

**olomopolo**  
M E D I A  
presents

↓ **AKSIA**  
**FILMIF**  
**FESTIVALAVITSEF**  
LAHORE SCREENINGS

Morgenglanze



Something Must Break



**INVITES ONLY**



Chuppan Chupai



Nomansland



**1<sup>ST</sup>, 5<sup>TH</sup>, 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> DEC**

**5PM** onwards



Wall



Appropriate Behaviour



Short Films



Alex & Ali



The Way He Looks



Fire under Ashes



We Were Here

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AksFestival  
aksfestival.com

# ASK Festival Pakistan 2014

## PROGRAMME

### **ISLAMABAD Screenings**

*Venues will be disclosed via email confirmations upon request.*

Date	Time	Film Title	Event
Friday 28-11-2014	6:00 PM	Chuppan Chupai + Abu	Q&A with the director
Saturday 29-11-2014	6:00 PM	Alex & Ali + Fire under Ashes	Discussion on Asylum

### **LAHORE Screenings**

*Venues will be disclosed via email confirmations upon request.*

Date	Time	Film Title	Event
Monday 01-12-2014	5:00 PM	Chuppan Chupai	Khawaja Sra Music and Dance
Friday 05-12-2014	5:00 PM	Something Must Break + Morgenglanze	Discussion Transgender Youth
Friday 05-12-2014	7:30 PM	Short Films	Q&A with Directors via Skype
Saturday 06-12-2014	5:00 PM	Appropriate Behaviour	Q&A with Director via
Saturday 06-12-2014	7:30 PM	Alex & Ali + Fire under Ashes	
Sunday 07-12-2014	5:00 PM	We Were Here + Nomansland	Talk on HIV/AIDS in Pakistan
Sunday 07-12-2014	7:30 PM	The Way He Looks + Wall	Closing with AKS Team

## FILMS

### **DOCUMENTARIES**

#### **We were here**

Country: USA | Dir: David Weissman | Year: 2011 | Duration: 90 min | Language

English without subtitles WE WERE HERE is the first documentary to take a deep and reflective look back at the arrival and impact of AIDS in San Francisco. It explores how the City's inhabitants were affected by, and how they responded to, that calamitous epidemic. Though a San Francisco-based story, WE WERE HERE extends beyond San Francisco and beyond AIDS itself. It speaks to our capacity as individuals to rise to the occasion, and to the incredible power of a community coming together with love, compassion, and determination.

#### **Chuppan Chupai - Hide and Seek**

Country: Denmark | Dir: Saad Khan, Saadat Munir | Year: 2013 | Duration: 67 min | Language: Urdu with English subtitles

A debut film by Saad Khan and Saadat Munir. The film features four individuals and focuses on their internal conflicts and their constant play of 'hide and seek' from the mainstream

population in the urban areas of Pakistan. We follow Jenny, a transgender college student who recently underwent castration. Kami, a fearless cross-dressing gay dancer, who openly lives with his boyfriend, Waseem, an effeminate wedding entertainer and a veteran dancing boy, and Neeli who played a huge part when the supreme court in Pakistan changed the constitution in favor of the 'third gender'.

### **Alex & Ali Country**

USA | Dir: Malachi Leopold | Year: 2014 | Duration: 90 min | Language: English and Persian with English subtitles

"Alex & Ali" tells the true story of two men: Alex, a former American Peace Corps volunteer; and Ali, a Iranian Muslim. In 1967, while Alex was working with the Peace Corps in Iran, the two met, expressed their love, and kept their relationship secret for 10 years. With political unrest escalating, and the Iranian revolution fast approaching, Alex was forced to leave Iran – and Ali – in 1977. But through letters, phone calls, and eventually emails, the two remained in touch. In May 2012, Alex and Ali were reunited for the first time in 35 years. This film is co-presented in collaboration with Hamburg International Queer Film Festival ([www.lsf-hamburg.de](http://www.lsf-hamburg.de))

## **FEATURE FILMS**

### **Something Must Break**

Country: Sweden | Dir: Ester Martin Bergsmark | Year: 2014 | Duration: 81 min | Language: Swedish with English subtitles

Sebastian, a shy transgendered teen whose world is rocked by the arrival of an alluring young man named Andreas. Initially captivated by Sebastian's non-traditional outlook, as the relationship between the pair develops, Andreas soon begins to feel threatened by it and the foreboding sense of tragedy is never far away. Stylistically daring yet emotionally accessible, the love story that exists at the centre the film exudes integrity and truth. But offering far more than mere romance, *Something Must Break* is also a subversive and erotic reflection on the body and what it means to forge your own identity.

### **Appropriate Behaviour**

Country: USA | Dir: Desiree Akhavan | Year: 2014 | Duration: 82 min | Language: English and Persia with English subtitles

For Shirin, being part of a perfect Persian family isn't easy. Acceptance eludes her from all sides: her family doesn't know she's bisexual, and her ex-girlfriend, Maxine, can't understand why she doesn't tell them. Even the six-year-old boys in her moviemaking class are too ADD to focus on her for more than a second. Following a family announcement of her brother's betrothal to a parentally approved Iranian prize catch, Shirin embarks on a private rebellion involving a series of pansexual escapades, while trying to decipher what went wrong with Maxine. This film is co-presented in collaboration with MIX COPENHAGEN ([www.mixcopenhagen.dk](http://www.mixcopenhagen.dk)).

## **The way he looks**

Country: Brazil | Dir: Daniel Ribeiro | Year: 2014 | Duration: 95 min | Language: Portuguese with English subtitles

Leonardo is a blind teenager struggling to break free from his well-meaning friends and family. When new student Gabriel arrives at school and befriends Leo, jealousy sets in with Leo's friend Giovana, as all three feel their way through adolescence. Daniel Ribeiro's debut feature won the Teddy Award for Best Feature Film at the Berlin Film Festival and also Brazil's official submission for Best Foreign Language category in Oscar this year. A touching coming-of-age story, *The Way He Looks* soars above the well-explored coming of age genre, giving new meaning to the old adage, 'love is blind'. This film is co-presented in collaboration with MIX COPENHAGEN ([www.mixcopenhagen.dk](http://www.mixcopenhagen.dk)).

## **SHORT FILMS**

### **Nomansland**

Country: Denmark | Dir: Peter Gibbons & Karsten Geisnæs | Year: 2013 | Duration: 35 min | Language Danish with English subtitles

*Nomansland* is a deeply affecting and brutally honest story that examines the 'no man's land' between primal sexual urges and our desire for unconditional love.

### **Fire under the ashes**

Country: Denmark | Dir: Arash Setoodeh | Year: 2013 | Duration: 11 min | Language: Persian with Eng subtitles

An Iranian couple tells a heartfelt story about how their ordinary life gets affected by the country's political conditions through 11 minutes of handycam shot footage of demonstrations in Tehran during presidential elections in 2009.

### **Happy**

Country: Canada | Dir: Daniel McIntyre | Year: 2013 | Duration: 8 min | Language: English

A common obsession, the quest for happiness dictates the shape of many lives in the world. Some find it, some seek love, but all are searching to be happy. A direct result of attending too many weddings, *Happy* explores the intersection of happiness, apostasy, and love. A journey through hand-processed 16mm memories, *Happy* begins with a kiss and ends in "god's love".

### **Someday my prince will come**

Country: Canada | Dir: Daniel McIntyre | Year: 2012 | Duration: 12 min | Language: English

There is a world where no one wants what they can't have – they get exactly what they want. Shaped by media persuasion with problematic seduction narratives, "*Some Day My Prince Will Come*" is the great fantasy that viewers are encouraged to believe in. Through a reconstruction of these narratives, an exploration of how reality is co-opted by desperation guides us in to the mind of the viewer.

### **Kiss**

Country: Canada | Dir: Mark Pariselli | Year: 2012 | Duration: 4 min | Language: Silent

An experimental reinterpretation of Andy Warhol's 1963 silent short film of the same name, 'Kiss' recontextualizes his protest against the Hays Code's time restriction of onscreen kissing as an impassioned indictment of laws that prohibit and punish sexual minorities in certain countries.

### **Abu**

Country: Canada | Dir: Arshad Khan | Year: Under prod. | Duration 3 min | Language: English

A sneak peak into the promotional trailer of a profound documentary about the contentious relationship between a fundamentalist Muslim father and his not so stereotypical son, told through photographs, VHS tapes and travelogues.

### **Morgenglanze**

Country: Belgium | Dir: Xavier Gorgol | Year: 2012 | Duration: 3 min | Language: silent

A brave and beautiful art illustration on human gender role by using Ganymede, a mythological character from ancient Greece.

### **Queen of My Dreams**

Country: Canada | Dir: Fawzia Mirza | Year: 2012 | Duration: 3 min | Language: English

As a young girl, Fawzia Mirza fell under the spell of Bollywood heroines and their promise of love and perfection. As an adult, she looks back and re-imagines the epic romance in the classic film Aradhana, in light.

### **Diana**

Country: UK | Dir: Aleem Khan | Year: 2009 | Duration: 11 min | Language: English

Diana takes place the day after the Princess of Wales' death and follows Mohit, an Indian pre-op transsexual on an emotional journey set against the backdrop of a day that shocked a nation and will change his life forever.

### **Pictures of Zain**

Country: UK | Dir: Faryal | Year: 2011 | Duration: 17 min | Language: English

A British-Pakistani woman who embarks on a journey of self discovery after the death of her gay son; confronting her prejudices and making amends with his grieving lover on the way.

### **What you Looking at**

Country: UK | Dir: Faryal | Year: 2011 | Duration: 17 min | Language: English

Do you know what happens, when a Drag Queen and a Burka Clad Woman get Stuck in a Lift?

**Wall**

Country: Spain | Dir: Juanma Carillo | Year: 2012 | Duration: 5 min | Language: Silent

Waiting, craving, listening, downing.... Miguel wants to hear what Peter has to say.

**Ordinary Family**

Country: Korea | Dir: Hyun-ju LEE | Year: 2014 | Duration: 24 min | Language: Korean with English subtitles

Su-young plans to go on the first vacation with her girlfriend, Young-mi, but the news of Su-young's father's unstable health turns their first romantic holidays into melodramatic family reunion in Tow.

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best short film

**THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS**





## AKS events in Lahore



Tekst



Live Chat with film makers from UK  
after the screening of short  
program in Lahore



## Openinig Night in Lahore

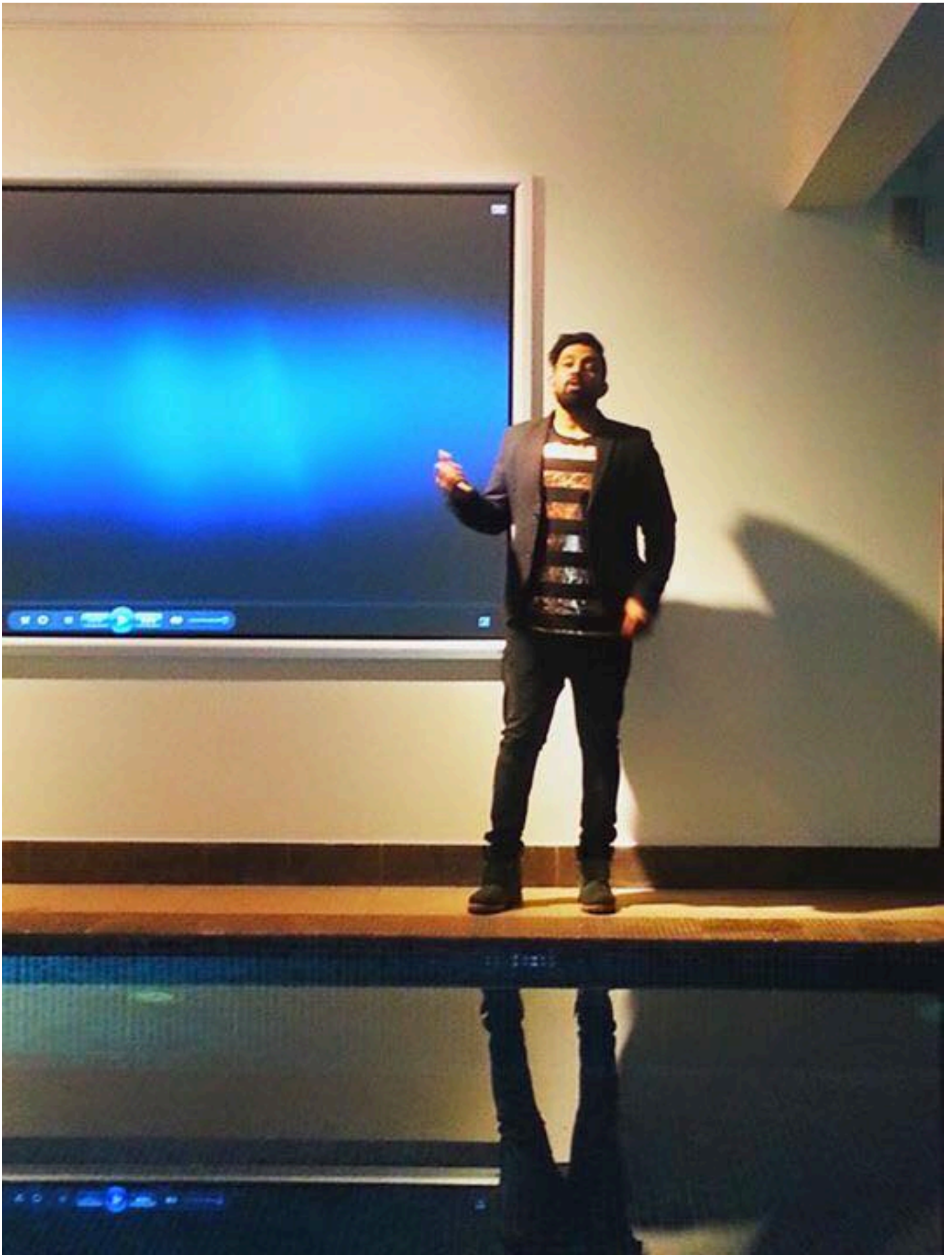




World AIDS day event at AKS festival  
in Pakistan



Saadat Munir presenting the film in Islamabad at Danish embassy in Pakistan





Panel discussion on Gender and Sexuality in Islamabad



Community get together in Islamabad after  
the film screening



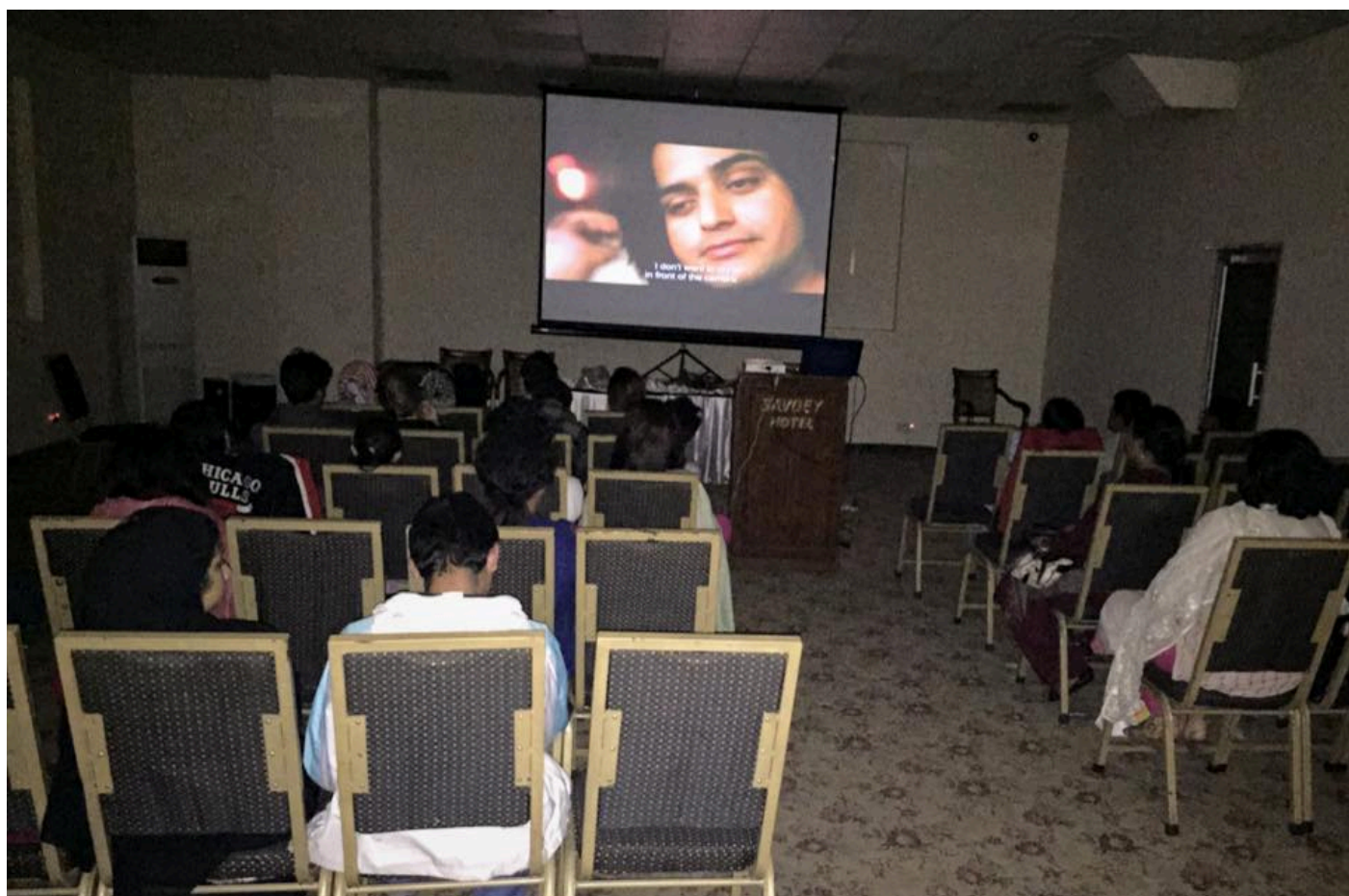


Q&A with local NGO on AIDS and HIV awareness in Lahore





AKS outreach screening at Punjab youth conference organised by USAIDS



Another screening event in Lahore



AKS 2014 flyers

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ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 28TH AND 29TH



LAHORE, DECEMBER 1ST, 5TH, 6TH AND 7TH