



**Aks** INTERNATIONAL  
MINORITIES  
FESTIVAL  
COPENHAGEN

[aksfestival.com](http://aksfestival.com)

30<sup>th</sup> November  
- 4<sup>th</sup> December '18

# Introduction

Aks International Minorities festival (film-art-dialogue) will be back with its 4th edition in Copenhagen from 30th Nov - 4th Dec 2018. The festival will continue using the power of cinema and art by showcasing films, along with debates and dialogue events, to promote the visibility of minorities and marginalized communities.

Considering the current socio-political scenario around the world, Aks festival is intended to focus on the stories of migrants and refugees, queer, trans, Black and people of color. Our program this year focuses on the visibility of women of color and other minorities, therefore, we will mainly screen films made by or about women of color, migrants and queer minorities. All our screenings will be accompanied by debates on the relevant topics of the films. Our chosen topics this year are:

- Art for activism,
- Importance of QTBPoC community building,
- LGBT political movements in the Global South and the current refugee crisis.

We are thankful and highly appreciative of our community and partners for their help. We would like to acknowledge academic contributions by Nazila Kivi (critic and writer), Uzma Ahmed (brown feminist), and Abir Boukornine (Tunisian LGBTQ activist).

More info about Aks festival can be found on [www.aksfestival.com](http://www.aksfestival.com) or [facebook.com/aksfestival](https://facebook.com/aksfestival)



## Aks Festival in Berlin

Aks International Minorities Festival, Schwules Museum, and Transformation - trans\* Film Festival, Berlin presents:



## Thirdness - Gender and Sexuality in Pakistan

29th Nov - 7th Dec 2018

- Films on Pakistani queer and transgender topics
- Talks on LGBT movement and art for human rights in Pakistan
- Ladies of Lahore, a photo series of Khawaja Sira (South Asian indigenous transgender community) by Nadia Horsted Narejo
- A Glimpse of Aks festival, Pakistan – pictures and objects exhibition by Saadat Munir

Venue: Schwules Museum Berlin, Lützowstraße 73 Berlin, Germany  
For more info: [www.schwulesmuseum.de](http://www.schwulesmuseum.de)

# Aks *Guests*

Aks Festival is delighted to host International artists and activist from India, Pakistan and Tunisia

## Kapil Sharma



Kapil Sharma is an Indian actor and filmmaker known for the gay themed franchise production Dunno Y part 1 and 2. The film stands as the first openly gay Bollywood film. Sharma has lately been involved with several other projects mostly based on LGBT stories.

## Yuvraj Parshar



Yuvraj is the lead actor of gay themed franchise production Dunno Y 1 and 2. Together with Kapil, Yuvraj is committed to make LGBT content in Indian cinema. The bold work of this on-screen couple have played a vital role in the termination of section 377, a colonial law that criminalized same sex relationship in India.

## Waqas Aziz



Waqas is a human rights defender, works mainly with LGBT people in jails in Pakistan. Through a non profit organisation "Center for Restoration of Human Dignity (CRHD)", they provide free counselling and legal advisory to the prisoners, ensure safer environment in the prison cells and work to bring them to justice.

## Mehlab Jameel



Mehlab Jameel is a Pakistani grassroots community organizer, educator and independent researcher. They are training to be an anthropologist and their work, located at the intersection of feminist, queer and post-colonial theory, looks at communities marginalized along lines of gender, sexuality and class, particularly the Khawaja Siras, in Pakistan. They associate with leftist/progressive activist streams and have worked on various advocacy ventures including co-drafting and lobbying the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018 in Parliament of Pakistan.

## Neeli Rana



Neeli is one of the leading trans activists in Pakistan, an artist and most importantly the founder Aks International Minorities Festival Pakistan. Neeli had been working for transgender rights in Pakistan since early 2000s and she played an important role in the legal recognition of the third gender in Pakistan and the recent passage of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018 in the Pakistani parliament.

## Alaa Saibi



Alaâ S. is a member of Mawjoudin - We Exist, a local Tunisian organization working to raise awareness about SOGIESC related issues, promoting diversity and non-discrimination and defending the rights of the LGBTQI+ community in Tunisia. Alaâ is one of the volunteers of Mawjoudin Queer Film Festival (MQFF) the first and unique film festival promoting Queer art and rights in North Africa. □



## CHOCOLATE BABIES

Friday | 30th Nov | 18:30

Forsamlings hus, Onkel Dannys Pl. 5,  
1700 København

**Ticket info:** Free Event

Directed by: Stephen Winter | Duration: 83 min | Year 1997 | Country: USA | HD file

Stephen Winter's classic "Chocolate Babies" is based on New York's underground radical BPoC queer cultures. Loud, in your face and messy satire is set around a gang of HIV-positive Black and PoC queer and trans revolutionaries who decide to expose political corruption surrounding the AIDS epidemic. They stage guerrilla attacks against conservative politicians who they believe to be collecting secret lists of HIV positive individuals. Caught up in their extreme methods of activism, self-destructive drugs and alcohol binges, the group becomes torn by infighting and begins to lose sight of their mission and loyalty to each other. Will they ever find the peace and justice they seek?

As most AIDS-centered stories have been somber dramas by and about white gay males, Chocolate Babies is a hidden gem in the history of queer cinema for being a political satire centered on Black folks and people of color and refusing to label them as victims.

This film is co-presented by Sabaah.

Talk

Importance of community building  
QTIPoC visibility in LGBT world

The fight for basic human rights for LGBT people has not ended yet, especially when there are several layers of oppression, discrimination, intolerance within the community. LGBT world today seems more or less to be dominated with white cis-gay men, and can be very exclusive toward gender and race politics. In this talk, we will discuss the importance of inclusive spaces and the visibility of queer, trans Black and people of color in Denmark with Andrea Coloma (MIX Copenhagen), Sandra Soliz (Sabaah), and Bibimbatty. We will share first hand knowledge about the importance of community support from Waqas Aziz, who has experience working closely with Khawaja Sira (indigenous transgender community) in Pakistan.



## 120 BEATS PER MINUTE

Saturday | 1st Dec | 18:30

Cinemateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 København K.

**Ticket info:** [www.dfi.dk/cinemateket](http://www.dfi.dk/cinemateket)

Directed by: Robin Campillo | Duration 184 min | Year: 2017 | Country: France

Moroccan-born French director, Robin Campillo, draws on his own personal experience within AIDS activist group ACT UP-Paris in the 1990s. 120 BPM (Beats Per Minute) is an urgent, heartbreaking, sensual and life-affirming film, which by all means has potential to become a modern queer classic.

The reimagined portraits of the lives of AIDS activists in the early 90s, are set in a bold and vivid detail of the power of discourse, with many of its scenes taking place during the weekly meetings of the group. The film revolves around HIV-negative new member, Nathan, and his blossoming romantic relationship with strident group member Sean. As the AIDS epidemic tears through their community, they join ACT UP movement and fight for love and survival. Campillo has created an inspiring and deeply emotional tale that brilliantly balances the personal and political act.

Event

This film is Presented in collaboration with Mix Copenhagen on the occasion of World AIDS Day to commemorate the global fight against AIDS/HIV. The screening proceeds will be donated for the production of Aks Festival Pakistan. There will be presentation of the festival International guests, partners before the film.



## MATANGI / MAYA / MIA

Saturday | 1st Dec | 21:45

Cinemateket, Gothersgade, 55, 1123 København K

Ticket info: [www.dfi.dk/cinemateket](http://www.dfi.dk/cinemateket)


Directed by: Steve Loveridge | Country: USA | UK, Sri Lanka | Year: 2018 | Language: English, Tamil | Duration: 97 min.

Charting her experiences of civil war and migration to her rise as a popular but controversial star, this documentary traces the life of the singer and pop icon M.I.A. The film is mostly linear and traditional, following MIA from early days as the child of Sri Lankan immigrant in London to present-day fame, controversy and motherhood. But there is nothing traditional about her – she and her siblings had to be tough and reinvent themselves in the absence of a father who was away as an activist in the Tamil resistance movement. Her music, artwork, fashion and general angry-rave aesthetic appears to have come to her with little effort; she just knew it would work.

MIA's support for the Tamil rebels and her 'bad girl' identity have been harshly criticised by mainstream media, politicians and conservative members of the public. Using archive material from the last 22 years, most of which was shot by Maya herself, Steve Loveridge reveals how Maya uses pop music as a political mouthpiece and does not shy away from being an outsider

## Talk A dialogue with Nazila Kivi

Following the screening, critic and writer Nazila Kivi will read from her own writings in an experimental dialogue with the film's content. Nazila Kivi is a journalist, critic and works in the intersections of migration, gender and reproduction. She is a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines, co-founder of culture and feminist magazine Frikktion and currently teaches in the subject family, migration and transnational desires. Nazila is also the founder of Salon Hysteria, a next level space for feminist and decolonial knowledge production.



## UPON THE SHADOW

Sunday | 2nd Dec | 16:30

Cinemateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 København K

Ticket info: [www.dfi.dk/cinemateket](http://www.dfi.dk/cinemateket)

Directed by : Nada Mezni Hafaiedh | Duration 80 min | Year: 2017 | Country: Tunisia

Debutant director, Nada Mezni Hafaiedh's "Upon the Shadow" allows us a closer look into the life of former Femen member Amina Sboui and her LGBTIQ+ friends. She is sheltered in her Tunisian home, where they bond and build queer community against a backdrop of global trauma and struggle. In this queer collective, they share their moments of joy and sorrow, support each other, strengthen their efforts for a community that is built upon passion, love and hope for freedom. This sensitive film provides unparalleled insight into social persecution, political struggle and lives following the Arab spring from a queer perspective. This magnificent documentary blows some sea breeze of Tunisian queer movement on us and connects us to the personal socio-political efforts of our queer comrades who are struggling for the betterment of global queer lives that matter.

This film is co-presented by LGBT Denmark and Talk Town, Talk Town is a festival about gender, equality and feminism. It is a platform for dialogue, debate, networking and knowledge sharing.

## Talk Tunisian Queer Movement

LGBT Denmark works closely with queer and trans rights movements in Tunisia. Abir Boukornine (project coordinator, LGBT Denmark) will invite Alaa Saibi, one of the organisers of Mawjoudin Queer Film Festival from Tunisia to talk about their work as an activist and film festival organiser. They will shed light upon queer movement in North African region and the international solidarity for LGBT rights in the region.

# MR GAY SYRIA

## MR. GAY SYRIA

Sunday | 2nd Dec | 19:00

Cinemateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 København K  
Ticket info: [www.dfi.dk/cinemateket](http://www.dfi.dk/cinemateket)

Directed by: Ayse Toprak | Country: France, Turkey | Year: 2018 | Language: English, Arabic, Pashto | Duration: 88 min

Twenty-four-year-old Husein is from Syria. As a refugee, he waits in Istanbul for possible placement somewhere in Europe. Married with a young daughter, he also carries a big secret: his homosexuality. He must hide his sexual orientation from his conservative family, but he can be himself with his friends in Istanbul's tight-knit gay community. To bring attention to homosexuality among Syrians, he decides to compete in the Mr. Gay Syria pageant. His emotional performance of a letter to his mother wins him the title. He is then invited to compete for Mr. Gay World in Malta—as long as he can secure a visa.

These young gay men in Istanbul live under constant tension: between hoping for a future with a permit to live in a safe European country and wrestling with the values of their traditional backgrounds. Will their dream come true or will the current refugee crisis, exceeding intolerance and the harsh consequences of being gay, Muslim and refugee shatter to pieces?

This film is co-presented by LGBT Asylum.

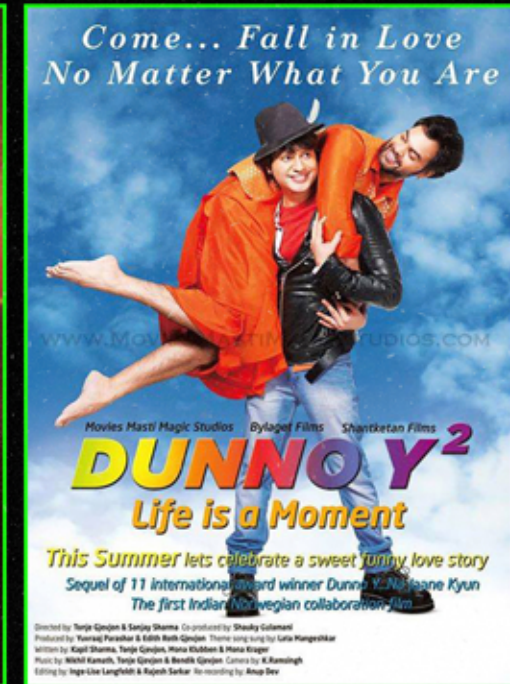
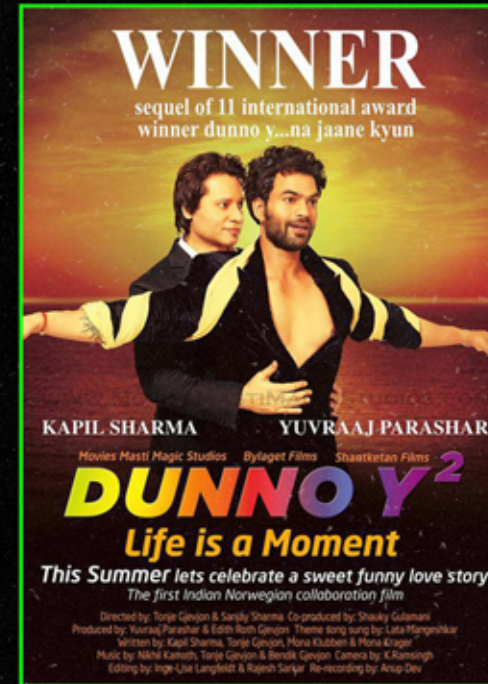
## Talk LGBT Refugees in Denmark

LGBT Asylum is a group that works for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the Danish asylum system and for the rights of LGBT refugees in Denmark. Leo Nasser, Syrian based in Denmark, will talk about homosexuality in Syria and the invisibility of gay Syrians. He will share his personal story of being a refugee and gay Syrian.

## FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS – A tribute to human rights through films and art

Monday | 3rd Dec | 17:00

Medborgerhuset, Biblioteket Frederiksberg  
Ticket info: Free event [www.fkb.dk](http://www.fkb.dk)



We will talk about LGBTIQ+ rights in South Asia. With a mix of filmmakers and activists focusing on stories of human life and a historical change of laws, we will discuss how films and arts can contribute to the human right debate in today's political climate.

Kapil Sharma and Yuvraj Parshar (IND) are the brave filmmakers who have been voicing social taboos and LGBTIQ+ stories on the big screen in India. They have focused on stories that humanize queer and LGBTIQ+ communities in the shadows of old British colonial laws and ethics. Bollywood, one of the biggest film industries in the world, has failed to acknowledge the LGBTIQ+ community for decades. Even though Bollywood films are themed around love and relationships, the setting remains centered in a very heteronormative universe.

Other International guests from Pakistan will also join the discussion about LGBTIQ+ rights in South Asia: Neeli Rana, Waqas Aziz and Mehlab Jameel, who are human rights activists from Pakistan. They will talk about their experiences from Pakistan and how they have helped to ensure a law protecting transgender rights.

The discussion will be accompanied with short film program from India and Pakistan. This event is co-presented by Medborgerhuset at Biblioteket Frederiksberg.



LesbianGayBisTrans Film Festival

**Biblioteket**  
Frederiksberg



**CINEMATEKET**  
DET DANSKE FILMINSTITUT / DANISH FILM INSTITUTE

**SABAAN**