



Aks INTERNATIONAL
MINORITIES
FESTIVAL
KARACHI

Sub Rang Society
presents mini Aks festival to commemorate
Transgender community of Karachi

5th - 7th April '19

aksfestival.com

Sub Rang Society presents mini - Aks Festival Karachi

Aks International Minorities Festival presents a mini- version of festival designed carefully to promote visibility and accessibility of transgender community of Pakistan. The festival is proudly collaborating with their local partner organisation Sub Rang Society. The Sub Rang Society is dedicated to ensure the implications of rights and social justice for the transgender community and that includes access to the health services. Transgender community is highly marginalized and is frequently being assaulted or shot dead in Pakistan. Even at hospital they are mistreated leading to transgender mortality and increase in morbidity status. Transgender being the most stigmatized and marginalized community in Pakistan, suffers a great deal of mental and physical trauma in form of abuse, harassment, torture or even murders.

The festival will take place at The Second Floor T2F, Karachi from 5th - 7th April 2019 with some exciting films, performing art events and dialogue events.



Aks Trans* Shorts

T2F Karachi, 6th April @ 6pm



Rani

Director: Hamad Rizvi, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 14 min, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Winner of multiple International Awards, Rani is a short film about a Pakistani transgender woman who sets out to take care of an abandoned baby.

The film has great significance and is very dear to Aks festival for having Kami Sid (founder of Aks Karachi) being in the main lead of the film.

Bindya Chamkay Gi

Director: Rangni Marea Kidvaii, Year: 2009, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 28 min, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Bindiya Chamkay Gi by Ragni Marea Kidvai is one of the first films that documents the Pakistani transgender rights movement and the life of the pioneer activist and veteran guru Bindiya Rana. The film focuses on the journey and the struggles of Bindiya Rana for demanding rights for minorities in Pakistan.



Vote for X

Director: Tazeen Bari Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 30 min, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

"Vote for X", is a short documentary that follows election campaign of a transgender candidate - Nayyab Ali from Okara in a unique perspective and lived experience, through all the highs and lows. The film explores Pakistani political system, election preparations, and personal commitment of Nayyab a small town transwoman, who dreams for the betterment of her community and the marginalized population of Pakistan.



Aks Dialogue: Where are we Today? Transgender Rights Movement

T2F Karachi, 6th April @ 7:15 pm



Once ostracized and pushed to the margins of the society, transgender people assured their space in every possible field. Today, trans* community members are running for the parliament, walking the runway as supermodel and appearing as Newscaster in the mainstream media. Aks festival will invite prominent figures of transgender rights movement to share their experience from the beginning till today. We will have our veteran leaders like Neeli Rana, Bindiya Rana and Chandi to share their stories of struggles along with the young flag bearers of the rights movement like Shehzadi and Bebo. The panel will be moderated by Khurand Bayer.

Aks Film: Ek Aasha

T2F Karachi, 6th April @ 830 pm



Director: Mayur Katariya, Year: 2019, Country: India, Duration: 123 min, Language: Hindi with English subtitles

Born into a religious Hindu family, Aashish soon learns to deal with the hardships with their gender identity and their intimate desire to become female teacher. While having traditional upbringing to become a boy in a conservative family, Ashish seems to lose hope.

Aashish makes the difficult decision to leave home and join a new family of "Hijra" community. The film focuses on Ashish's transition into Aasha; the life of a traditional Hindu Hijra in the modern day India. All transgender roles are played by transgender non-actors.



Aks Short: A Meeting with NoorJehan

T2F Karachi, 6th April @ 830 pm

Director: Mariam Abid Majid, Year: 2019, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 9 min, Language: Punjabi with English subtitles.

A snapshot of human connection between transgender sex worker, Noor, and a 12 year old street child, Ben. Set around a vintage cinema of old Lahore, the microcosm depicts a clash of the authoritative jurisdiction of men and the other - child, woman and transgender. One can opine that A Night with Noorjehan is essentially a coming of age film.

Aks Mino Shorts

T2F Karachi, 7th April @ 6 pm

Curated by Ali Asghar, Lahore based artist and film critic. Ali joined Aks festival in 2018 in the programming committee. This short films program is carefully chosen to showcase the different aspects of diverse range minorities around the world and issues impacting living on the lives of minorities.

Waahi

Director: Arsalan Majid, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 9 min, Language: Saraiki with English subtitles

Waahi (The Harvest) is a story of struggle and resilience, based on the life of a woman farmer who went against all odds to provide for her family.



Narayanpura

Director - Zeerak Ali and Humad Nisar, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 9 min, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

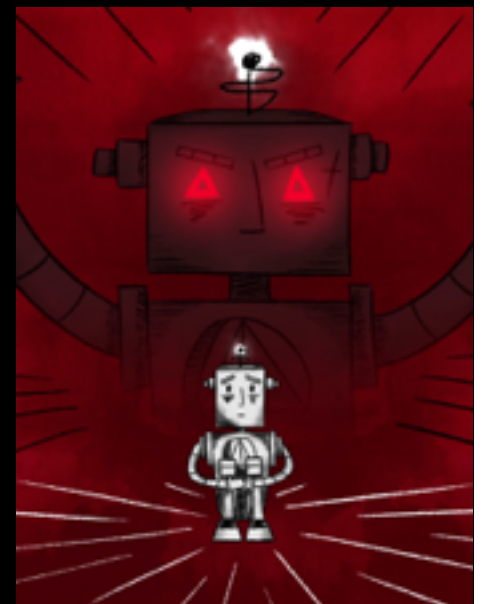
"Narayanpura" small boundary-walled society of multi-ethno cultural population is situated in the heart of Karachi. The working-class residents of this unique society with far different religious backgrounds - Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam, set a prime example of interfaith harmony and defies the extremist image of a country like Pakistan that is notoriously known for its oppressive religious laws.



Machinepur

Director: Maaz Maudood, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 11 min, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Machinepur is a story about finding purpose and meaning in a robotic world. It is the journey of a robot named circuit from slavery to his awakening. After finding himself trapped in the routine created by the system, a dream leaves him with questions that had never been asked before.



Captivity

Director - Kishor Laxmi Londhe Year: 2017, Country: India, Duration: 1 min, Language: English

Democracy , Government , freedom of speech. What is it all? When "Are we really free" is changed to "we really are free".

Birds of Paradise

Director: Rahul M M, Year: 2018, Country: India, Duration: 10 min, Language: Telugu with English subtitles
The film travels through the life of three transgenders, set against the binary and the morality of the society. The film talks about a day from their life.

Aks Dialogue: Aurat Shamoliat aur Baat Cheet

T2F Karachi, 7th April @ 730 pm

The panel will talk about women rights focusing on inclusivity, societal perception and visibility. We will also explore the experiences of gender minorities, their visibility in the media and the importance of the role models to lead the women rights movements. We will invite pioneer activists and inspiring personalities like Fatema Bhai (founder Outcast Magazine), Romaisa Ahmed (writer and soft developer) and Sid Qureshi (events planner and gender equality rights activist). The panel will be moderated by Syed Raza Haider (from Humraaz, a gender and sexual minorities rights based

Aks Art: Moorti Nahi, Moorat Hon

T2F Karachi, 7th April @ 830 pm



A surprize performance art play curated and directed by Khursand Bayer (Lahore based human rights activist and theater performer and practitioner)

The play will be based on inclusive artist group of trans, queer non-binary performers. The main motivation behind this play is to express human emotions, struggles and demand for equal rights through the medium of performance art, po and music.

Aks Wall of Fame

Aks International Minorities Festival is extremely thankful to everyone at the Sub Rang Society for making this mini-version of the festival possible. Aks would like to acknowledge hardwork and dedication of Kami Sid (Executive Director, festival Curator and Organizer), Moazzam Banawaz (Technical Support Officer), Saad (Community Mobilizer), Hina Pathani (Community Mobilizer) and the volunteers Shahrukh, Rafil, Muhriz, Rohaila, Waheed, Umami, Faiza, Mustafa and Amir

