the queer club scenes creating their art. But Layla also yearns for romantic connection. Through an unlikely booking, Layla's path crosses with Max, who exists in the straight-laced world of corporate approval. Amrou Al-Kadhi's feature directorial debut explores the difficulty of being authentic in a world which wants you to dilute yourself. The film also represents the very real dangers facing queer spaces and the importance of our queer friendships for us to come together in good and bad times.



🚫: racist and transphobic microaggressions, queerphobia, misgendering, deadnaming, strobe/flashing lights, sex / ✨: queer community coming together



Chavo

15min • Dir. Alecio Araci • 2024 • Sweden • Romany, Swedish

Tommy's grill is a meeting point where a tightly knit Roma community gather to eat and talk. When a lone young guy visits the restaurant one evening, rumours begin to spread and owner Tommy is forced to revisit traumatic memories.

: boorish men, homophobia, suicide, grief / : atonement, positive change

I Found My Yellow

15min • Dir. Shin Thandar • 2024 • Myanmar • Burmese

Shin and Susan and their cat Shwe Lone Chay are slowly learning to be a family unit. A slice-of-life documentary about two women building their life together in Myanmar, under an extreme anti-LGBT regime.

: state homophobia / : queer love against the odds, cute cat

Over the Rainbows



16min • Dir. Be Zilberman • 2024 • UK • English, Portuguese

Reflections on existing within the "double rainbow", at the intersection of trans and neurodivergent experience.

We Were No Desert

13min • Dir. Agustina Comedi, Chiachio & Giannone • 2023 • Argentina • Spanish



From 1833-1834, the Argentinian military led an attack against indigenous people of northern Patagonia. Now, two textile artists centre indigenous queers' experience in this exploration of the "Campaign Against the Desert."

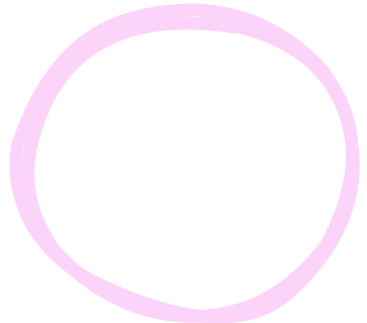
: discussion of persecution of sex workers, homophobia and transphobia / : centring indigenous queers and reclaiming a national dance

Gym Classes

15min • Dir. Gabriele Lippi • 2024 • Italy • Italian

Squabbling siblings find common ground over shared hatred for their high school.

: misgendering, transphobia / : supportive family



Sally

1hr 30min • Dir. Deborah Alice Craig • 2024 • USA • English

Discover the lesbian activist who's been systematically erased from American queer history – including being deliberately cut out of the film *Milk*. Sally celebrates the dynamism and complexity of lesbian-feminist firebrand, professor, and fantasy author Sally Gearhart, as well as the collective (if chaotic) nature of revolutionary movements and their icons.

☂: short piece of footage on historic medical violence; discussion of homophobia, misogyny, racism and sex / ✨: inspirational older lesbians, lesbian community, intersectional activism



4.00PM • SHORTS •



Happy Solstice!

5min • Dir. Werther Germondari • 2024 • Italy • Italian

Santa feels the joy of making some changes for Christmas.

✧: *funny absurdism*

Chico

22min • Dir. Théo Abadie • 2024 • France • French

In this silly and anarchic short, we follow Jojo on his quest to fix his squat's washing machine, doing anything to satisfy Lucien.

🚔: *incarceration, police, car crash* / ✧: *funny, fast paced city action*

Pehli Date

15min • Dir. Sulagna Chatterjee • 2024 • India • English, Hindi

Aastha and Priya are on their first date. What starts out initially as sweet talking, ends up turning more serious as the two talk about heteronormativity, vulnerability and the possibility of having a second chance in life.

🚔: *Discussion of homophobia* / ✧: *Sweet romance*

Doux temps (Sweet Times)

5min • Dir. Caio Amon • 2024 • Brazil • French

A colourful, surreal, musical takedown of late-stage capitalism.

✧: *Light, whimsical, unique*

Sperm Donors Wanted!

12min • Dir. Logan Rea • 2024 • UK • English

Trans performance artist Krishna Isha interviews hundreds of potential sperm donors onstage in a quest to find the perfect connection, one that will enable him and his partner to start their family. A compelling exploration of human connection and the unique dynamics of queer family making.

✧: *Funny, supportive queers forming connections*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

GOLDEN FINGERS

6min • Dir. Chryssa Florou • 2024 • France • French

How do we find the words to tell family who we are? A gently humourous take on a coming out story.

🌈: mention of familial queerphobia / ✨: supportive friends and family

The Robbers

16min • Dir. Isa Schieche • 2023 • Austria • German

Three trans women lovers meet at a house in the country to plan a robbery. The trick is that to pull off the heist they must disguise themselves as men. Cue hilarity as they train to speak deeply, walk manly and attempt to be masculine.

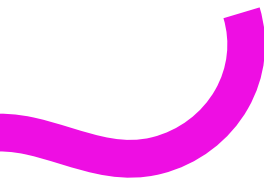
🌈: trans women disguising themselves as men, armed robbery / ✨: trans women loving and supporting each other, funny

The Exchange

14min • Dir. Amaia Yoldi • 2024 • Spain • Spanish

Strangers Antonio and Inés meet for what could be a simple handoff of some secondhand boots. But what goes on behind closed doors isn't always what you think.

🌈: mild transphobia, being closeted / ✨: funny, farcical, heartwarming



6.45PM • FEATURE •

Avant Drag!

1hr 32min • Dir. Fil Ieropoulos • 2024 • Greece • Greek

Ten drag artists as they bring joy, rage and sadness to the streets of Athens, pushing the boundaries of orthodox Greek culture to carve out space for drag as a political and revolutionary act. This multidimensional feature length film follows each artist through their drag origins, passion, performances and art practices, before a gut-punchingly honest dinner together reflecting on gender diversity in conservative Greece. We came for the art and got hooked on the worldbuilding – art meets life meets the will to anti-power!

⚠️: BDSM themes (wax, puppy, and anal play), sexualized religious scenes, blood (fake and real), mention of a queerphobic murder by police, crohn's disease / ⚠️: unapologetic drag performers challenging the establishment and not giving a fuck



VARIOUS TIMES • GREATEST HITS •

To celebrate our 20th anniversary, we'll be showing some "LQFF Greatest Hits" in the Claremont room, in between other scheduled screenings. Pop in to catch some of our (and hopefully your) favourites from over the years!

4.00PM • SHORTS •



for Carlos

15min • Dir. Carlos Cipriano Gomes Junior • 2024 • Brazil • Portuguese

A heartbreaking and honest farewell letter to a partner lost to suicide. Painful to watch at times, but a stirring meditation on grief and loss.

☂: *losing a love one, suicide, homophobic oppression* / ✨: *a thoughtful reflection on loss*

Symptom

23min • Dir. Kamee Abrahamian • 2024 • Armenia • Armenian, English

Symptom are a queer, electronica duo. Against a homophobic backdrop, the filmmaker and band explore what it means to be Armenian and queer and against the status quo in Armenia.

☂: *homophobia* / ✨: *footage of DIY scenes in Armenia*

Shrimp

12min • Dir. Lisle Turner • 2024 • UK • English

Trans guy Ret returns to his seaside hometown to reconnect with his father. A boozy afternoon in a local bar leads to T4T flirting, some home truths and a difficult choice.

☂: *Parental rejection, transphobia, returning to small home town* / ✨: *T4T flirting*

An Eighth of Him

11min • Dir. Levi Aluede • 2024 • UK • English

A romance slowly unfolds between a dealer and one of his buyers in south London.

☂: *drugs* / ✨: *tender love story, non-toxic masculinity*





These films contain nudity and strong sexual content. Over 18s only. Specific content notes will be given in person (verbally and with slides or BSL) ahead of the screening

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A Certain Kind

16min • Dir. Gabriel Gutierrez Morales • 2024 • USA • English

A short documentary that takes a behind the scenes look at an ethical queer porn production company that strives to makes it's films, fun, consensual and safe.

SCARS

6min 35 secs • Dir. Luna E. Heine, Sreya Chatterjee • 2023 • Germany • No dialogue

A beautiful depiction of desire, pleasure and power in a body that has been through trauma and transformation.

Utopia


8min • Dir. Rubén Fabbri • 2024 • Mexico • No dialogue

A gorgeous graphic and soundscape forming and sweeping away aesthetic tropes of gay porn

In All The Rooms We Met

13min • Dir. Bonaventure Tain • 2024 • Malaysia • English

Part documentary, part porn: this experimental erotic short, featuring Asia's top gay porn actor Ryuji Suzuki, documents a world where reality and fiction intertwine.



Object(s) of Desire

4min • Dir. Liberty Antonia Sadler • 2024 • UK • English

A celebration of lust between and for fat queers. Beautiful, and drenched in bisexual pride colours!

Dancing bodies

6min • Dir. Elisa Monteil, La Fille Renne, Laure Giappiconi • 2024 • France • French

In this joyous short, a group of queers have fun on a flat balcony, captured on film.

Summer Night's Fantasy

6min • Dir. Guby Moon • 2024 • Spain • Spanish

A dreamy fantasy on a hot summer night is brought to life through stunning animation.

La vie est une fleur (dont dont l'amour est le miel) // Life is a flower (of which love is the honey)

11min • Dir. Axge • 2024 • Canada • French

At the punk gig a group of friends take over a bathroom with camcorder in tow.

9.30PM • AFTER DARK PRESENTS: T4T •



As a special 20th anniversary treat, LQFF and filmmaker Max Disgrace present a curated programme of sexy trans delights from the 1990s to the 2020s. Featuring films from Chinese and Polish-American trans activist Christopher Lee the co-founder of the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, Manon Praline, J London and more.

Please see special programme for full info about these films, available at the venue.

The films of Christopher Lee, Alley of the Tranny Boys & Sex Flesh and Blood were digitally remastered in 2024 by PinkLabel.TV, where full versions can be viewed.

All proceeds from the film viewings are donated back to the TransBIPOC Community, LGTBQIA Community Partners and to support the Christopher Lee Legacy Project including final editing of his last film in the series, Dragon's Blood.

11.00AM • SHORTS •



White tiger/Rain in summer

14min • Dir. Qian Yang • 2024 • UK • Chinese

In this dream-like short, we find Xiaoqing, isolated in a new city during COVID-19. Here she reflects on her last relationship.

☔: loneliness, poor mental health

À Poings et À Cœurs

8min • Dir. Augustine Caille • 2024 • France • French

Trans women who practice at a queer boxing club talk about their experiences, gender euphoria, problems & oppressions, but most of all how they connect through sport.

☔: mentions of transphobia and misgendering / ✨: trans people finding a love of sport, gender euphoria, trans joy

No!!

8min • Dir. Oktania Hamdani, Winner Wijaya • 2024 • Indonesia • Indonesian

Sekar and Bebi are busy planning their wedding in a virtual reality game. Don't you just hate it when your mom calls at that moment?

☔: familial homophobia / ✨: queers making their own way and finding their own family; unique film style

Places I've Called My Own

28min • Dir. Sushma Khadepaun • 2023 • India • Hindi

Tara is in the middle of her IVF process when she returns to India from the US for her father's funeral. In this thoughtful short, Tara re-encounters fraught relationships and familial expectations.

☔: injections, familial prejudice, bereavement / ✨: queer carving their own path in life

12.30PM • ANIMATION SHORTS •



Pietra

13min • Dir. Cynthia Levitan • 2024 • Portugal • No dialogue

An unexpected friendship forms between a trans woman and her downstairs neighbour.

☔: implied transphobia / ✨: lovely portrayal of older people and an intergenerational relationship

Ultramarine

3min • Dir. Grace Wisdom • 2024 • USA • No dialogue

In 1770's England, a frustrated artist seeks inspiration with the help of her mischievous cat.

✧: *Lesbians meet cute, fun cat*

A Blue Summer

8min • Dir. Juliette Ragot • 2024 • France • French

At a pool in the heat of summer, two friends share a tender moment.

🌈: *brief discussion of sex and periods at beginning* / ✧: *young teenagers exploring their queerness*

chosen family

2min • Dir. lisa g • 2024 • Canada • English

A lovely mixed media animated music video about the family we choose.

✧: *joy in chosen family*

Stone in Stomach

12min • Dir. Géraldine Charpentier • 2024 • Belgium • French

Camille and Johane trade phone messages in this gentle animation, making us ponder about why sometimes love isn't enough.

🌈: *nudity, sex, break-up* / ✧: *lovely animation style; tender love story*

Grand Dandy (For Ezra)

4min • Dir. The Campbells • 2024 • UK • English

An autobiographical stop-motion animation about queer grandparenting, and possibly LQFF's first-ever nonbinary grandparent!

✧: *queer family*

Dragfox

8min • Dir. Lisa Ott • 2024 • UK • English

A mysterious neighbourhood fox takes young Sam on a journey to the attic where they discover the magical joys of playing with gender. Divina De Campo and Ian McKellen lend their voices to this wonderfully animated musical.

✧: *trans kid is helped to play around with gender by a fox drag queen*



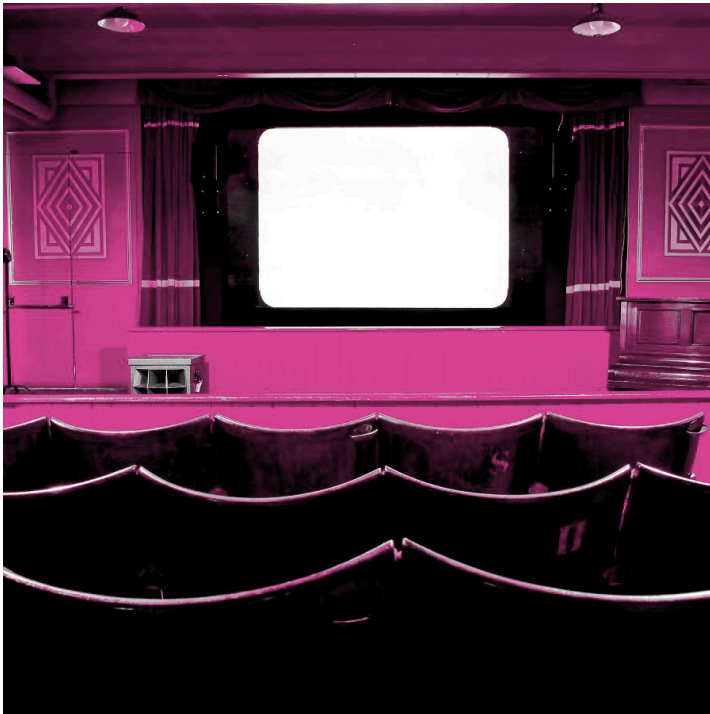
1.30 - 3.30PM



Oral History Project with Leeds Industrial Museum

Leeds Museums and Galleries want to hear your stories! Come chat to us about your love for films, cinema, costumes and people. We will have objects for you to handle as well as tea, coffee and biscuits. Maybe you'll even feature in our newest exhibition at Leeds Industrial Museum!

About the facilitators: Gina Hunt is Assistant Learning and Access Officer at Leeds Museums and Galleries. Kit George (they/them) is a Leeds based artist whose art connects identity, queerness, history, nature and spirituality.



FEATURES • DOUBLE BILL •

We share our 20th anniversary with an important documentary and are pleased to be able to screen both the 2005 original and the 2024 follow up.

2.00pm • The Aggressives

1hr 15min • Dir. Daniel Peddle • 2005 • USA • English

Filmed in New York City between 1997 and 2004, this pioneering documentary follows a group of "Aggressives" – masculine-presenting AFAB queer people of colour. Marquise, Rjai, Tiffany, Flo, Octavia, and Kisha share their dreams, fears, and experiences within social spaces like the ballroom and club scenes. Over seven years, the film captures their humour, bravado and spirit whilst confronting evolving ideas around gender and providing an intimate exposé of this subculture.

🏳️: *dated language and ideas including: cultural appropriation, fatphobia, binding, homophobia, and transphobia. Mentions of prison and AIDS /*

🌟: *cool, sexy young queers in the 90s*

3.45pm • Beyond The Aggressives

1hr 20min • Dir. Daniel Peddle • 2024 • USA • English

Catch up with four of the original 'aggressives' (BIPOC dykes) from the 2005 film, *The Aggressives*. Two decades on, life has been changeable and challenging for these four folks: gender journeys, incarceration,

family and relationship

issues are all explored in

this fascinating

documentary. It can be

viewed as a standalone film

or check out the original

first to really get to know

these charmers.

🏳️: *mentions of drugs, homophobia, transphobia, suicide, prison, racism / 🌟: BPOC trans mascs*

embrace life and reflect on how they've grown through past experiences



Letters to Myself

18min • Dir. Marina Vergueiro • 2023 • Brazil • Portuguese, Spanish

Poet Marina Vergueiro travels to Cuba to study cinema and discovers the story of Caridad, a lesbian who infected herself with HIV after being rejected by her parents. Curious about the story and coming to terms with her own diagnosis, Marina searches for Cari amidst the chaos of the Covid pandemic.

🌂: HIV diagnosis, discussion of death / ✨: unique perspective of a woman with HIV

Auntie Issues

14min • Dir. Rita Hostt, Tadeo Pestaña Caro • 2024 • Argentina • Spanish

Veronica has a habit of crushing on her professors. Delving into why, she realises something has been staring in her face the whole time.

🌂: mild sex scene / ✨: quirky and light coming of age rom com, young love

Qeluar (Out)

21min • Dir. Justice Khor • 2023 • UK • English, Malay

Qeluar recounts the story of the UK's first LGBTQ+ asylum seeker to receive official status in tender, heartbreaking detail, in the words of the man who lived through it.

🌂: description of child abuse (physical and emotional), homophobia and estrangement

✨: story of personal strength and survival, finding love and appreciation

Even Still,

3min • Dir. Grey Anderson • 2024 • USA • No dialogue

A colourful burst of queer community joy including a trans roller disco!

✨: trans people living their best lives

Fool's Gold

4min • Dir. Che Ortega • 2023 • USA • English

Trans vaquero Oliver Gold and the Turnback Boyz bring us an instant queer country hit!

✨: meet your new fave country boyband

5.30PM • SHORTS •

NYAME MMA (Children Of God)

30min • Dir. Joewackle J. Kusi • 2024 • Ghana • Afrikaans

Kwamena returns to his hometown for his father's funeral. After reuniting with his ex-lover, the two must face the reality of their feelings for each other, as well as the societal pressures that come with being gay in Ghana.

☂: grief, homophobia / ✨: lovely storytelling and portrayal of life in Ghana

The Blurring Of Trees

11min • Dir. Fanny Perreault • 2024 • Canada • No dialogue

Two incarcerated women serving time doing hard labour deep in the Quebecois forest share a moment of peace amongst nature. Here they find a long-sought after sense of compassion and understanding in each other.

☂: incarceration, prison labour / ✨: lesbian meet-cute

Shame (عيب)

4min • Dir. Hadi Moussally • 2024 • Lebanon • Arabic

Set against a backdrop of recreated 19th-century scenes from the Levant region, this a complex exploration of shame in the context of Arab culture. Surreal and experimental; historical and futuristic.

☂: dance, queer/feminist history, inventive filming style

Mo<3Kyra

13min • Dir. Debbie Hannan • 2024 • UK • English

Can Mo find the chance to tell Kyra how she feels at their high school prom?

☂: funny, disabled queers living their best lives



7.00PM • FEATURE •

ASOG

1hr 41min • Dir. Sean Devlin • 2024 • Philippines • Tagalog, Filipino

After a typhoon devastates the Philippines landscape, non-binary teacher Jaya's side hustle as a late-night television comedian ends. Picking up the pieces in their life, Jaya decides to travel across the country in hopes of winning a beauty pageant and the prize money that comes with it. Just before they leave, a chance encounter with their former student Arnel, complicates their solitary plans. As the two travel seemingly countless miles together on foot, bike, and boat, the unlikely duo find themselves forever changed by each other and those they encounter on their journey.

Part road trip buddy movie, part climate-action documentary, ASOG is a stunning and profound ode to the power of solidarity amidst struggle.

☂: discussions of climate disaster, colonialism, parental death/grief / ✨: funny, life-affirming, community activism

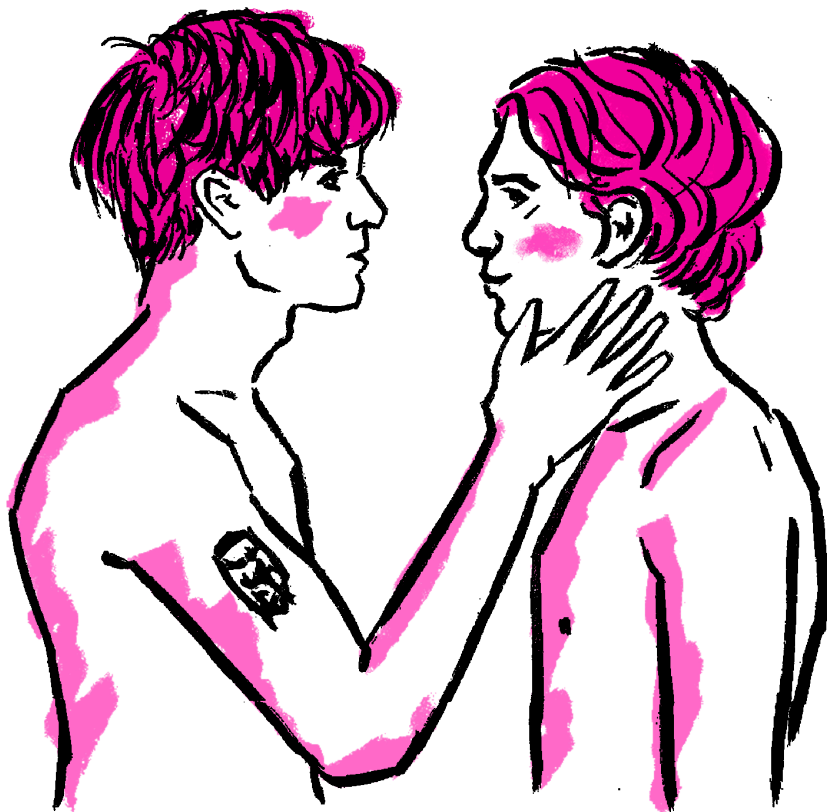
• 9.00PM •



KARAOKE

Join us for a queer karaoke party, "It's a Sing!", after the films. The bar at Heart will be open late, so now's the chance to sing your heart out! Local karaoke obsessive, LQFF fan, and queer-about-town Quinn Daley will be emceeing! Over 18s only.



11.30AM • FEATURE •



I LOVE YOU MORE

1hr 33min • Dir. Erblin Nushi • 2022 • Kosovo • Albanian, English

After a year of talking online, Ben finally has the opportunity to meet his first love Leo, who is visiting Kosovo from Germany. Unfortunately, Ben has to juggle building a cover-story to keep this a secret from his family, while also trying to balance his families expectations for him. A heartwarming story of first teen love, while also exploring the dynamics of Eastern and Western Europe socioeconomic differences.

: one brief physical fight, teenage heartache / : first love, supportive family and friends, beautiful scenery



TOPS

1hr 10min • Dir. Ames Pennington, Jos Bitelli • 2024 • UK • English

The 90s TV series which dares to ask: 'What top did you want to wear after top surgery?' Satirical and yet heartfelt, TOPS is a pastiche of chaotic and clueless British reality TV which sees Ames Pennington delve into the lives of four individuals who've had TOP surgery, in a desperate attempt for the presenter to make their first-ever trans friend.

Featuring our long-time and very dedicated volunteer Oskar Marchock!

🌂: discussion of surgery, dysphoria, genitals and sex toys / ✨: trans joy, trans documentary without the cis gaze

Lay-by

5min • Dir. Stuart Armstrong • 2024 • UK • English

In rural Yorkshire, things go awry for Barry when he tries for his first gay hookup and there's a bit of a misunderstanding.

🌟: reyt funny

1.30PM • NORTHERN FILMS CONTINUED•

Rainbow Junktion

10min • Dir. Naomi Seldon Crame • 2023 • UK • English

An animated documentary about our pals over at Rainbow Junktion, one of Leeds' most important community food banks and cafes. You might recognise some of these voices!

🏳️: food poverty, Tory government, homelessness, depression / ✨: communities coming together to support each other, self-care

Strokes

4min • Dir. David Colin William Crump • 2024 • UK • English

A thoughtful, visceral take on the difficulties between a father and his gay son.

✨: painterly visuals

Paula Says Hi

14min • Dir. James C Thompson • 2023 • UK • English

A personal and intimate portrait of disabled, gender fluid cosplayer Paula. Inviting us into her world, Paula lives life to the full, embracing her passion for cosplay and sci-fi conventions, and offers her intimate thoughts on accepting her disability and the joy of gender euphoria.

✨: disabled joy, gender euphoria

Life Beyond Labels - A Story Of Drag & HIV

4min • Dir. Morgan Rhianna • 2024 • UK • English

Reflecting on 80s AIDs crisis, drag icon Viva La Diva discusses the nationwide and personal impact

🏳️: discussion of death and prejudice /

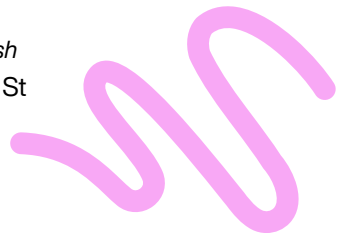
✨: moving reminiscence from an older queer

It's Always Been Queer 'Round Here

4min • Dir. Ding Frisby, Oran Rose O'Sullivan • 2023 • UK • English

A musical journey through the queer history of Bradford's St George's Hall, from festival fave Ding Frisby.

✨: fun Yorkshire queer history



3.45PM • FILM AND DISCUSSION •

Ghost Empire § Maurice-Chagos

50min • Dir. Susan Thomson • 2024 • UK / Ireland • English

For queer people in formerly colonised countries, the ghostly presence of the British empire is often all too real. We're thrilled to present the UK premiere of the newest film in Susan Thompson's Ghost Empire project series, which explores the legacy of British colonialism on LGBTQI+ rights around the world. In Mauritius and the nearby Chagos Islands, the criminalisation of queer lives collides with climate change and indigenous people's fight to return to their homeland in a dreamy, experimental yet hard-hitting documentary.

☂: *discussion of racism, colonialism, homophobia and transphobia (including physical violence)* / ✨: *queer activism and resilience*

Following our UK premiere of Ghost Empire § Maurice-Chagos, join director Susan Thompson for a discussion and Q&A about the film, her Ghost Empire project series, and her unique approaches to documentary-making.



Metrodrama

12min • Dir. Tiziana Cristiano • 2024 • Italy • Italian

A classic girl-meets-girl love story, set in the backdrop of an Italian city metro. Will the middle-aged dyke get the... other middle-aged dyke?

☼: *funny older women*

Ted & Noel

25min • Dir. Julia Alcamo • 2023 • UK • English

Iconic activist Ted Brown reflects on his 50-year relationship, and finds the strength within grief to fight for compassionate care for older LGBTQ people

☼: *community care and activism*

☂: *dementia, elder abuse, homophobia*

Pill Nation

22min • Dir. Bruno Tadeu • 2024 • Brazil • Portuguese

Dante refuses to go quietly into that dark night. Instead, he's pulling pranks, doing drugs, and trying to build the queer utopian retirement home that he always dreamed of.

☂: *end-of-life care, drug use, vomit (but it's glitter!)* / ☼: *old queers determining their own destiny*

6.45PM • CLOSING FEATURE •



Chuck Chuck Baby

1hr 41min • Dir. Janis Pugh • 2024 • UK • English

Helen works in the local chicken factory like most of the women in her nowhereseville town in north Wales. Her life is spun upside down with the return of her teenage crush Joanne in this quirky, uplifting and inventive take on a musical. Expect singing, snogging and silly dancing chickens.

👉: mentions of child abuse and miscarriages, comically horrid ex-partner

✧: funny, quirky take on a musical, ride-or-die female friendships, slow burn romance, happy ending



VENUES



Hyde Park Picture House

Opening night gala, Wednesday 19th March
73 Brudenell Road, Leeds, LS6 1JD

Beloved amongst Leeds film goers since 1914. Recently refurbished, the venue is now accessible via wheelchair and has gender-neutral toilets. For full access details, visit: <https://hpqh.co.uk/access>

HEART Centre:

Headingley Enterprise & Arts Centre
Bennett Road, Leeds, LS6 3HN

The HEART Centre is a Community Hub located in Headingley, North-West Leeds. This will be our home for the rest of the festival.

HEART Room Venue

Shire Oak Hall:

The main screening room, located just past the reception on the ground floor.
Max Capacity: 100 seated

Claremont:

Smaller room located on the first floor, which will be used by the festival as an additional screening room.
Max Capacity: 30 seated

Buckingham Room:

Smaller room on the ground floor, found behind the main hall, which will be used for workshops.
Max Capacity: 10 seated

Beckett Room:

Small room located across from the main hall, where LQFF volunteers will be serving alternate food options to the ABK Café.

ABK Café;

The ABK Café is HEART's café, which offers a wide range of locally sourced food and drink. The Café's opening hours are 9AM-8PM.

Please note: while LQFF will be the primary event at Heart this weekend, there will be a few regular community groups using other rooms throughout the festival, and the ABK Café is open to the general public.

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. If there are any issues, please speak to any of us or email

• LQFFSaferSpace@gmail.com •

ACCESS

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

The film schedule is also available in **large print** format. Please contact us for a copy.

BSL interpretation available on request - please get in touch to discuss.
leedsqueerfilmfestival@gmail.com

Both venues are **wheelchair accessible**, however the automatic front door at HEART is somewhat temperamental. There will always be a staff member of volunteer available on-site to help open this door.

Parking: There are 4 dedicated blue-badge parking spaces on-site, with an additional 8 parking spaces, as well as bike racks. There is additional parking at the Headingley Taps (charges may apply).

Toilets: There are accessible toilets on each floor, with one also having a hoist for toilet use. Baby-changing facilities are available. LQFF and HEART will ensure that during the duration of the festival all toilets will be gender-neutral.

Seating: A range of seating is available in the screening room – chairs & bean bags, with cushions available. If you need to enter the screening room first or need a particular place in the room please let an organiser know.

Please don't come if you have any viral symptoms, even if you're testing negative for **COVID**. Please take a lateral flow test before attending if available. A supply of free LFTs and FFP2 masks will be available. If you need to leave due to testing positive, we will refund your ticket.

The Beckett room in Heart will be a quiet space most of the time.

Please see our website/social media for photos of the buildings if you want to know what to expect.

Please visit the venues' websites for more details on access.

I'M LOOKING FOR FILMS ABOUT ...

We curate our films in the hope that people will watch films that reflect a wide range of queer experiences. We've put together a guide to help you find the films you want to see. Visit this link to find out more!



bit.ly/LQFF2025Rep

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. A day ticket includes all films and workshops for that day. See next page for advance booking information.



£0-4
/day

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



£5-8
/day

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 healthcare
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



£9-12
/day

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 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

* 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 e.g. new clothes, books each month, etc.

TICKETING FAQS

What's the TL;DR on how tickets work?

Half the seats for each screening are available to book in advance, but you have to pick up (and pay for) your prebooked ticket in person at least 30 minutes before the screening, or you lose it. The other half of the seats will be available to purchase on the door. Festival pass holders have guaranteed seats for all screenings, but you also need to pick them up at least 30 minutes in advance.

Can I book in advance?

Yes – half the seats for each screening will be available to book on our website, leedsqueerfilmfestival.co.uk. You don't pay for it online, you just put your name down to reserve a space. Once you've booked online, you must come and pick up the booking in person – and pay for it – at least 30 minutes before the screening. If you don't, you might lose your booking. We take cash or card and you choose what to pay for the day ticket from £0-£12.

What does it mean if it says a screening is 'sold out' on the website?

It means all the advance seats have been sold – but the other half will still be available to book on the door, so do come down to Heart and check! If all the on-the-door seats for a screening get sold too, we'll post on our socials about it, so please keep an eye out.

Will you have a waiting list for sold-out screenings?

Yes. You can add your name to the waiting list on the door, and if any advance bookers or pass-holders don't pick up their seats, they'll be allocated to people on the waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis.

When do seat reservations become available on the door?

At the start of each day – so for example, when you turn up on Saturday morning, you can get seats for everything that's showing on Saturday. We take cash or card and you choose what to pay for the day ticket from £0-£12. A day ticket includes screenings of all films that day.

What if I have a festival pass?

We offer a limited number of full 5-day passes. This includes entry to all films (including the opening night) and the karaoke party. But just like with other advance bookings, you must come and pick up your seat reservations in person at least 30 minutes before the screening. If you don't, you might lose your booking. You can collect all your seats at once when you first arrive at the festival.

Passes are available on a sliding scale from £30-£50 from The Bookish Type's website.

Can I reserve a specific seat?

Yes, if you have access requirements: let us know when you arrive, and we'll let you into each screening a few minutes early so you can get the type/position of seat you need. Otherwise, for non-access-related reasons, seating is first-come, first-served.

Can you squeeze a few extras in at the last minute, pleeeeeease?

Probably not this year! The space (and fire regs) at Heart is a bit tighter than it was at CLAY, so we're not gonna have any completely packed screenings this year – please plan accordingly.

How do tickets work for the opening night?

Tickets for Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story are available to purchase in advance at hph.co.uk or on the door. This screening takes place at Hyde Park Picture House and all tickets are on a sliding scale starting from £0.

FOOD AND DRINK

This year, our hosts at Heart and Hyde Park Picture House both have cafes, which we encourage you to enjoy.

Throughout the festival we will also be serving vegan hot meals, snacks and cake at low prices.

Cash or card payments accepted.





Thanks to Bracken Devlin for illustrations

With thanks to our friends and supporters:

