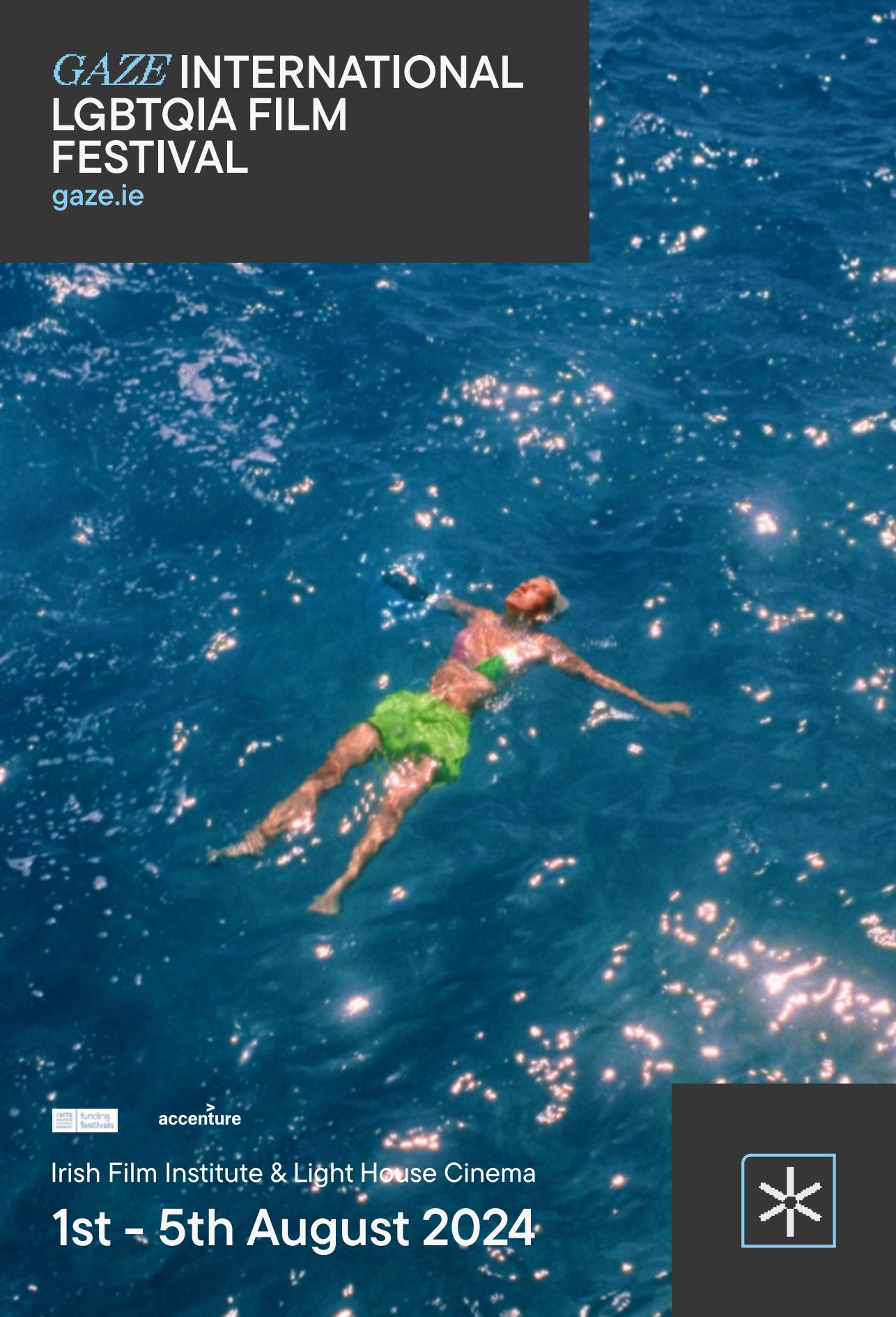


# *GAZE* INTERNATIONAL LGBTQIA FILM FESTIVAL

[gaze.ie](http://gaze.ie)



accenture

Irish Film Institute & Light House Cinema

**1st - 5th August 2024**





## Pride means more

Pride means rejoicing in who we are, living by our own truth and making all our lives more fulfilled. Pride shows us that when we support each other, everything is possible. Together, let's celebrate the value in everyone.

[accenture.com/Pride](http://accenture.com/Pride)

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# Director's Welcome

GREG THORPE

**On behalf of the board of GAZE,  
I'm fiercely proud and buzzing  
with excitement to introduce you  
to this year's festival programme.**

We invite artists, audiences, friends and supporters to join us for five days and nights of bright lights and adventures in the dark. This is an exciting year of growth and development for Ireland's LGBTQIA film festival. Our visionary Festival Director Greg Thorpe continues to seek out the best Irish and international queer cinema to thrill, challenge and provoke you. We are delighted to welcome our new Festival Manager Sam Ahern as well as an expanded team of brilliant and dynamic festival-makers: it's an honour to be working with them all and you can look forward to getting to know them during the festival. We issued an open call for new board members last year, and received an overwhelming response, which reminded us how important GAZE is to our community. We've been joined by eight new board members who bring a diverse range of arts, film industry, education, financial, legal and media experience: it's a great pleasure to be working with them all and I know GAZE is in strong hands for the years to come.

Our long-standing partnership with lead sponsor Accenture goes from strength to strength. They have become great friends and extraordinary colleagues: we are hugely grateful for their increased support this year and excited to be partnering together in new ways and around the country. At the beating heart of GAZE is a commitment to finding new audiences for the best new Irish film, and supporting a new generation of LGBTQIA film-making talent. We are delighted to welcome Screen Ireland and National Talent Academies as major new supporters for 2024, enabling a dynamic expansion of our artist and audience development activities.

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# Chairperson's Welcome

TOM CREED

We are grateful for the Arts Council's continued support. This year, they have made a particular commitment to making GAZE more accessible by enabling a relaxed screening of our Irish Shorts. This screening will feature live Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpretation, open captions and a relaxed environment for festival-goers. We are also implementing other initiatives to increase access for our audiences such as easy-read and large text documents. We are also delighted to develop and grow our partnership with Press Up and The Dean, who provide great hospitality for us and our festival guests. There are many other sponsors, funders and partners who ensure we can continue to support new artists, reach new audiences, and connect with the LGBTQIA community in all its diversity. I want to thank our long-standing Festival Friends as well as everyone who will become a Friend this year for the first time: your dedication as supporters and audiences is a crucial part of who we are.

This year we remember and pay tribute to Edmund Lynch, a great friend of the festival and a trailblazing Irish LGBTQIA pioneer. We miss him and we will celebrate his life and achievements with a screening of his film *A Different Country* during the festival. Huge thanks and best wishes to the whole festival team including Greg, Sam, James, Samuel, Jack, Patrick, Mayra, Conleth and Jenny, as well as all our festival volunteers, and the brilliant staff of our partner venues Irish Film Institute and Light House Cinema. And a huge thanks to the filmmakers and audiences: you're the reason we keep doing this, and we hope you find much to enjoy and inspire in this year's festival.

**Let's get ready to GAZE.**

**Hello friends, and welcome to  
the GAZE International LGBTQIA  
Film Festival 2024.**

It's a big one! This year we present 25 international features and 10 eclectic shorts programmes over five days, including Irish, European and World Premieres. We have masterclass conversations with filmmakers, actors, musicians and gamers. We present forgotten gay artists, lesbians from Lesbos, trans women on the catwalk, and trans guys in the sauna. We celebrate Black queer artistry, Bollywood musicals, and old lesbians. We bring you a bisexual music icon, a nude beach, a drag dramedy and queer cheerleaders. We interrogate taboos and we celebrate resistance. We also offer a workshop for film critics, a get-together for festival-goers and filmmakers, four parties (at the last count), a brand new ticketing system for festival bundles and offers, and of course world class cinema from end to end.

We've an incredibly talented team at the helm to bring you this year's event, so let me say thank you and welcome to new Festival Manager Sam Ahern, new Marketing Manager Jack O'Dea, and new Festival Intern, Mayra Xavier. Your commitment, excellence and imagination has re-ignited our enthusiasm. Thank you also to Assistant Programmer James Hudson for consistently unearthing cinematic treasure, and Samuel Foxton who has been with GAZE for over ten incredible years. Samuel not only makes sure we secure 100+ pristine cinema files to enjoy every year, but he is also the talented artist behind our stunning annual festival trailer. Thank you Samuel.

We've also expanded our Board of Trustees, welcoming an amazing team of individuals dedicated to strengthening and future-proofing this great festival. We are lucky to have all of you and I give you each my heartfelt gratitude. There has been sad news too since our last get-together. In October, GAZE lost a dear friend

and Ireland lost an icon and trail-blazer when the irrepressible and irreplaceable Edmund Lynch sadly died. We honour Ed's memory at this year's festival with a screening of his ground-breaking documentary, *A Different Country*, where his work and legacy will be remembered and celebrated. Aside from being at the forefront of queer cinema, the most rewarding thing about directing a film festival is sharing the platform through collaboration. This year we have a plethora of partnerships; some new, others longstanding; bringing comradeship, diversity and community to our programme. A huge GAZE thank you to Queer Spectrum Film Festival, Sporting Pride, Iris Prize, Leathermen of Ireland, Small Trans Library Dublin, aemi, Gay Health Network, TENI, Bealtaine Festival, and Queer Cinema For Palestine.

Above all we have a renewed sense of vigour and excitement to share all things cutting-edge, challenging and fun from the world of LGBTQIA cinema with you, our audience.

This is my third year directing GAZE and it has been a genuine privilege and adventure from the very beginning. Only last summer, Ed Lynch – always the committed GAZE supporter – spoke in one of our workshops.

**'Don't forget that you can change the culture,'** he reminded us.

**So let's do that, and let's change it for the better. We'll see you in the cinema.**

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# Accenture's Welcome

ENDA KING



**As the lead sponsor of the GAZE International Film Festival, we're very proud to support the LGBTQIA community both in the workplace and in our local communities.**

At Accenture, we proudly support our people to bring their authentic selves to work each and every day and we're delighted to support GAZE in shining a light on these thought-provoking, inspiring and entertaining stories that champion inclusion and diversity. It is through film, storytelling & conversation that we break down barriers and ensure everyone is seen, heard & valued.

*Enda King,  
Executive Sponsor,  
Pride Network at Accenture in Ireland*

## Vanguard Award

2024

**At GAZE 2024 we are proud to present the Vanguard Award to writer, director and producer, Andrew Haigh.**

Andrew's work, both in and out of the field of queer narrative, has re-set the bar for contemporary storytelling in film. Honing his craft over the past two decades, working in shorts, documentary, television, and feature films, Andrew has shown the true artist's propensity for detail, emotion, and the strangeness of life. His work brings a frank and honest artistry to portraying the lives of the queer community in particular, from the cautious heart-break of *Weekend*'s brief encounter, to the thrilling urban ensemble that was TV's *Looking*, right up to *All Of Us Strangers*, a meditation on loneliness, love and lost chances that has touched the hearts of movie-goers across the world.

We were thrilled to host Andrew Haigh for the premiere of *All Of Us Strangers* earlier this year, and we are so excited to share that Andrew Haigh will return in person for our August festival. Andrew will be in conversation following a screening of *All Of Us Strangers* at the Irish Film Institute, hosted by friend and collaborator, Russell Tovey. Their conversation will be followed by an audience Q&A, so come prepared with your masterclass questions! In addition, Andrew will host his own conversation with the makers of the moving documentary, *Life Is Excellent*, portraying the life and work of the artist, David Robillard, where Andrew will be joined by the filmmakers Russell Tovey, Joe Ingham and Susie Hall.

*We can't wait to see you there.*

## Box Office TICKET PRICES

### OPENING & CLOSING GALA

Tickets €20

### IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

Standard €14

Concession €11

### LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

Standard €14

Concession €11

### FESTIVAL PASS

€175

*All tickets will include a booking fee.*

### TICKET BOOKINGS

All tickets can be purchased through [gaze.ie](http://gaze.ie)

### GAZE ONLINE

A selection of this year's cinema offering will be available online to viewers throughout Ireland. Visit [gaze.ie](http://gaze.ie) to find out more and to book.

# GAZE Jury

2024

**Every year the jury is made up of industry and arts professionals and key community figures. The award winners will be announced at our Closing Gala on Monday, 5th August at the Light House Cinema.**



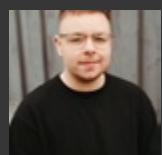
## Venus Patel

Venus Patel is a transfemme artist of colour working in film and performance. Her art practice stems from her lived experience as an “other”, navigating societal roles of conformity, and its effect on Queer and POC bodily suppression. In 2022, her experimental short film, *Eggshells*, won the Taylor Art Award (RDS). Her first solo exhibition, *Monsters of the Apocalypse*, opened last year at Pallas Projects. Patel’s work has been exhibited at the Complex, Butler Gallery, and the Crawford Art Gallery alongside film festivals across Ireland, the UK, Germany, and the US.



## Murky Anyango

Murky Anyango is a filmmaker and musician creating films about the trans experience. She graduated from the BCFE Animation course, which shaped her belief that every frame should be a unique painting. Currently, she is concentrating on merging different forms of cinema to create mixed media films capable of depicting experiences in the most honest way possible. Her work has been exhibited in The Complex, Pallas Projects, The Glucksman, and Butler Gallery.



## Caleb J. Roberts

Caleb J. Roberts is a queer-trans screenwriter, director, and arts programmer from Belfast. His work has been recognized at the Galway Film Fleadh, Iris Prize and BFI London Film Festival. He has also received distribution with Film4. Caleb is an alumni of the NETWORK@LFF Talent Cohort 2023, X-Pollinator 2024, and is Producer/Programmer at the Outburst Queer Arts Festival.



**starGAZE is a unique professional development initiative to support six emerging LGBTQIA filmmakers.**

It will provide a platform for LGBTQIA talent through an internationally recognised film festival with access to Irish and international creatives, with the ambition to increase the number of Irish LGBTQIA stories on screen and showcase the next generation of Irish queer and trans voices. starGAZE will accept applications from LGBTQIA people of all backgrounds, particularly encouraging applicants from the global majority, trans and non-binary people, people from working-class communities, the Travelling community, people with disabilities and all equity-seeking individuals facing additional challenges within the film industry.

## Eligibility Criteria

- » Have written, produced or directed a short film which has screened at a recognised Irish or international film festival within the last 3 years, or has screened at a number of international LGBTQIA film festivals, or that has been broadcast on an Irish or international network or streaming service.
- » Note: If your film has not screened at a recognised festival but has received specific recognition from LGBTQIA communities or platforms we encourage you to reach out to [info@gaze.ie](mailto:info@gaze.ie) for further discussion.
- » Or, for writers only: have one piece of full-length theatre work performed professionally in Ireland or one professional radio credit.
- » Be working towards a debut feature-length project or television pilot/online commission.
- » Be an Irish resident.

## Aims

- » To offer LGBTQIA filmmakers access to senior Irish and international creative talent able to guide emerging filmmakers at crucial points in their careers.
- » To raise the profile of LGBTQIA filmmakers by platforming them at the 2024 festival.
- » To offer participants a year-long mentorship programme, for consistent and meaningful support from senior LGBTQIA filmmakers.
- » To offer participants access to unique talks, screenings and networking events at the festival and year-round.

*starGAZE applications will be announced on our website and social media channels in July. Supported by the National Talent Academies.*

# Queer Spectrum

FILM FESTIVAL



**2024 marks an exciting new chapter as Queer Asian Pride Ireland (QAPI) and the Queer Spectrum Film Festival join forces with the GAZE International LGBTQIA Film Festival.**

As the founder of QAPI, I believe this collaboration is a significant milestone in our journey of cultural activism. Since moving to Dublin twelve years ago, I have witnessed remarkable transformations in Irish queer culture. As an immigrant queer artist, I've long admired GAZE's contributions to this dynamic cultural landscape. Cinema, especially queer cinema, is a powerful medium for storytelling, educating society, preserving evolving cultural dialogues, and empowering activism. GAZE has been a profound inspiration, fueling my passion for film-making and expanding my artistic horizons.

In Spring 2024, QAPI and the Queer Spectrum Film Festival proudly hosted Ireland's inaugural film festival dedicated to LGBTQIA narratives from around the globe. Queer Spectrum Film Festival was greatly encouraged by Greg, who shared invaluable films from GAZE's archive.

With the GAZE partnership, we plan to take the Queer Spectrum Film Festival across Ireland. This year's GAZE+QSFF collaboration will showcase two feature-length films, *The Queen Of My Dreams* and *Riptide*, along with the groundbreaking documentary *India's First Best Trans Model Agency*. Three short films, *The Lime Green Shirt*, *Halfway*, and *Marigold* will be featured.

Like many European countries, Ireland is making strides towards better understanding and acknowledging the immigrant LGBTQIA and QPoC community. Yet, this journey has many challenges in Ireland. For the Asian LGBTQIA community in Ireland, underrepresentation in community discourse, art, and academia often leads to the unique issues faced by Asian LGBTQIA individuals being overlooked. That makes cultural activism and artistic collaborations essential to harvest inclusion. The collaboration between GAZE and QSFF is a vital step towards acknowledging and celebrating the exceptional contributions of the Asian LGBTQIA community. QAPI and QSFF are thrilled about this venture and the positive impact it will have on Irish queer culture.

**Pradeep Mahadeshwar, Co-Organiser Queer Spectrum Film Festival**

# Friends

WITH BENEFITS

**In our fourth decade, GAZE continues to bring strangers and friends together for breathtaking, mind-bending and life-affirming cinematic experiences.**

The support of our Festival Friends is a crucial contributor to our annual gathering, and on behalf of the festival board, staff, sponsors and audience we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who's been a Friend in the past or is thinking of coming on board this year. Sign up now and ensure we can continue to support filmmakers and audiences for years to come.

## **FESTIVAL FRIEND €130**

Your Festival Friend package includes:

- » One ticket for both our Opening and Closing Gala films plus pre-film receptions.
- » Two complimentary tickets during the festival\*
- » Recognition on screen and on our website.
- » Invitations to exclusive Festival Friends events.

## **DOUBLE FRIEND €200**

All the benefits of the Festival Friends package plus:

- » An extra ticket to bring a friend, partner or date to both our Opening and Closing Gala films.
- » Two additional complimentary tickets during the festival\*
- » Recognition on screen and on our website
- » Invitations to exclusive Festival Friends events.

## **BEST FESTIVAL FRIEND €350**

All the benefits of the Double Friend package plus:

- » A Festival Pass which gives you complimentary ticket to every screening you want to see during the festival\*
- » Access all areas! Your support gets you access to all in-person online screenings and invitations to special events throughout the festival.

*\*Tickets must be booked in advance to ensure availability, including special events.*

# SPECIAL EVENTS

GAZE 2024

## Special Events, Guests, Workshops and Parties.

This year at GAZE we have assembled more special events, talks, parties and cute dates than ever before. Opening the fest with blood, sweat and cheerleaders, BACKSPOT director D.W. Waterson will perform a **DJ set** after their film screening to get us in the mood to GAZE all weekend.

Join us on Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings of the festival for **Café au GAZE**, where we will invite attending artists, filmmakers and industry professionals of the festival to talk about their practice and to share behind-the-scenes stories from their work. Each morning will be hosted by a local LGBTQIA filmmaker and Festival Director Greg Thorpe. This series is not to be missed by the artists, the film lovers and those of us who love to hear the gossip. This year we are calling on aspiring or established film critics to join us for a **Film Critic's Workshop** to hone your reflective skills and write critically about contemporary queer cinema. As Hollywood grapples with diversity, the accompanying art form of film criticism also faces issues of representation, as the vast majority of professional film critics are straight, white men. Our Film Critics Workshop explores the role of the film critic, explains the vital need for queer criticism to both support the work of LGBTQIA filmmakers and illuminate queer cinema for readers, and features some workshop elements for aspiring film writers.

We have two exhibitions at the Light House cinema including work by both Brian Teeling and the Halloween collective featuring Hazel Coonagh, Gerry Lee, Áine Macken and Gabriel Marques. Come for a goo or support your local GAZE by purchasing an original artwork. And finally, this year we are plotting **GAZE After Dark** – for those who like to party... we've got you covered. We're working with partner venues and local artists to bring you a very special programme of events. Follow us to keep up to date with the latest announcements.

*We've got more to announce but the schedule of special events is below:*

## THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST

### 20:00 | Backspot | Light House Cinema, Screen 1 |

Director D.W. Waterson will be in attendance for an introduction to the film, followed by a DJ set.

## FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST

### 17:30 | Irish Shorts | Irish Film Institute, Cinema 1 |

There will be a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers.

### 18:00 | TOPS | Light House Cinema, Screen 3 |

There will be a post-screening Q&A with director Ames Pennington, cast Oskar Marchock, Daire Dempsey (TEN!) hosted by Sasha De Buyl (ILFD).

## SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST

### 11:30 | Café au GAZE | Venue TBC |

A morning in-conversation with special guests of GAZE.

### 13:10 | Ursa Minor: Shorts Presented by aemi | Light House Cinema, Screen 3 |

There will be a post-screening Q&A with filmmakers.

## SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST

### 11:30 | Café au GAZE | Venue TBC |

A morning in-conversation with guests of GAZE.

### 13:45 | Irish Shorts: Access Screening | Light House Cinema, Screen 4 |

This will be a relaxed screening with Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpreters, integrated captions, dim lighting, reduced volume, and a welcoming environment where audience members are free to move, express themselves, and take breaks as needed.

### 15:20 | TABOO Shorts | Irish Film Institute Cinema 2 |

There will be a post-screening discussion.

### 16:00 | Life Is Excellent | Irish Film Institute, Cinema 1 |

There will be a post-screening conversation featuring Russell Tovey, producer Susie Hall, director Joe Ingham and this year's Vanguard Award winner Andrew Haigh.

### 18:00 | All Of Us Strangers | Irish Film Institute, Cinema 1 |

There will be a post-screening in-conversation with Andrew Haigh and Russell Tovey, plus an extended audience Q&A session.

### 18:15 | Darklands: Are you ready to go deep? | Irish Film Institute, Cinema 2 |

There will be a post-screening Q&A with director Roland Javronik and special guests the Leathemen of Ireland.

### 20:30 | Axé Shorts | Light House Cinema, Screen 1 |

Featuring guest performances from David McAlmont, David Amado and more to be announced.

## MONDAY 5TH AUGUST

### 11:30 | Café au GAZE | Venue TBC |

A morning in-conversation with guests of GAZE.

### 13:00 | A Different Country | Irish Film Institute, Cinema 1 |

We are honoured to present this screening with our Festival Friends, of whom Edmund Lynch was a proud member, and we welcome anyone who would like to remember Ed's life and work with a few words after the screening.

### 15:30 | Photo Booth | Light House Cinema, Screen 1 |

Plus post-screening conversation.

### 20:00 | Close To You | Light House Cinema, Screen 1 |

Join us for our Closing Gala.

# Exhibitions

AT GAZE

**his year, we have partnered with Dublin-based artists to showcase queer art inspired by the GAZE programme.**

The exhibiting work will feature at the Light House Cinema from Monday 29th July to Monday 5th August. Read more about the artists and their work below.

## Brian Teeling

Brian Teeling is an Irish multi-disciplinary artist living and working in Dublin. He has no fine art qualifications and is entirely self-taught. Recent achievements include becoming an associate artist with theatre group THISISPOPBABY (2024), an acquisition with The Arts Council of his work Declan Flynn in Dublin (2023), and the release of his third book in the glow of a frozen flame with Jennie Taylor and Crawford Art Gallery, Cork (2024).

For this edition of GAZE, Brian will be looking at the photographic archive of Christopher Robson (1941 – 2013) at the National Library of Ireland. This collection documents the early years of LGBTQ+ activism, pre and post-decriminalisation, and an intimate portrayal of a life well lived by such an important activist.

## Halokween

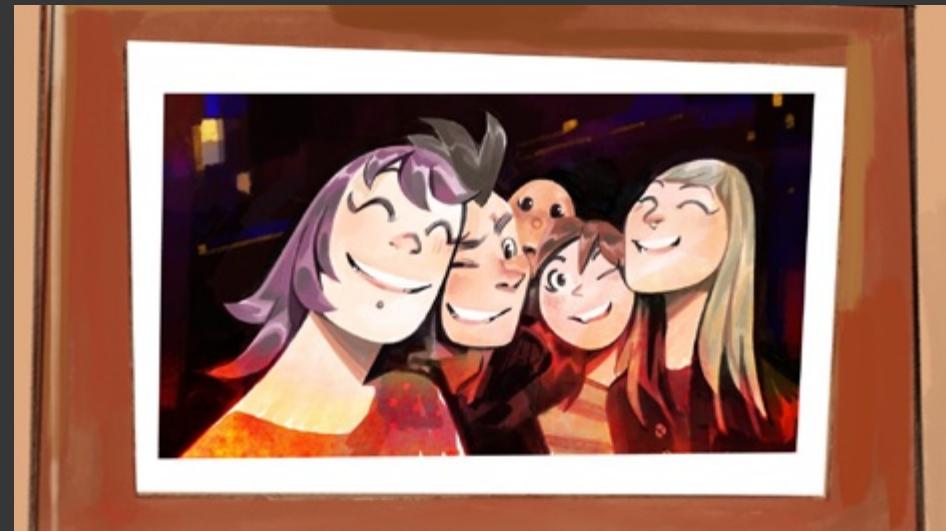
Established in October 2022, the Halokween Collective is a group of visual artists, messers and friends. Consisting of Hazel Coonagh, Gerry Lee, Áine Macken and Gabriel Marques, they have covered many themes in past exhibitions ranging from Irish mythology, fantasy, sexuality, horror, tarot, witchery and identity.

From watercolour paintings, and fantastical illustrations to esoteric drawing and photographic portraiture, each of the artists has a unique style. All pieces exhibited will have queer cinema at their heart and core – the perfect accompaniment for your film at the Light House Cinema.

# Volunteer

OPEN CALL

*there's a light (Unreal Shorts)*



**Our Volunteers are the everyday family members of our community.**

Mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, grandmothers, friends, mentors, lovers or sponsors - found in all ages, occupations, identities & backgrounds, generously lending themselves to staffing various departments and venues for the festival period. Their passion can be felt everywhere from the lobbies welcoming the patrons, to assisting with back-of-house duties with the festival venues and marketing and production roles, to liaising with our guests in hospitality. The Family That Plays Together, Stays Together!

Volunteering is more than just a fantastic way to experience the cinematic celebration that the festival brings to Dublin each year, but it presents a chance for those involved to become a 'community' that evolves far beyond the dates of the festival into the social and professional circles of The Arts & LGBTQIA Scene. At GAZE we support you for being you, your choice, your journey, and your right to be yourself regardless of social or familial barriers – we count ourselves and the volunteering programme as one of the vital step stones for you to meet like-minded fellow peers who you can share your experiences, knowledge and questions with.

At GAZE we look out for each other and bring the best that you can be out in you. If you're interested in volunteering with GAZE then contact us at [info@gaze.ie](mailto:info@gaze.ie).

**You must be over 18 to apply.**

# GAZE On Tour

PRESENTED IN PROUD PARTNERSHIP  
WITH CORK PRIDE.



**Cork welcomes us once again into its loving arms this year, as GAZE returns to Cork LGBT+ Pride Festival with a selection of our most heartwarming and eye-opening queer cinema.**

Our feature festival pick this year is Corey Sherman's *Big Boys*, one of the most lovable, smart and authentic gay comedies in years. Following fat queer kid Jamie (Isaac Krasner) on a supremely awkward and enlightening camping trip as he grapples with a newfound attraction to his cousin's boyfriend, *Big Boys* is a coming-of-age comedy sure to delight gays of all shapes and sizes.

There's a delightfully diverse mix in our Irish shorts selection with rekindled romances and tender first loves, a reality-bending odyssey into a new queer religion, and experimental documentaries bringing marginalised voices to the forefront of Irish queer culture. Featuring two short films screened by our 2024 partners Queer Spectrum Film Festival—*Skin to Skin Talks* and *Daisy: Prophet of the Apocalypse*—this block brings some big and beautiful ideas about Ireland's forgotten past, challenging present, and fantastical future.

**Skin To Skin Talks / Dir. Pradeep Mahadeshwar / Ireland / 2023 / 12m**  
**Behind My Drag Queen / Dir. Leonardo Oliveira / Ireland / 2023 / 14m**  
**Three Wishes / Dir. Will McConnell / Ireland / 2022 / 10m**  
**Daisy: Prophet of the Apocalypse / Dir. Venus Patel / Ireland / 2023 / 20m**  
**Late Bloomers / Dir. Sam Ahern / Ireland / 2023 / 9m**  
**New Threads / Dir. Elspeth Vischer / Ireland / 2023 / 6m**  
**Portaloo / Dir. Michael David McKernan / Ireland / 2023 / 9m**

## Accessibility

### AT GAZE 2024

**GAZE is dedicated to fostering a space where audiences can comfortably celebrate queer cinema.**

This year, we are excited to introduce a second screening of Irish Shorts with access elements. This will be a relaxed screening with Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpreters, integrated captions, dim lighting, reduced volume, and a welcoming environment where audience members are free to move, express themselves, and take breaks as needed.

To ensure an inclusive and accessible experience for attendees, GAZE is committed to removing barriers that might prevent individuals from participating in the Festival. We will be producing easy read documents with plain language, short sentences, and a clear structure. Large text documents will also be available for people with visual impairments. Our website has been re-built from the ground up, and is now fully compliant with WCAG accessibility guidelines.

A block of priority seating has been allocated for audience members who wish to be closer to the ISL interpreters. If you rely on ISL, please purchase an 'ISL Priority' ticket, and a member of staff will direct you to your seat at the event.

**The New Irish Shorts Access Screening will take place on Sunday 4th August at Light House Cinema Screen 4 at 13:45.**

## Thursday 1st August 2024

<b>Opening Gala</b>	Light House Cinema	Bar	19:00
<b>Backspot</b>	Light House Cinema	Screen 1	20:00

## Friday 2nd August 2024

<b>New Irish Shorts</b>	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	17:30
<b>TOPS</b> & Layered Identities	Light House Cinema	Screen 3	18:00
<b>Hidden Master:</b> Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 2	18:15
<b>Solo</b> & Izzy Aman	Light House Cinema	Screen 1	20:20
<b>Teaches of Peaches</b> & Lavender Outlaws & Stare	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	20:20
<b>Riptide</b> & Halfway	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 2	20:40

## Saturday 3rd August 2024

<b>Café au GAZE</b>	TBC		11:30
<b>Big Boys</b> & Concrete Heart	Light House Cinema	Screen 2	13:00
<b>Ursa Minor</b> Short Films Presented by aemi	Light House Cinema	Screen 3	13:10
<b>Scala!!!</b> & Robert & Georgie	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 2	13:10
<b>Break The Game</b> & ALEXX196 & the pink sand beach	Light House Cinema	Screen 3	15:30
<b>The Queen Of My Dreams</b> & Lime Green Shirt	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	15:30
<b>The Summer With Carmen</b> & Pansy of Pickadee	Light House Cinema	Screen 1	18:00
<b>Rivière</b> & Unnamed	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	18:00
<b>Unreal</b> Short Films	Light House Cinema	Screen 3	18:15
<b>Desire Lines</b> & Skin	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	20:40
<b>She Is Conann</b> & éabha	Light House Cinema	Screen 3	20:45
<b>Breakthrough</b> Short Films	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 2	20:50

## Sunday 4th August 2024

<b>Café au GAZE</b>	TBC		11:30
<b>Milestones</b> Short Films	Light House Cinema	Screen 2	13:30
<b>Old Lesbians</b> Short Films	Light House Cinema	Screen 3	13:30
<b>New Irish Shorts</b> Access Screening	Light House Cinema	Screen 4	13:45
<b>India's First Best Trans Model Agency</b> & Marigold	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	13:45
<b>Taboo</b> Short Films	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 2	15:20
<b>Lesvia</b> & Stella	Light House Cinema	Screen 2	16:00
<b>Iris Loves</b> Short Films Presented by Iris Prize	Light House Cinema	Screen 4	16:00
<b>Life Is Excellent</b>	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	16:00
<b>All Of Us Strangers</b>	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	18:00
<b>Darklands</b> & Krush The Wrestler	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 2	18:15
<b>Axé</b> Short Films Honouring Black Queer Artistry	Light House Cinema	Screen 1	20:30
<b>Drifter</b> & Castling	Light House Cinema	Screen 2	21:00

## Monday 5th August 2024

<b>Café au GAZE</b>	TBC		11:30
<b>Resistance</b> Short Films	Light House Cinema	Screen 3	12:30
<b>A Different Country</b> & Stonewall Postal Action Network	Irish Film Institute	Cinema 1	13:00
<b>Reas</b> & Club Chrome: Fxckery	Light House Cinema	Screen 2	14:30
<b>Photo Booth</b> & Sultana's Reign	Light House Cinema	Screen 1	15:30
<b>Closing Gala</b>	Light House Cinema	Bar	19:00
<b>Close To You</b> & Awards Ceremony	Light House Cinema	Screen 1	20:00

# THURSDAY

## 1ST AUGUST 2024

Never Kill A Femboy  
On The First Date  
(Taboo Shorts)



## BACKSPOT

FEATURE + director intro + DJ set

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 1

20:00



### Thursday 1st August

Dir. D.W. Waterson  
Canada/ 2023  
1h 33m

Are you ready for the greatest queer cheerleader adventure since *But I'm A Cheerleader*? You've come to the right place. We are majorly excited to open GAZE 2024 with D.W. Waterson's thrill-a-minute lesbian cheer squad drama, *Backspot*. We are additionally honoured that director D.W. will be with us in person to introduce the film for our Opening Gala, presented in partnership with our friends at Sporting Pride.

Cheerleader Riley (Devery Jacobs) has the chance to cheer for famous all-star squad, Thunderhawks, but she must also navigate her panic attacks, and manage her intense relationship with fellow cheerleader girlfriend Amanda (Kudakwashe Rutendo), all under the watchful eye of their take-no-prisoners Coach McNamara, played to smouldering perfection by Evan Rachel Wood. Queer girls rule the roost,

competition is fierce, and female friendships are stretched to breaking in this rollercoaster ride through a world of sporting excellence. The camerawork is incredible, the closing cheer routine, filmed all in one continuous shot, is going to take your breath away. Executive Produced by Elliot Page, the film makes a neat bookend with our Closing Gala to usher in a new generation of LGBTQIA film-making talent.

*Presented in partnership with Sporting Pride*

*Director D.W. Waterson will be in attendance for an introduction to the film, followed by a DJ set.*

**Writers:** Joanne Sarazen, D.W. Waterson

**Producers:** Devery Jacobs, Martin Katz, Finley MacNeil, Alona Metzer, D.W. Waterson

**FRIDAY**  
**2ND AUGUST**  
2024



Club Chrome: Fxckery (Reas)

## NEW IRISH SHORTS

SHORT FILMS + Q&A

17:30

**Friday 2nd August**  
**Irish Film Institute**  
**Cinema 1**  
**1hr 49m + Q&A**

Irish shorts are the beating heart of GAZE, and as always we have spread them throughout our programme in various shorts blocks and pre-feature slots. The six films screened as part of New Irish Shorts represent the breadth of Ireland's film-making talent, concerning lesbian desire, parenthood, drag, HIV, and Gaeilge as a secret sapphic love-language. We are honoured to welcome some of the makers with us for a post-show conversation, so please join us. This year, we are excited to introduce a second screening of Irish Shorts with access elements.

*There will be a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers.*

### **This Is Not An Attack On Your Parenting**

*Rory Fleck Byrne/ Ireland/ 2024/ 19m*

A mother and her gay adult son, who has recently suffered a breakdown, explore their opposing views on parenting.

**Writer:** Rory Fleck Byrne

**Producers:** Killian Casey, Philip Emo

### **Homofónia**

*Luke K. Murphy/ Ireland/ 2023/ 11m*

As their Debs application deadline approaches, a closeted couple sort their domestic issues as Gaeilge, to prevent their classmates from knowing they're an item. However, translation issues leave their relationship in jeopardy.

**Writers:** Alana Daly Mulligan, Luke K. Murphy

**Producer:** Alana Daly Mulligan

### **Concerned**

*Hazel McGuire, Jenny Roche/ Ireland/ 2024/ 13m*

Concerned ponders the gap between public 'concern' around gender, identity, child and

parent roles, and the private reality of those who are actually concerned; gender nonconforming people and their families – all told through the filmmakers' own personal daughter/mother relationship.

**Writers:** Hazel McGuire, Jenny Roche

**Producers:** Hazel McGuire, Jenny Roche

### **Terratoma**

*Liadán Roche/ Ireland/ 2024/ 24m*

A trans woman tries to recreate a traumatic relationship for a film project.

**Writer:** Liadán Roche

**Producer:** Molly Donnery

### **Spins, Splits, Stories**

*Alan Power/ Ireland/ 2024/ 5m*

Leon Pinto, a singer and pole dancer from Australia, shares his personal story of growing up in Australia and Ireland, culminating in a captivating performance at The George. A film that invites you to take a moment and revel in his raw and heartfelt recollection.

**Writer:** Alan Power

### **Dirty Talk**

*Eva Wyse/ Ireland/ 2024/ 15m*

On the quest for intimacy in the middle of a global pandemic, Tar and Anna meet for the first time in the hopes of having a socially distanced hook up. No touching, just (attempted) dirty talk.

**Writer:** Madi O'Carroll

**Producer:** Danilo Zambrano

### **Pregnant with a Drag Queen**

*Colin Brady/ Ireland/ 2024/ 22m*

Pregnant with a Drag Queen unfolds the journey of how Enda McGrattan, growing up as a queer person in 1990s Dublin, unlocked something within themselves by giving birth to the vibrant drag persona Veda. Sharing their transformative experiences on a live TV chat show, Enda contends with a sceptical host before the show is suddenly derailed by the most beautiful woman in the world... in their price range.

**Writer:** Colin Brady

**Producer:** Steve Sheehy

# TOPS

FEATURE + Q&A

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 3

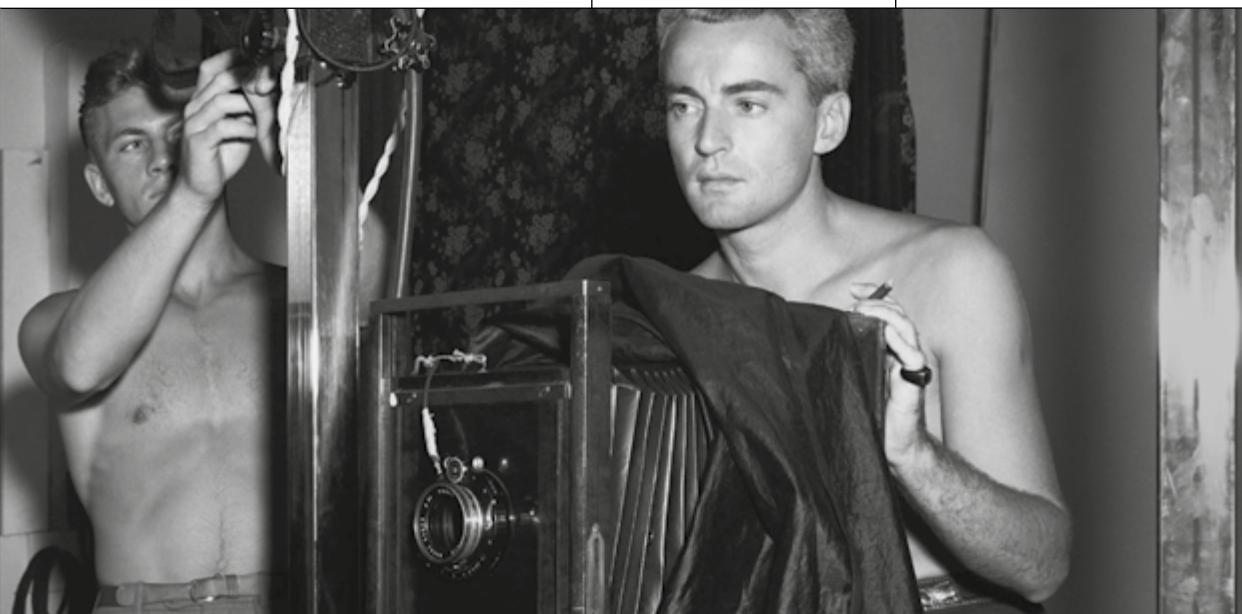
18:00

# HIDDEN MASTER: The Legacy of George Platt Lynes

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 2

18:15



## Friday 2nd August

Dirs. Ames Pennington, Jos Bitelli

UK/ 2023

1hr 10m + in-conversation

*TOPS* is a genre-busting documentary exploring the diversity of contemporary trans masc experiences. Fun, clever, heartfelt and satirical, *TOPS* offers a brilliant pastiche of chaotic, brash, self-deprecating and clueless 1990s/2000s British reality TV. Four interviewees share intimate stories with our invasive, neurotic and yet loveable director/host Ames Pennington. Guests include a powerlifter and Gay Games Olympian, a housing-officer-turned-actor, an Essex filmmaker, and an EDI specialist-slash-occasional model. *TOPS* makes space for conversations around the vulnerability of top surgery with those who've been there, in a gorgeous celebration of trans masc identity. Yes, your nipples might fall off but you can still have a lol, yeah?

*Sasha De Buyl (ILFD) will host a post-screening Q&A with Ames Pennington and Oskar Marchock of TOPS, and Daire Dempsey of TENI.*

*Presented in proud partnership with TENI.*

**Writer:** Ames Pennington  
**Producer:** Archie Sinclair

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Layered Identities: Intersectionality and LGBT+ rights

*Isolde Godfrey, Jess Harvey/ UK/ 2022/6m*

LGBT+ activists from around the world share what intersectionality means to them.

**Artists:** May Kindred-Boothby, Temujen Gunawardena, Saffron Cann, Isolde Godfrey

## Friday 2nd August

Dir. Sam Shahid

USA/ 2022

1hr 35m

George Platt Lynes is the brilliant American gay photographer you've almost certainly never heard of. By day, Lynes was one of the most sought after celebrity and fashion editorial photographers of his day, but through the rest of his creative life he documented gay men from the 1930s to the 1950s with a breadth of artistry that places him amongst the truly great American photographers. His stunning images come to the big screen for the first time in this five star documentary.

A friend of Gertrude Stein and Alfred Kinsey, and a key figure of the New York scene, the film explores just how such a treasure trove of queer imagery could have almost been lost, and imagines what's inside the one remaining box of materials marked DO NOT OPEN. A feast for the eyes and a fascinating journey into gay history,

*Hidden Master* will put George Platt Lynes in the pantheon of greats where he belongs.

**Writer:** Sam Shahid  
**Producers:** Matthew Kraus, Nando de Carvalho, John MacConnell

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens

*Kristal Sotomayor/ USA/ 2023/9m*

Paying homage to the legendary Mother Cavallucci, this short documentary weaves together present and past to provide a striking portrait of belonging, memory, and the legacy of Joseph "Josie" Cavallucci in modern day America.

**Producers:** Kristal Sotomayor, Nic Cory, Daniel Brooks

# SOLO

FEATURE

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 1

20:20

# TEACHES OF PEACHES

FEATURE

CINEMA 1

20:20



## Friday 2nd August

Dir. Sophie Dupuis  
Canada/ 2023  
1hr 41m

Théodore Pellerin stars as Simon, a drag queen on the up in Montreal who is drawn into a passionate but complex romance with fellow newcomer drag artiste, Olivier, played with wicked acumen by Félix Maritaud. As his relationship seems to flourish, Simon is also reunited with his estranged mother Claire, whom he has not seen in fifteen years after she left to pursue her career as an opera singer. Passion, resentment, control and freedom await the characters as they each navigate their own versions of stardom and success. Described as *All About Eve* meets *Opening Night* meets *Passages*, this is queer eye-candy extravaganza with a hard centre.

Writer: Sophie Dupuis  
Producer: Etienne Hansez

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

**Izzy Aman: The Joy of Drag**  
*Isabella Walton/ UK/ 2023/ 13m*

Through the art of thrusting, painting and mimicry, we witness a gender bending revolutionary performance alongside a candid and powerful conversation about how we can create social change with drag.

Writer: Isabella Walton  
Producer: Beth Mai Sanders

## Friday 2nd August

Dirs. Philipp Fussenegger,  
Judy Landkammer  
Germany, Austria/ 2024  
1hr 42m

At the dawn of the new millennium, Canadian musician Merrill Nisker unleashed the mighty Peaches onto an unsuspecting world with her soon-to-be iconic album, *The Teaches of Peaches*. Minds were duly blown. Berlin was the centre of the universe and electroclash was the sound of the clubs. Bi, beautiful, bolshy, and brilliant, Peaches was a musical dynamo that gave a kick up the rear to the boys club of contemporary music.

Twenty-plus years later, this heart-racing documentary travels back to the early days of Peaches and traces the artistic journey of this musical dynamo as the queer feminist electro punk we deserved. Pairing incredible early gig footage with Peaches and her queer crew taking the show on the road today, this is a

tale of women in art, queer family, finding your limits, and keeping on keeping on. Come and celebrate a genuine icon with us. Shake yer dix, shake yer tits.

*This film screening is proudly supported by the Goethe-Institut Ireland.*

Writers: Cordula Kablitz-Post, Schyda Vasseghi  
Producer: Cordula Kablitz-Post

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

**Lavender Outlaws**  
*Damon Beirne/ USA/ 2023/ 15m*

Amidst a wave of violence and restrictive legislation, a group of musicians converge on Nashville, Tennessee, to reveal the true outlaws of country music.

**Stare**  
*Hannah Bloom & Freya Gillespie/ Ireland/ 2024/ 5m*

Official music video for Naoise's single 'Stare', The Masked Post-Person defeats numerous opponents in the ring.

# RIPTIDE

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 2

FEATURE

20:40



## Friday 2nd August

Dir. Afrad Vk  
India/2024  
1hr 25m

Afrad Vk's debut feature is a beautiful tragic romance between two young men preparing for the final days of college life. Suku and Charlie are roommates turned lovers cocooned in their own private world, filling their days with literature, sex, drinking, and the pull of the Arabian Sea.

When Suku has to leave town suddenly due to a near-death health crisis, an abrupt pause is brought to their idyllic life. On his return, everything has changed. Reality and fantasy merge, the colonial past creeps into the present, and the lovers must reckon with the real world. Filmed on location in Kerala, the beautiful coastal light gives this film the hazy dreamlike quality that befits the tale. *Riptide* offers a queer antidote,

centering love and romance between men, but facing head-on the perils of living an authentic gay life.

*Presented in proud partnership with Queer Spectrum Film Festival.*

**Writer:** Afrad Vk  
**Producer:** Komal Unawney

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Halfway

Kumar Chheda/ India/ 2023/ 9m

In the bustling heart of Mumbai, a turbulent couple starts at opposite ends of Juhu beach, walking towards each other in a heartfelt ode to those willing to meet halfway and make their love work.

**Writer/Producer:** Kumar Chheda

# SATURDAY

3RD AUGUST

2024



The Journey Home (*Unreal Shorts*)

# BIG BOYS

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 2

FEATURE

13:00



## Saturday 3rd August

Dir. Corey Sherman

USA/ 2024

1hr 30m

You will smile, you will cry, you will laugh, you will dance in your seat - you will fall in love with *Big Boys*. Corey Sherman's coming of age tale is simply one of the most lovable, smart and authentic gay comedies in years. Excited 14-year-old Jamie heads out for a camping weekend with his pain-in-the-ass brother Will and their cool beloved older cousin Allie. While Will tries to cajole Jamie to double date the girls from the campsite, Jamie has become oddly transfixed by Allie's kind, handsome and bear-ish boyfriend, Dan. A confusing and supremely awkward trip unfolds as Jamie grapples with this new found attraction and the realisation it hints at. The clumsiness of teenage desire hits perfectly home throughout this film. The script is a dream and this is most definitely

a story where audiences laugh with the fat queer kid, not at them. The central performance by Isaac Krasner as a completely adorable Jamie needs all of the trophies.

**Writer:** Corey Sherman

**Producers:** Connor Capetillo, Corey Sherman, Allison Tate

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Concrete Heart

Enrika Panero/ France/ 2023/ 20m

Kenza, a secretive teenager, takes part in a rap workshop with a young queer rapper, awakening both talent and desire.

**Writers:** Valérie Leroy, Florent Sauze

**Producers:** Karine Blanc, Michel Tavares, Nathalie Landais

## URSA MINOR

SHORT FILMS PRESENTED

BY AEMI

13:10

Saturday 3rd August

Light House Cinema

Screen 3

1hr 8m + in-conversation

A constellation of films that move in and out of relationships with each other, *Ursa Minor* is this year's selection of artist and experimental film brought together by aemi for GAZE. Bound up with each other through shifting ideas of landscape, death and stardom, the works in this programme from Colm Higgins, Jennifer Mehigan, P. Staff, Kenneth Anger and Juana Robles invoke dream-like states where quotidian practices like getting dressed or making butter assume queer and otherworldly qualities. Collisions of private and public, material and immaterial proliferate throughout and the pain and suffering endured by the body is pierced by fleeting moments of pleasure, interspecies kinship and purposeful abandon. aemi is an Arts Council-funded organisation dedicated to the support and development of artist film in Ireland. For more details visit [www.aemi.ie](http://www.aemi.ie)

*There will be a post screening Q&A with filmmakers.*

### The Legend of the Dun Cow

Colm Higgins/ Ireland/ 2024/ 19m

A camp and luscious exploration of butter and the sensorial experience of agricultural practice. Combining intense documentary footage with tableaus and original music, the film is a playful take on the place of the cow in the Irish consciousness.

### Honeysuckle Joyride

Jennifer Mehigan/ Ireland/ 2022/ 13m

*Honeysuckle Joyride* is a commissioned video essay made in response to Bassam Al-Sabah's show I AM ERROR which opened at Gasworks London in 2021. The essay considers themes of decay, inter-species kinship and the Irish

landscape through a post-humanist lens. Footage of various locations around the island are layered with computer-generated imagery, uncovering personal or domestic materialities of queerness, grief and horror as they intersect with the screen, and ideas of truth and reality in a space where public and private spheres are constantly colliding with and abstracting each other.

### Hevn

P. Staff/ UK/ 2022/ 5m

Combining digital and analogue film-making techniques with poetry, hand-painted animation and industrial sound, *Hevn* explores pleasure and pain in sick or debilitated bodies, with Staff's ongoing interest in the volatility of queer and trans bodies. Glimpses of footage — a shower scene, traffic, friends gathering — are obscured and revealed by layers of hand painted film and lettering, eventually giving way to a titular poem that asks what happens to us in states of dreaming, volatility, inebriation and exhaustion.

### Puce Moment

Kenneth Anger/ US/ 1949/ 6m

Made over a decade before the original publication of his notorious *Hollywood Babylon*, underground filmmaker Kenneth Anger produced this short film, intending it to form part of a longer project. Starring Yvonne Marquis, the film follows her around her apartment as she gets dressed and ends just before she goes out to walk her four Borzoi dogs. Shot in colour in the late 1940s and featuring a psychedelic folk rock soundtrack from the 1960s, this is an uncanny invocation of decadence and decline.

### Alicia

Juana Robles/ Ireland/ 2024/ 25m

Originally shot on Super 8mm film and partially blown up to 16mm for the creation of collages made up of abstract and composed photograms, the film explores in a medium specific way the self-experimental search for artistic, gender and sexual identity of Zurich-based movement artist/teacher and former architect Toma Alice Péronnet (they, them, theirs).

# SCALA!!!

Or, the Incredibly Strange Rise and Fall of the World's Wildest Cinema  
and How It Influenced a Mixed-up Generation of Weirdos and Misfits

# BREAK THE GAME

FEATURE + Q&A

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 2

13:10



LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 3

15:30



## Saturday 3rd August

Dirs. Ali Catterall, Jane Giles

UK/ 2023

1hr 36m

A must-see for lovers of underground cinema, queer culture, the bizarre and the renegade. Pre-gentrification King's Cross, London. The Scala cinema stands as a forlorn reminder of the neighbourhood's former glory. But it is soon to be adopted by a new generation of avant-garde cinephiles, clubbers, visionaries, and the capital's cultural mavericks. From *Eraserhead* to *Pink Flamingos*, all night gore-fests to queer clubbing extravaganzas, The Scala had it all. Jane Giles and Ali Catterall's brilliant cut 'n' paste visual style pays tribute to all the mess and magic of the iconic Scala. John Waters, Adam Buxton, and Paul Burston join the many talking heads remembering the Scala's heyday, while Dublin ex-pat Rory Perkins recalls turning

London clubbing on its head under the Scala's roof and one night even turning Madonna away... Long live the Scala!

**Writers:** Ali Catterall, Jane Giles

**Producers:** Alan Marke, Jim Reid, Andrew Starke

### PRE FEATURE SHORT

**Robert & Georgie**

*Claire Richards/ UK/ 2024/ 16m*

Robert George Sanders, a fashion design graduate from Central St Martins, is on a journey to define himself artistically while resisting labels. The film delves into Robert's exploration of his identity amidst personal and familial challenges, turning to his art for solace.

**Producer:** Claire Richards

## Saturday 3rd August

Dir. Jane M. Wagner

USA/ 2023

1hr 20m

After coming out as trans, record-breaking video game speedrunner Narcissa Wright saw her massive fanbase turn against her. Beginning in 2017, when Narcissa makes a return to speedrunning, this documentary sets us on the path of the classic underdog story before shattering our expectations completely.

Edited from hundreds of hours of real Twitch footage interwoven with original 8-bit animations, *Break The Game* is an unflinching portrait of life lived online, capturing the heartwarming highs and terrifying lows of one woman caught between the cruel attention of the internet and the tenderness of love offline.

*There will be a post-screening discussion after the film.*

**Writer:** Jane M. Wagner

**Producers:** Jane M. Wagner, Stephanie Andreou, Jonathon Norcross, Matthew Makar

### PRE FEATURE SHORT

#### ALEXX196 & the pink sand beach

*Loïc Hobi/ France/ 2023/ 24m*

Internet friends Alex and Sacha are devastated by the closing of the online video game they met in—so when Alex and his mother go on vacation near Sacha's home, the two teenagers try their best to finally meet IRL.

**Writer:** Loïc Hobi

**Producers:** Flavien Giorda, Yann Gonzalez, Consuelo Frauenfelder, Stefan Lauper, Loïc Hobi

# THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS

FEATURE

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 1

15:30



## Saturday 3rd August

Dir. Fawzia Mirza

Canada/ 2023

1hr 35m

Director Fawzia Mirza presents *The Queen of My Dreams*, a vivid comic drama about rich family history and the journey of migration that contrasts the timelines of two coming of age tales – one a young Muslim woman in Pakistan, the other her future lesbian daughter growing up in Canada. Mariam and daughter Azra share an obsession with Bollywood fantasy, and the colour and music of that world filter throughout this sumptuous timeslip adventure. They might seem worlds apart but family bonds are strong and memory is a journey home. This is a clever joyful and colourful tribute to iconic mothers and gay daughters, to the world of Bollywood, and to mutual loving acceptance.

*In proud partnership with Queer Spectrum Film Festival.*

**Writer:** Fawzia Mirza

**Producers:** Jason Levangie, Andria Wilson, Marc Tetreault

### PRE FEATURE SHORT

#### The Lime Green Shirt

Kaushik Ray/ UK / 2024/ 16m

Saraswati, a lonely widow and Bengali immigrant living in northern England, re-enters her estranged son's life. When the consequences of her conservative parenting come to light, Saraswati discovers she must set aside her own fears to save their relationship.

**Writer:** Fawzia Mirza

**Producers:** Kaushik Ray, Pooja Chauhan, Neeraj Churi

# THE SUMMER WITH CARMEN

FEATURE

SCREEN 1

18:00

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA



## Saturday 3rd August

Dir. Zacharias Mavroeidis

Greece/ 2023

1hr 46m

'Impossibly handsome Greek men hanging out at the naked gay beach' is the short version of this movie blurb, but in fact *The Summer with Carmen* is also a clever treatise on the tribulations of queer filmmaking, dating and break-ups, and platonic gay friendship.

Demosthenes (Yorgos Tsiantoulas) plays the perfectly sculpted sexy single hunk drifting through his days of hook-ups, hangouts and dog-sitting. Whilst having philosophical chats on the hot beach with his filmmaker pal Nikitas (Andreas Labropoulos), the friends recount the trials of the previous summer that will soon form the film plot for Nikitas' feature debut.

This meta-fiction approach to the film creates a playfully narcissist self-reflection befitting an ancient Greek drama and riffing on a familiar type of gay self-obsession with very charming

results. Funny, original, and oh so hot, pour yourself a drink and get your flights booked for *The Summer With Carmen*.

**Writers:** Fondas Chalatsis, Zacharias Mavroeidis

**Producer:** Ioanna Bolomyti

### PRE FEATURE SHORT

#### The Pansy of Pickadee

Angus George, Paddy Morahan/ Australia/ 2023/ 8m

The Dressmaker star Roy Barker narrates this bittersweet line-drawn animation that celebrates a brave queer hero while indulging the love of saucy rhyming couples.



## Saturday 3rd August

**Dir. Hugues Hariche**  
Switzerland, France/ 2023  
**1hr 44m**

Manon Rivière (Flavie Delangle) is seventeen years old, angry, abandoned, and a true star of the ice hockey rink. In search of her absent father Franck she ups sticks from her Alpine village and heads off to the town where she believes her dad to be living. In these unfamiliar and unsettling new surroundings, Manon discovers a second family abandoned by Franck, and a local all-male ice hockey team who are willing to take her on as a player.

As she holds her own amongst her teammates, Manon falls for a beautiful chaotic local figure skater who is battling her own demons and has her own dreams to rise to the top. The relationship between the two girls is full of the hopes, hurt and ambitions of youth.

This is a fearless, tactile coming-of-age drama with big dreams and a heart of gold.

**Writers:** Joanne Giger, Hugues Hariche  
**Producers:** Adrian Blaser, Alice Bégon, Aline Schmid

### PRE FEATURE SHORT

#### Unnamed

*Iranmehr Salimi/ Iran/ 2023/ 13m*

Sepehr is a star volleyball player overcoming many challenges as a trans man, but his gender transition hits a new obstacle when he is unable to match male volleyball requirements in Iran, jeopardising his career and the financial support he brings his family.

**Writer:** Iranmehr Salimi, Zahra Jesmai  
**Producer:** Iranmehr Salimi

18:00

## UNREAL SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE

18:15

**Saturday 3rd August**  
**Light House Cinema**  
**Screen 3**  
**1hr 45m**



In a budding GAZE tradition, the genre busting gender benders of queer cinema take us once again to the furthest reaches of queer imagination in this selection of short films spanning high camp fantasy to low budget horror. A morbid streak runs through this magical mélange with themes of death, resurrection and transformation reigning supreme; queer lovers bid ghostly goodbyes, corpses commune with unlikely allies, and an undead trans femme sex worker brings total vengeful mayhem. From the folkloric dancefloor to the séance table, take our hand and don't let go—who knows where these films might take you...

#### Passiflora

*Gabriel Souza Nunes/ Canada/ 2023/ 14m*

In a modern retelling of Brazilian folklore, Theo nervously ventures into a fantastical party, only to be shaken out of his insecurities after a passionfruit cocktail takes him on a magical adventure to find true love.

**Writers:** Carolyn Woolner, Gabriel Souza Nunes  
**Producers:** Aries Ceta, Elaine Yan

#### im in love with edgar allan poe

*Andrea A. Walter/ USA/ 2023/ 13m*

Two baby goths prepare to summon the ghost of Edgar Allan Poe, but a series of unexpected obstacles jeopardize the entire spooky spectacle, and maybe even their friendship.

**Writer:** Andrea A. Walter  
**Producers:** Bianca Catbagan, Lou Wang-Holborn

#### Their Universe

*Jeong-gil HAN/ South Korea/ 2023/ 17m*  
A year after passing away, Jun returns to Earth as a ghost to say goodbye to his boyfriend.

**Writer:** Jeong-gil HAN  
**Producers:** Chang-hwan PARK, Han-bum KIM

#### Sole

*Ana Berdeja/ Mexico/ 2024/ 15m*

As an embalmer dreams up dialogue with a teenage trans boy she's been told to put in a dress, she struggles to honour the dead without wounding his grieving family.

**Writer:** Ana Berdeja

**Producers:** Jose Manuel Mijares, Rafael Macazaga, Allan Feder

#### there's a light

*Elisa Beli Borrelli/ Ireland/ 2023/ 5m*

Abandoned in an unfamiliar place, a lonely partygoer teeters on the edge of an all-consuming, reality-warping breakdown.

**Writer/Producer:** Elisa Beli Borrelli

#### BLEACH

*Daniel Daniel/ United Kingdom/ 2023/ 19m*

Wracked with both shame and desire, Lloyd spirals down a Grindr-fuelled descent into total self-annihilation.

**Writer:** Alfie Flewitt

**Producer:** Matthew Pieterse

#### The Journey Home

*Noah Lei Underwood/ UK/ 2024/ 3m*

In two parallel worlds of light and darkness, a liberated trans man enjoys a lush idyll while a creature is warped out of shape by its bindings.

**Writer:** Noah Lei Underwood

#### Transition to Death

*Nate Newman/ Vietnam/ 2024/ 20m*

With the help of a strange witch and an armoury of deadly sex toys, an undead trans stripper seeks gory, grindhouse revenge.

**Writers:** Jayna Young, Nate Newman

# DESIRE LINES

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 1

FEATURE

37

# SHE IS CONANN

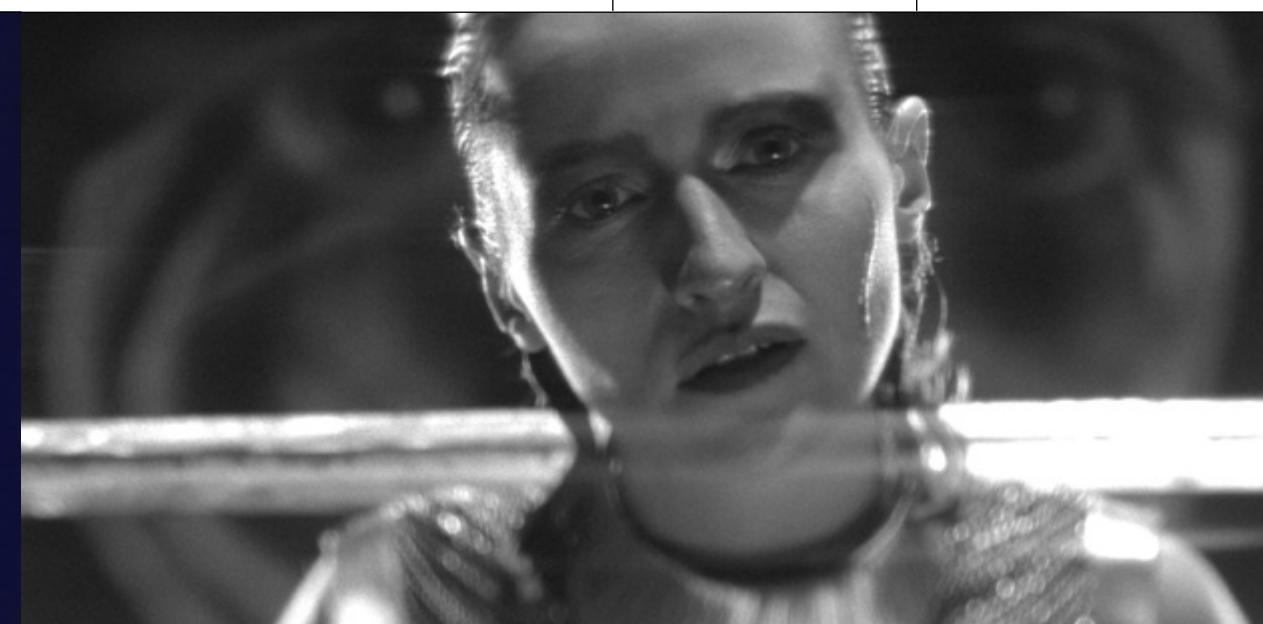
LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

FEATURE

SCREEN 3

20:45

38



## Saturday 3rd August

Dir. Jules Rosskam

USA/ 2024

1hr 21m

Hands down the sexiest, queerest opening sequence of any film in this year's festival, *Desire Lines* tells the eye-opening, heart-opening, shirt-opening stories of gay men who are trans and trans guys coming out as gay. Mixing documentary and interviews, the film follows a beary Iranian American man, Ahmad (Aden Hakimi), who seems to fall through time via his days spent inside a queer historical archive. Ahmad gradually begins to understand his sexuality and assert his identity when the archive doubles as a mythical gay bathhouse, opening up past and present in a genuinely erotic journey of discovery. At the heart of the film is the figure of Lou Sullivan, the gay trans man who pioneered sexual and HIV healthcare, visibility and pride for his community.

Seen through documentary interviews alongside contemporary trans men and trans masc voices, the result is one of the most formally inventive queer films of the past decade. Keep your history sexy.

**Writers:** Jules Rosskam, Nate Gaultieri

**Producers:** Amy E. Powell, André Pérez, Brittani Ward

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Skin

*Leo Behrens/ USA/ 2023/ 7m*

With the help of their inner manifestation, the ice man, the protagonist sheds their old skin and embraces their true identity.

**Writer:** Leo Behrens

**Producer:** Ilayda Cetinkaya

## Saturday 3rd August

Dir. Bertrand Mandico

France/ 2023

1hr 45m

This epic lesbian retelling of Conan the Barbarian sees Conann ascend from slavery to supremacy through a wild array of eras and aesthetics, always stalked by the butch hellhound Rainer, surrounded by fantastical violence, and pursuing her captor-turned-lover Sanja.

With incredible maximalist visual flair surrounding the violence and sensuality of Conann's six lives, *She is Conann* is a one-of-a-kind experimental gay odyssey taking us to the brink of queer film as we know it, and then mercilessly throwing us over the edge.

**Writer:** Bertrand Mandico

**Producers:** Avi Amar, Gilles Chanal, Emmanuel Chaumet

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### éabha

*Moritz Kramer/ Germany/ 2023/ 9m*

In the middle of a hiking date, Ciarán suddenly experiences regressions to a past life as a woman in intensifying torment visions he may not escape if he cannot find catharsis for his past self.

**Writer:** Moritz Kramer

**Producer:** Aisling Keogh

# BREAKTHROUGH

## SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE

20:50

Saturday 3rd August

Irish Film Institute

Cinema 2

1hr 24m

Queer visionaries shaping tomorrow's cinema. Eight films that dare to shatter cinematic norms with flair and style, as we see bold content meet experimental form. Playful yet profound, a collection that honours the fearless creativity of filmmakers who break the mould, paving the way for visionary stories that redefine queer cinema.

### A Bird Called Memory

*Leonardo Martinelli/ Brazil/ 2023/ 15m*

Memory has lost its way back home. Lua, a trans woman, sets out through the bustling city streets to reunite with Memory, but the journey proves challenging. A delightful exploration that seamlessly weaves together various mediums and themes.

**Writer:** Leonardo Martinelli

**Producer:** Rafael Manuel

### Ripe!

*Tusk/ US/ 2024/ 18m*

A story that relishes in the enticing subtlety and inexplicable magnitude of gestures, echoing the feelings of confusion that unexpected love and attraction can evoke. The director aptly describes it: "Nothing says 'it's complicated' quite like breaking your crush's arm."

**Writer:** Tusk

**Producers:** Tusk, Cookie Walukas

### The Secret Lives of Lesbian Cats

*Kate Jessop/ United Kingdom/ 2023/ 2m*

Ever wonder what cats get up to when their lesbian owners aren't around? An enchanting animation that might leave you nervously laughing.

**Writer/Producuer:** Kate Jessop

### Vapor Trails

*Willow Skye-Biggs/ US/ 2023/ 11m*

Two trans-lesbian lovers find hope and self-acceptance through abstract storytelling and immersive visuals, exploring love, identity, and visibility in a poignant journey.

**Writer/Producer:** Willow Skye-Biggs

### School Birds

*Quentin Corker-Marin, Felix Marrison-Reeve/ UK/ 2023/ 6m*

Inspired by Section 28, a burnt-out trans school teacher finds liberation through dance, facing pressures of conformity while seeking acceptance from himself and others.

**Writer:** Quentin Corker-Marin

**Producers:** Quentin Corker-Marin, Connor Wakefield

### What are you looking for?

*Iqran Rasheed/ Portugal/ 2023/ 15m*

Deepak navigates queer dating and seeks genuine connection amidst superficial modern culture, breaking cinematic walls between actor, viewer, and director.

**Writer:** Iqran Rasheed

**Producer:** Victor Candias

### We Collide

*Jason Bradbury/ United Kingdom/ 2023/ 2m*

A split screen queercore romance - a visceral and immersive exploration of the power of the mosh pit and finding love in the most unlikely of places.

**Writer:** Jason Bradbury

**Producer:** Cheri Darbon

### Lake Burst

*Clodagh Farrelly/ Ireland/ 2023/ 15m*

Three characters seek integration and liberation of the self, drawing on global mythologies to explore spirit versus flesh, willpower, seduction, resistance, and surrender.

**Writer:** Maia Nunes

**Producers:** Maia Nunes, Clodagh Farrelly

# SUNDAY

## 4TH AUGUST

2024

Queer Nigerians (AXE Shorts)

# MILESTONES

## SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE

13:30

Sunday 4th August  
Light House Cinema  
Screen 2  
1hr 18m

Gay, bi, queer and questioning men from all different walks of life recall milestones in their lives – or reach towards new ones. Dating as an autistic guy, remembering old loves, or taking back their power, these men are all finding their way.

### Curtain Call

*Malynda Hale/ USA/ 2023/ 16m*

Luke runs into old flame, Eric, from a previous life of performing in musical theatre. Comparing how they have both moved on, Luke reveals Eric was his first and only same-sex relationship.

**Writer:** John Volk  
**Producer:** Danielle Beckmann

### First Time

*Daniel Kahana/ USA/ 2022/ 18m*

An intern heads to dinner with his supervisor on the last day of his internship, but things take a turn when he is pressured into a sexual encounter. Drawing on the director's personal experience, the film marks the bold decision when a survivor takes charge of their own narrative.

**Writer:** Daniel Kahana  
**Producer:** Daniel Kahana, Rebecca Shapiro

### Neuromance

*Brodie Pyke/ Australia/ 2023/ 13m*

Nate is twenty-three years old, living with autism and discovering the horrors of the gay dating scene in Sydney. After his well-meaning best friends sign him up to Grindr, can Nate overcome his fear of pretty much everything to find the man of his dreams?

**Writer/Producer:** Kyle Goldfinch



### Nothing Special

*Mikko Makela/ UK/ 2023/ 14m*

An open relationship makes space for an encounter that is more intense than expected when a filmmaker and a moviegoer's ideas of cinematic romance are put to the test during a one-night stand.

**Writer:** Mikko Makela  
**Producer:** James Watson

### Bolero

*Nans Laborde-Jourdàa/ France/ 2023/ 17m*

While visiting his hometown, Fran experiences memories of a confusing encounter from his youth, triggering a strange response as the jerky rhythm of Bolero leads both Fran and soon the whole village to a joyfully chaotic climax of memory and desire.

**Writer:** Nans Laborde-Jourdàa  
**Producer:** Margaux Lorier

# OLD LESBIANS

## SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

13:30

Sunday 4th August  
Light House Cinema Screen 3  
1hr 8m



Old Lesbians are celebrated at GAZE through our screening of *Lesvia* and this fantastic double-bill of longer lesbian shorts. Recording the lived experiences of cherished dykes of the past is the common theme from these two touching portraits that will have you laughing and crying by turns.

*Presented in proud partnership with our friends at Bealtaine Festival, an Age and Opportunity arts initiative celebrating the arts and creativity as we age. For more details visit [bealtaine.ie](http://bealtaine.ie)*

### Love Letters

*Greta Schiller/ USA/ 2024/ 39m*

Catharine and Liz, two lesbians in their 80s, recall their enduring relationship through the correspondence they have kept since their first meeting in New York in the 1970s. As an out lesbian with four children, Liz was threatened with legal separation from her family, but won a landmark case that recognized lesbians as mothers, partners, and valid valued members of society. The film won Best Documentary Short at Queens World Film Festival.

**Writer:** Greta Schiller  
**Producer:** Andrea Weiss

### Old Lesbians

*Meghan McDonagh/ USA/ 2023/ 29m*

'It's like taking back the word "lesbian". We take back the word "old". We honor it. We revel in it...' Armed with curiosity, a love of her community, and a recording device, Arden Eversmeyer journeyed across America gathering over eight hundred life stories of old lesbians to create the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. Filmmaker Meghan McDonough honors that epic undertaking in this emotional exploration of the voices uncovered, many of whom are no longer with us but will live forever thanks to Arden's work, and this precious film.

**Producer:** Stevie Borrello

# INDIA'S FIRST BEST TRANS MODEL AGENCY

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 1

13:45



## Sunday 4th August

Dir. Ila Mehrotra

India/ 2023

1hr 28m

The hijras in India are the oldest ethnic transgender community in the world, traditionally considered to be a third gender, alternately feared and respected, and attributed with powers for both good luck and bad. Rudrani Chettri is a hijra activist with a mission – to elevate her fellow hijra, provide them with opportunities above their usual economic hardship, and make them visible on their own terms.

Spanning seven years, Chettri established India's first transgender modelling agency, facing mockery, indifference and joy along the way. Shocking stories of survival sex work and violence are paired with intense community resilience and humour.

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The film also offers a nuanced and timely examination of what happens when hijra tradition meets the contemporary trans rights movement. Not to be missed.

*Presented in proud partnership with Queer Spectrum Film Festival.*

Producer: Edward Dallal

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Marigold

Abhinav Dubey/ India/ 2022/ 12m

As the summer holidays approach, Geeta decides to lie about her last day at work to meet Shashi. Desires and sexuality the two women long to share gradually unfolds, till the last boat arrives.

Writers: Mangeshi Dronkar, Abhinav Dubey

# TABOO

## SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE

15:20

Sunday 4th Aug  
Irish Film Institute Cinema 2  
1hr 43m

From maligned pleasure seekers to disruptive activists, this programme dives deep into an array of subjects that remain risqué within the queer community today. Risky sex takes centre stage in shorts on chemsex and cruising; films face facts with direct action protest and sex worker activism; and intimate relationships are laid bare as an open relationship hits its limits and an illicit coach-athlete affair makes dangerous power plays. With nuance, intimacy and a dose of humour, these seven short films lay bare our blindspots, reminding us who is left out when we only stay in the realms of polite conversation.

*Presented in proud partnership with the Gay Health Network. There will be a post-screening discussion.*

### F\*\*KED

Sara Harrak/ UK/ 2023/ 6min

Jess and Dani are thriving in an open lesbian relationship replete with kink and sex parties—until Dani considers sleeping with men, and suddenly 'open' has its limits.

Writer: Meg Salter

Producer: Emma Hammond

### AMOEBA

Ian Fallon/ Ireland/ 2023/ 16min

Brain-eating parasites, homoerotic violence and GAA lads come to a head after a young queer man becomes convinced his unrequited crush kissed him while drunk.

Writer: Ian Fallon

Producer: Thomas Purdy

### Beautiful Trouble

Christopher T. McGill/ UK/ 2024/ 17min

Queer Jewish street activist Dan Glass reflects on years of direct action protest and art activism, including ACT UP London, queer



self-defence with the Bender Defenders, and the iconic Baby Trump float.

Producer: Siobhan Fahey

### Apnea

Natalia Bermúdez/ Mexico/ 2024/ 20min

An increasingly tense affair between athlete Renata and her swimming coach Liliana pushes both women to reckon with consent, desire, and power.

Writers: Natalia Bermúdez, Danae Reynaud

Producers: Franco Bautista, Male Lara

### CHEMSEX

Daniel Porto/ Brazil/ 2024/ 7min

A group of men at a chemsex party entertain casual and intimate conversations on sex, drugs, and loneliness, searching for deeper connections across the ephemerality of chemical pleasure.

Writer: Daniel Porto

Producer: Alexandre Lino

### Chica

Juan Yactayo Sono/ Peru/ 2024/ 20min

Katya, a trans sex worker, yearns to improve the conditions for her community but fears being outed as a sex worker to her mother—until a wave of police violence pushes Katya's silence to its breaking point.

Writer: Juan Yactayo Sono

Producers: Juan Yactayo Sono, Diego Díaz Mecca

### Never Kill a Femboy on the First Date

Oonagh Kearney/ Ireland/ 2024/ 17min

An Asian Irish femboy's bold plans to seduce a closeted GAA player take a risky turn when three lads watch them having sex from afar.

Writer: Lee-Loi Chieng

Producer: Aoibhín Murphy

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# LESVIA

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 2

FEATURE

16:00



## Sunday 4th August

Dir. Tzeli Hadjidimitriou  
Greece/ 2024  
1hr 17m

Filmmaker Tzeli Hadjidimitriou is an out and proud double Lesbian – that is, a lesbian from Lesbos. Her documentary *Lesvia* chronicles forty years of life in the small farming village of Eressos on the island of Lesbos, where lesbian women from around the world have been gathering together since the late 1970s. Past and present lesbians speak about the changing nature of life on the island, from both the locals' and newcomers' point of view.

A thrilling herstory of the lesbian community emerges, where daring women leave straight society behind, but run into new challenges along the way. With incredible archival material, a history of Sappho and her place in the contemporary Greek imagination, and dozens of charismatic interviewees with divine women

make this a must-see for the modern lesbian and Sapphic sis. Come out to the island...

**Writer:** Tzeli Hadjidimitriou  
**Producers:** Rea Apostolides,  
Tzeli Hadjidimitriou

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

**Stella**  
Yvonne Lawlor/ UK/ 2023/ 13m

Locked outside at 3am, this isn't the wild one-night stand Georgie and Alisha had imagined when leaving the club. Bursting with flirt, chaos, and MDMA, the girls desperately try not to let their high die and the mayhem turn to regret.

**Writer:** Yvonne Lawlor  
**Producers:** Yvonne Lawlor, Charlie MacGechan, Kristin Tarry

FEATURE

## IRIS LOVES SHORT FILMS PRESENTED BY IRIS PRIZE 16:00

Sunday 4th August  
Light House Cinema  
Screen 4  
1hr 29m

Established in 2006, the Iris Prize is a film and media organisation committed to increasing audiences for LGBTQ+ stories. Hosting an annual festival in October in Cardiff, it boasts the largest short film prize in the world, a coveted £30,000 award. The following programme includes some of the best films that were honoured and celebrated at the 2023 Iris Prize LGBTQ+ Film Festival.

*For more details visit [irisprize.org](http://irisprize.org)*



### Fruits of the Spirit

*Georgia Day/ Wales, UK/ 2024*

In the international premiere of this community film, Maddy and Carys are in the worship band of their evangelical church. They're also in a relationship with each other. What could possibly go wrong?

**Writers:** Georgia Day  
**Producers:** Holly Russell-Allison, Helen Capelin, Georgia Day, Berwyn Rowlands

### Ted & Noel

*Julia Alcamo/ UK/ 2023/ 25m*  
Winner of the Iris Prize Co-op Audience award 2023, Ted and Noel follows a grieving LGBTQ+ activist trying to find the strength for one last campaign.

**Producers:** Dan Hodgson, Mary Pattison

### Realness with a Twist

*Cass Virdee/ UK/ 2023/ 12m*  
Winner of the Iris Prize Youth Jury Award 2023, this dramatic short sees a talented footballer forced to battle between his secret passion for voguing and the fear of his team-mate's disapproval.

**Writers:** David J. Giles, Cass Virdee  
**Producers:** David J. Giles, Maria Salcher

### Scaring Women at Night

*Karimah Zakia Issa/ Canada/ 2022/ 11m*

A Black transgender man, walking alone in the dark, becomes anxious about being perceived as a threat by Ella, a woman also walking alone nearby. As these two strangers, both scared on their late-night walks home, attempt to avoid each other, their worlds unexpectedly collide at an intersection, forcing them to question who they fear and why.

**Writers:** Ace Clamber, Karimah Zakia Issa  
**Producers:** Lindsay Blair Goeldner, Rosalind Goodwin

### Bubbling

*Che-ming Chang/ Taiwan/ 2023/ 23m*

Guang has difficulty focusing during school choir. He's distracted by something more enticing than singing. When a charismatic new student arrives, Guang's curiosity and sexual desire is taken to a new level.

**Writer:** Che-ming Chang  
**Producer:** Hsin-wu Lin

# LIFE IS EXCELLENT

FEATURE + in conversation

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 1

16:00



**Sunday 4th August**

**Dir. Joe Ingham**

**UK / 2023**

**49m**

David Robilliard was a talented British artist who died in 1988, aged just 36 years old, one of the many young gay men of his generation lost to AIDS. In this emotional documentary, the actor and contemporary art devotee Russell Tovey embarks on a quest to bring the life and work of Robilliard back to its rightful prominence.

The result is *Life is Excellent*, a film that gathers together the artist's close friends, collaborators, and colleagues to remember and celebrate a remarkable talent. Through their memories and Tovey's devotion to Robilliard's work, we build a picture of a young dynamic artist full of courage and wit whose legacy deserves to shine.

***There will be a post screening conversation featuring Russell Tovey, producer Susie Hall, and director Joe Ingham and this year's Vanguard Award winner, the director of All Of Us Strangers, Andrew Haigh.***

**Producers:** Susie Hall, Joe Ingham, Russell Tovey

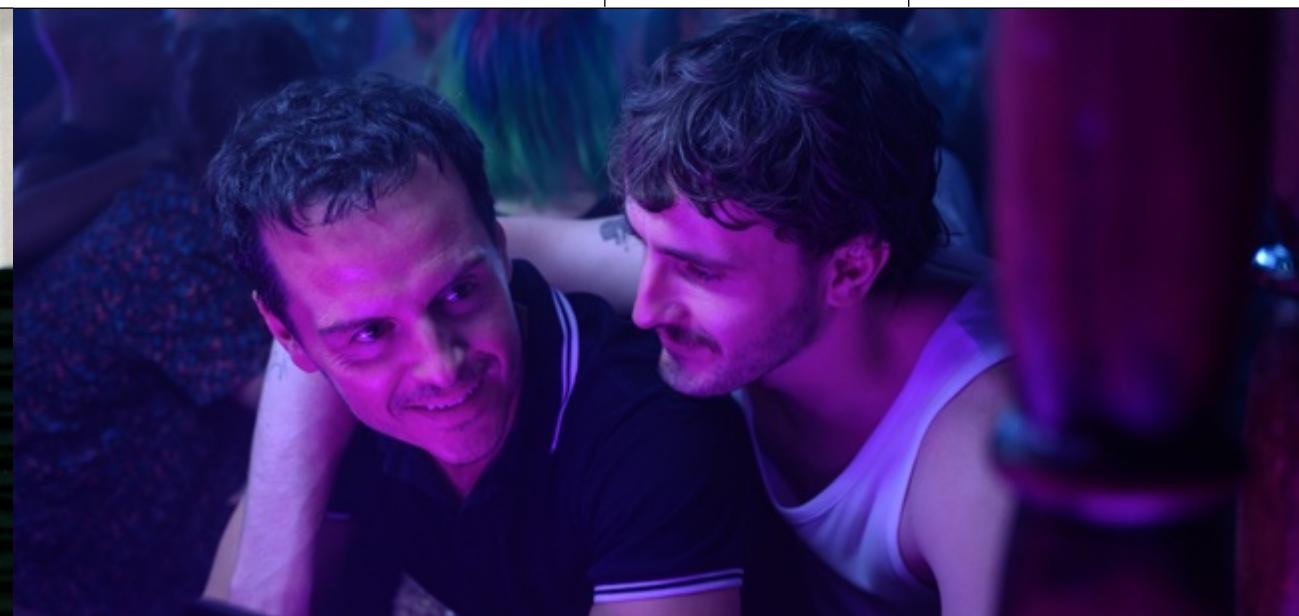
# ALL OF US STRANGERS

FEATURE + in-conversation

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 1

18:00



**Sunday 4th August**

**Dir. Andrew Haigh**

**UK/ 2023**

**1hr 45m**

This haunting tale of urban alienation, childhood reckoning, and regret brought together two of Ireland's finest actors in performances that broke hearts and re-energized our appetite for cinema at a grand yet human scale. We are so excited to return *All Of Us Strangers* to the big screen at the Irish Film Institute and to welcome Andrew Haigh himself in person, who will be in conversation following the screening with his friend and artistic collaborator, the Russell Tovey.

The conversation will be followed by an audience question and answer session where we encourage fans and budding filmmakers to bring along your curiosity and make the most of this masterclass opportunity to hear from one of our finest voices in film.

In addition, we are so happy to announce that Andrew will be the recipient of this year's GAZE Vanguard Award in recognition of his ground-breaking work in queer storytelling in film and television, and his contribution to the field at large.

***There will be a post-screening in conversation with Andrew Haigh and Russell Tovey.***

**Writers:** Andrew Haigh, Taichi Yamada

**Producers:** Graham Broadbent, Pete Czernin, Sarah Harvey

# DARKLANDS: Are you ready to go deep?

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 2

FEATURE + Q&A

18:15



## Sunday 4th August

Dir. Roland Javornik

Belgium/ 2023

1hr 24m

Roland Javornik's documentary *Darklands* unveils the tantalizing secrets of the renowned queer kink festival. Behind the closed doors of Antwerp's awe-inspiring Waagnatie, the spectacular fetish event brings around eight-thousand international visitors ready to explore their sexual imaginations and find their limits.

*Darklands* shows us the vision of its mastermind orchestrator Jeroen, alongside his straight sister Nathalie, who form an unlikely but effective duo in bringing this sex-positive extravaganza to life each year. The film doesn't shy away from critical topics such as consent, sexual identity, and the range of fetish tastes. Experience the birth and evolution of this groundbreaking festival, intertwined with stories of its vibrant international characters, unfolding over a three-year journey full of ups and downs.

*Presented in proud partnership with the Leathermen of Ireland with a social event after the screening, all welcome.*

*There will be a post screening Q&A with Roland Javronik.*

Writer: Sanne This

Producer: Jeroen Van Lievenogen

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Krush the Wrestler

Alex Megaro/ USA/ 2023/ 14m

Exploring the innate intimacy of submission wrestling, a lifelong wrestler turns his talents into an on-demand fetish video service.

Producer: Ian Bell

# AXÉ: HONOURING BLACK QUEER ARTISTRY

## SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE

20:30

Sunday 4th August  
Light House Cinema Screen 1  
1hr 22m

Through their craft, Black Queer Artists have crafted a mosaic of diverse perspectives, stories, and modes of expression, replaying, archiving, and validating not only their existence but all that can be found beauty in it. This event aims to pay tribute to their presence and perseverance, to revel in the power of queer black creativity.

*AXÉ will include live performances from musician David McAlmont and dancer David J. Amado.*

## Permissible Beauty

Mark Thomas/ UK/ 2023/ 23m

Exploring the evolution of beauty standards in British history, this film delves into why certain forms of beauty have been privileged over others. With a focus on Black Queer visibility, it offers fresh perspectives through the stories of six Black Queer Britons, offering up a new chapter of British beauty for the 21st century.

Writer: David McAlmont

Producer: Richard P. Sandell

## True Colors

David J. Amado/ Portugal/ 2023/ 6m

Examining queer Black men's relationship to traditional masculinity and how societal expectations pressure them to conform and silence their true selves. Through four acts of fashion, each act symbolises a stage from repression to bold authenticity.

Writers: David J. Amado, Igor Silva, Felicia Hunter

Producer: Amelia Carter



## The Archive: Queer Nigerians

Simisolaoluwa Akande/ UK/ 2023/ 25m

With Nigerian queer history erased from the national narrative of Nigeria, queer Nigerians in the UK gather to tell their stories, documenting their experiences so they can never be erased again.

Writer: Simisolaoluwa Akande

Producer: Maxine Gordon

## Obsidian Black

Osaro Azams/ Ireland/ 2022/ 21m

Osaro's sonorous vocals turn into choir-like prayers as they erupt softly from where they lie in her stomach. The hypnotic energy of the music matches with the stunning visuals of yellow gorse fields atop Killiney Hill where certain folkloric characters lay dormant.

Producer: Osaro Azams

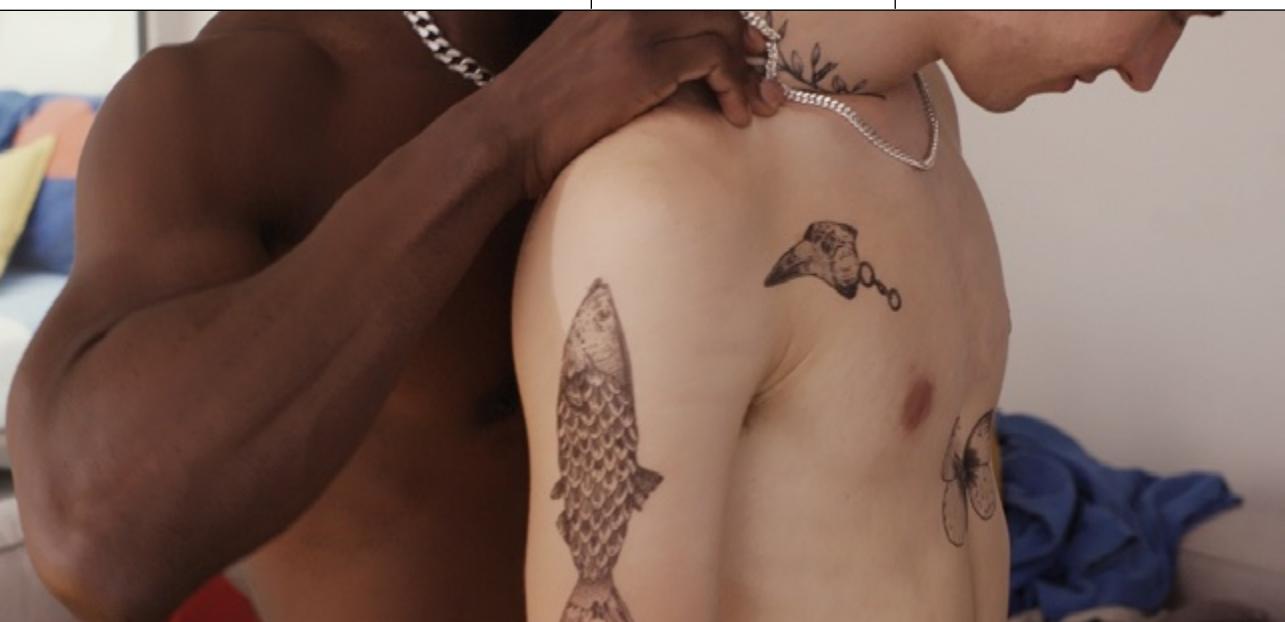
# DRIFTER

FEATURE

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 2

21:00



## Sunday 4th August

Dir. Hannes Hirsch

Germany / 2023

1hr 19m

Winner of the 2024 German Film Critics Award, *Drifter* tells the story of a young gay man, Moritz (Lorenz Hotchhuth), who relocates to Berlin to be with his boyfriend. When their relationship falls apart, Moritz decides to remain in Berlin, gradually allowing all of the city's compulsions and temptations to play out on his body and mind.

The various strange and extreme desires of the people he meets fascinate him, as does his own growing appetite for experience. Fleeting connections come and go, Moritz's tattoos gradually multiply, but ultimately the young drifter remains lonely and lustful. Hotchhuth gives a wonderfully vulnerable and understated performance as Moritz, but it's the dark sticky

side of the city that is the real star of the film – tempting, dangerous, and never ever still.

*This film screening is proudly supported by the Goethe-Institute Ireland.*

**Writers:** Hannes Hirsch, River Matzke

**Producers:** Hannes Hirsch, Diemo Kemmesies

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

### Castling

Federico Yang / Italy / 2024 / 10m

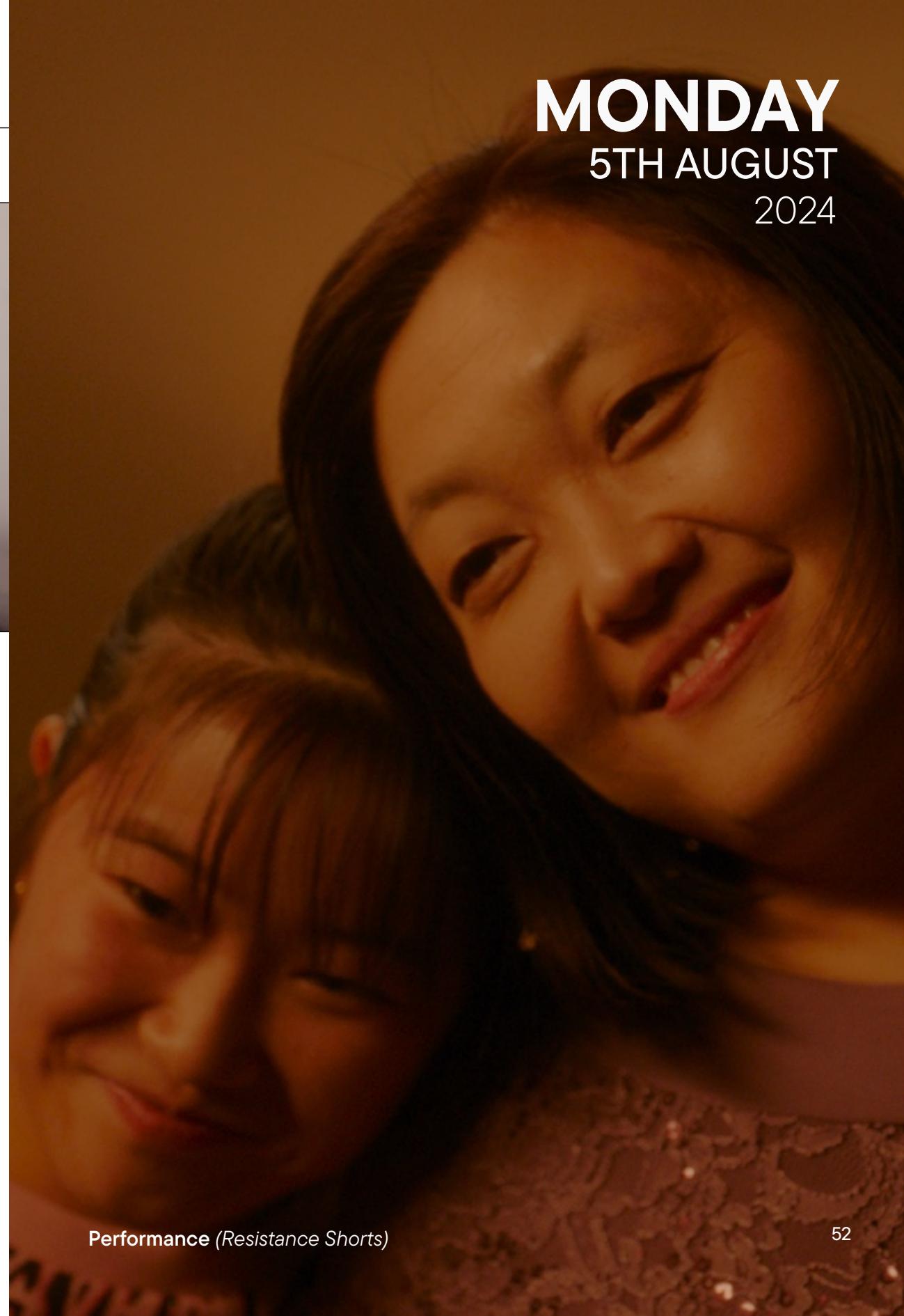
A young man, disappointed in human relations, moves into a tower in the middle of nowhere. However, the pleasant solitude gives in to dreams of intimacy, but perhaps for the last time.

**Writer/Producer:** Federico Yang

# MONDAY

5TH AUGUST

2024



Performance (Resistance Shorts)

# Celebrating Edmund Lynch

**Edmund passed away in October 2023, a month which held particular significance for him.**

50 years earlier, that same month, Edmund began his long journey of campaigning for LGBTQIA rights with the establishment of the Sexual Liberation Movement at Trinity College Dublin. Shortly afterwards, Edmund would go on to attend the first ever Gay Rights conference on the island of Ireland in Coleraine in November 1973, later helping to organise the first symposium on homosexuality in Trinity College Dublin in February 1974. A few months later, in a significant development for the gay community in Ireland, Edmund, along with a small number of individuals, including David Norris, Clem Clancy and Sean Connolly, amongst others, set up the Irish Gay Rights Movement (IGRM). The IGRM was the first openly gay rights organisation in the Republic of Ireland and something Edmund was very proud of. Earlier this year, events took place to mark 50 years since the IGRM's foundation, a milestone Edmund would dearly have liked to see.

Remembering and marking these milestones is important. We should never forget our history or where we have come from. Edmund, more than most, knew the significance of documenting our stories to ensure that future generations knew the struggles those before them had to fight. So much of what we find in the archives today is a direct result of Edmund and the many hours he put in collecting the material. One of his greatest legacies, and something we should



all be extremely grateful to him for, is the oral interviews he conducted with hundreds of Irish LGBTQIA individuals, stories that otherwise would have been lost or forgotten but for Edmund. Edmund has created an invaluable oral history archive that ensures our past is not and will never be forgotten.

Edmund had a strong personality, he could be difficult and stubborn, something he was the first to admit, but he was primarily motivated in advancing the rights of a minority group. He did not seek the limelight nor recognition for all that he did. In saying that, there is no doubt that Edmund would be extremely touched and honoured that the GAZE film festival is acknowledging his immense contribution to LGBTQIA life in Ireland as part of the 2024 festival. The documentary you will see today is just one example of Edmund's wonderful legacy and contribution to Irish life. He was, in many respects, a trailblazer.

**Thank you, Edmund.**  
**Note by Patrick McDonagh**

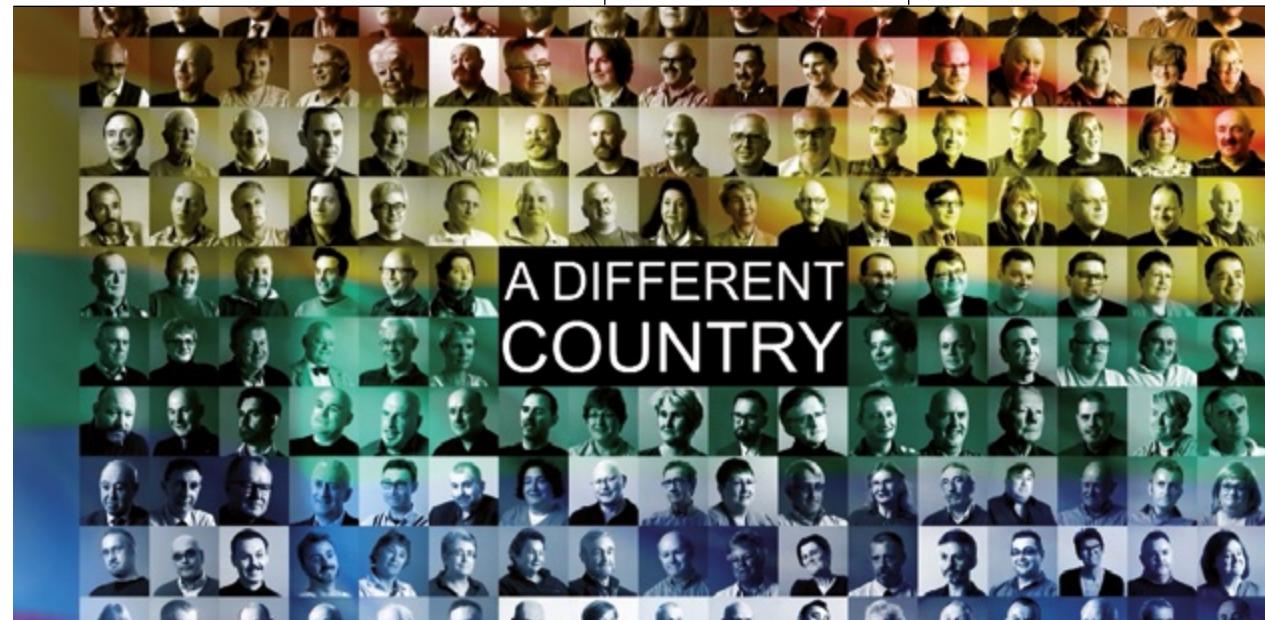
## A DIFFERENT COUNTRY

FEATURE

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE

CINEMA 1

13:00



**Monday 5th August**

**Dir. Edmund Lynch**  
**Ireland / 2016**  
**1hr 14m**

"I was out to tell people's histories, and what life looked like to them."

We honour our departed friend, activist, broadcaster and filmmaker, Edmund Lynch with a special commemorative screening of his landmark documentary *A Different Country*. The film recalls the humble but committed beginnings of an emerging gay rights movement, from a small meeting in October 1973 – 'David Norris late as usual!' – to decriminalisation and the blossoming LGBTQIA movement in Ireland today. The film premiered at GAZE in 2016 and it seems only right to revive it again today. Ed Lynch's pivotal role in the movement is the legacy of a lifetime, and this time capsule historic documentary we hope is a fitting tribute to his memory.

*We are honoured to present this screening with our Festival Friends, of whom Ed was a proud member, and we welcome anyone who would like to remember Ed's life and work with a few words after the screening.*

## PRE FEATURE SHORT

**Stonewall Postal Action Network**  
**Sarah Elizabeth Drummond / UK / 2023 /**  
**12m**

Austin Allen ran one of the UK's largest postal LGBT action networks from his bedroom in the 1990s.

**Writer:** Sarah Elizabeth Drummond  
**Producer:** Sarah Elizabeth Drummond

# RESISTANCE

## SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE

12:30

Monday 5th August

Light House Cinema

Screen 3

1hr 22m

You'll find a theme of resistance and antifascism running throughout most of the GAZE programme this year. It's become a dominant theme in contemporary queer films, from grief in the face of losing our homes, our rights and our loved ones, to righteous anger at the violence inflicted on us by right-wing extremists and politicians.

The three films in this programme are a snapshot of this bigger picture, capturing three acts of resistance from three different people caught in seemingly inescapable oppressive structures, from the smallest gestures of love to the most daring acts of survival.

### The Return

**Vadim Mochalov/ Ukraine/ 2023/ 32min**

Nikita is ready to give up on his conservative religious mother when explosions rock Kyiv, suddenly entangling Nikita's fractured faith with his survival—and the survival of his mother, who hasn't picked up the phone since the war broke out.

**Writer:** Vadim Mochalov

**Producer:** Vadim Molachov

### The Performance

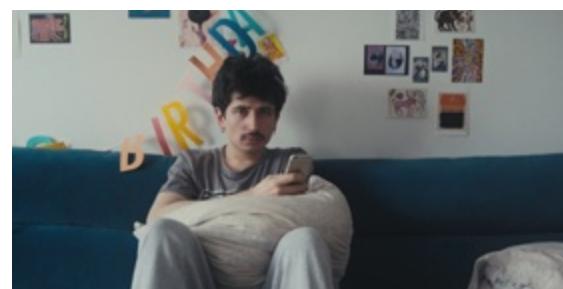
**Claire Zhou/ Netherlands/ 2023/ 20min**

Lin has two great loves: her trans daughter Tan, and the church in which she's a chorister. But on the eve of Lin's solo performance, rumours about Tan start spreading in church, and Lin must decide how much of her love to truly show.

**Writer:** Claire Zhou

**Producer:** Dennis Cornelisse, Alex Doff,

Sabine Brian



### Piecht

**Luka Lara Steffen/ Germany/**

**2023/ 30min**

When Johanna is begrudgingly whisked to a rural idyll, she's trapped in something much worse than a boring holiday. Veiled hatred presses in from all sides, but the more Johanna resists, the harder this eco-fascist nightmare tries to crush her.

**Writer:** Luka Lara Steffen

**Producer:** Sophia Lorena Gamboa Huamán

# REAS

FEATURE

## LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

## SCREEN 2

14:30



### Monday 5th August

**Dir. Lola Arias**

**Argentina, Switzerland, Germany/ 2024**

**1hr 22m**

Filmed inside an abandoned prison in Buenos Aires, *Reas* employs a cast of formerly incarcerated people to dramatise the struggles of their lives – before, during, and after prison. Nominated for Best Documentary at the Berlinale Film Festival, *Reas* sits outside of such strict categories, inviting survivors of the system to re-configure their lives through a fictional narrative based in truth. Oh, and it's a musical too. With romance. And voguing.

Cis and trans women, straight and queer, and one trans man starting a rock'n'roll band, all struggle and celebrate, keeping dignity and hope intact in the face of a crushing prison system. Over a decade in the making, *Reas* is an abolitionist film at its core, completely original, and a resolutely queer project – transgressive, and uplifting.

**Producers:** Gema Juarez Allen, Clarisa Oliveri, Ingmar Trost

### PRE FEATURE SHORT

#### Club Chrome: Fxckery

**Arundati Thandur/ Australia/ 2023/ 13m**

Following Club Chrome, Australia's first LGBTQIA pole dance collective, in the months leading up to the Sydney World Pride premiere of their dynamic, high-production pole dance performance showcasing artists within the intersections of Sydney's LGBTQIA, BIPOC, and sex work communities: Fxckery.

**Writer:** Arundati Thandur

**Producers:** Arundati Thandur, Casey Ventura

# PHOTO BOOTH

FEATURE

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 1

15:30



## Monday 5th August

Dir John Greyson

Canada/ 2022

1hr 53m

Recounting fifteen years of passionate activism in Toronto and worldwide, Photo Booth juxtaposes a surreal operatic narrative with documentary scenes that explore LGBT Pride and pink-washing, gay soldiers and homo-nationalism, Queers Against Israeli Apartheid, and the accelerating weaponisation of anti-Semitism. Outraged by the latest bombing of Gaza, Palestinian queer activists Hamza and Walid recruit queer novelist Jean Genet to help them sabotage the Eurovision song contest in Jericho.

The emergence of queer BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) as a dynamic Palestinian-led global movement is brought to vivid life through interviews and actions, opera and agitprop,

protests and pranks. Queer activists Ghadir Shafie, Judith Butler, Ali Abunimah, and others recount the victories and set-backs of this emerging social justice movement.

**Writer:** John Greyson

**Producers:** Anneli Ekbom

### PRE FEATURE SHORT

#### Sultana's Reign

Hadi Moussally / France / 2023 / 10m

A Palestinian drag queen reflects on her journey from the Middle East to New York, Sultana discusses the challenges of performing drag in conservative societies, her nostalgia for Egyptian cinema icons, and her struggle for self-expression.

**Writer:** Hadi Moussally

**Producer:** h7o7Studio

# CLOSE TO YOU

FEATURE + CLOSING GALA

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

SCREEN 1

20:00



## Monday 5th August

Dir. Dominic Savage

USA, UK, Canada/ 2024

1hr 40m

Elliot Page gives a delicate but defiantly star turn in his first feature role as a trans man since coming out in 2020. Sam (Page) is facing a nerve-shredding experience familiar to many queer people – returning home to a family occasion after a period of estrangement. What begins as a gentle reunion drama soon unravels, and in his time-out from familial stresses, Sam runs into a former hometown lover, Katherine, played by the brilliant Hillary Baack.

The nostalgia of their younger days threatens to sweep them both away, but the world has changed and so have they. Close To You's improvised script and close co-production with the actors and director Dominic Savage

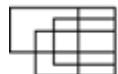
is a model of queer film-making that lends the piece an intimate natural realism that is such a deep pleasure to sink into. Page is a star for his time and this film seems a perfect way to close out our festival and welcome in another new era in LGBTQIA cinema. See you at the Closing Gala.

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Pradeep Mahadeshwar

Michelle, Perry & Oisín Share

all the Film Makers

and all our Festival Friends

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