



## NEW WAVE INDEPENDENT PAKISTANI CINEMA

*The short films in this program represents the emerging talents and the new wave of independent filmmaking in the urban Pakistan. All three films are greatly diverse in their content and represents passionate filmmakers, who aspire to make independent cinema in Pakistan.*

### **Dua**

*Directed by: Mona Javed, Duration: 30 min, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Language: Punjabi with English subtitles*

Dua is a journey of a madrasa (Islamic religious education center) girl in which she's trying to find her way after being abandoned by her mother.

### **Malika**

*Directed by: Mose Sab, Duration: 21 min, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles*

"Malika" a short documentary covers the unexplored journey of a young girl "Malika e Noor" from the heights of Karakorum to the terrains of Islamabad, capturing the consistency and strength of a woman, who represented Pakistan national football team internationally. Malika sets a fine example for all the Pakistani women about how to fulfill their dreams fighting against all odds

### **Boundary**

*Directed by: Minhaj Naeem, Duration: 14 min, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles*

Two individuals under one roof wants to get rid of each other but a boundary lies between. It's a tale of two siblings.

Initiated in 2014 by Trans\* and cis-gender activists, Aks International Minorities Festival continuously seeks to improve the representation of minorities and other marginalized communities. The festival takes place annually across Pakistan in its biggest cities, with a specific focus on minorities and the indigenous Khwaja sira (transgender) communities, attracting positive media reception and a devoted audience. Aks festival screens films – accompanied by discussions and debates – in addition to organizing educational workshops, art exhibitions and performing arts events that promote awareness and dialogue about issues impacting minorities in Pakistan. The festival stands alone in being the most widespread and inclusive festival in Pakistan.

By launching Aks OUTREACH, the festival aims to extend its reach and enable organization of similar events all year round. From fall 2019, we will be collaborating with universities, colleges and other public institutes to foster educational and awareness programs by holding events to encourage dialogue on minorities' issues. Aks International Minorities Festival has carefully designed three short film programs, all made in Pakistan, binging to light the existing diversity in the country and to shed light upon the challenges of minorities and marginalized communities.

The idea behind Aks OUTREACH is rooted in creating safe spaces for marginalized communities and creating avenues for cultural dialogue, by engaging mainstream socio-cultural and political platforms in the struggle for the rights of minorities. Aks festival engages its audience by challenging them to empathize with and demand justice for marginalized communities. The very diverse film and arts program helps bring forth global human rights issues to the audiences.

The main objective behind this program is to create dialogue for empowerment and to promote the visibility of minorities within Pakistan. Furthermore, these events will also help promote local talents i.e. filmmakers, artists by screening locally produced films in Pakistan and across the globe.

**Aks** INTERNATIONAL  
MINORITIES  
FESTIVAL

**OUTREACH**

**FILM - ART - DIALOGUE**

For educational purposes

from **FALL '19** to **SPRING '20**



**movies  
that  
matter**

### Gender X

*Director: Manolo Ty, Year: 2019, Country: Germany and Pakistan, Duration: 24 min, Language: Urdu and Sindhi with English subtitles*  
Gender X portrays the life and challenges of transgender women in Pakistan today. During a photo shoot, the photographer Manolo Ty, meets the successful transgender model and activist Inaya in Islamabad. This is the beginning of many interviews with Inaya and other transgender women about their self-image and vulnerability. After yet another brutal attack, one of the interviewees wants to fight for justice. She decides to file a police report for the first time.

### Vote for X

*Director: Tazeen Bari, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 30 min, Language: Urdu with English subtitles*  
"Vote for X" 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 Nayab a small town trans woman, who dreams for the betterment of her community and the marginalized population of Pakistan. This film is an exercise in capturing a historical national and personal moment of the trans-rights movement as more trans-identified individuals take the public and political arena.

### A Night with Noorjehan

*Director: Mariam Abid Majid, Year: 2019, Country: Pakistan, Duration: 9 min, Language: Punjabi with English subtitles*  
An odd encounter between transgender sex worker, Noor, and a 12 year old street child, Ben that leads into a natural human connection. 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.

Booking for educational purposes in universities, public institutes and community spaces.

We welcome everyone interested in these programs, the films in the programs can be showcased individually or in the package.

Please contact us for booking via Email  
program@aksfestival.com

For further information or to see our past programs visit [www.aksfestival.com](http://www.aksfestival.com)

### Father's Grave

*Directed by: Ali Mehdi, Duration: 12 min, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Language: Persian with English subtitles*  
An orphan kid inspired by the crowd on a particular area of graveyard, wants the crowd to be on his father's grave too. In order to do that he thinks he must make the grave of his father as beautiful as possible.

### No Father

*Directed by: Hassan Raza Khan, Duration: 16 min, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Language: Persian and Urdu with English subtitles*  
A young boy Dawood is a victim, like many others in the school, of barbaric terrorist attacks and lost his family, he doesn't speak much since but his silence raises questions about the future of many Hazara children like him. "No Father" a reportage documentary shows the trauma that develops among children, and their stories leave us with immense grief and despair over the plight of Hazara community.

### TRANS\* SHORTS

*Aks festival was founded by the activists from transgender community, we always acknowledge and try to promote Trans\* visibility and issues impacting the lives of transgender people living in Pakistan and around the world. The short films in this program are the latest films made in Pakistan that entails the transgender movement for the equal rights.*



### Darling

*Director: Saim Sadiq, Year: 2019, Country: Pakistan and USA, Duration: 16 min, Language: Punjabi with English subtitles*  
As a new show is introduced at an erotic dance theatre in Lahore, a sacrificial goat goes missing, a dreamy Trans girl desperately tries to become a star, and a naive young boy falls in love. In this award winning short fiction, Saim Sadiq simply digs a hole into human emotions to confront societal oppression and unjust towards minorities.



### MINORITY SHORTS

*Over the past few decades, Pakistan has been a victim of extremism, the short films in this program covers aspects of diverse settings of side by side living, sectarianism, oppression and violence towards religious minorities in the form of journalistic documentaries and fictional story telling.*

### Knitted Belief

*Directed by: Salman Alam Khan, Duration: 15 min, Year: 2019, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles*  
Narayanpura, a minority's compound in Karachi, where Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians set a great example of living in peace and harmony. In Pakistan over the last ten years more than 4000 people have been killed in cases of violence against minorities including sectarian violence, but this small proposes community of multiple religious backgrounds is far from this harsh reality.

### The Impossible

*Directed by: Nida Mehboob, Duration: 4 min, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Language: English and Urdu with English subtitles*  
Portrait of a 28 year old girl from the persecuted religious community in Pakistan, who cannot find a partner because she is afraid of revealing her religious identity.

### Requiem of Shamoon

*Directed by: Zulfiqar Ali Qureshi, Duration: 6 min, Year: 2018, Country: Pakistan, Language: English and Urdu with English subtitles*  
Shamoon, a Christian student of 9th grade was beaten to death in the class room by a Muslim class mate on the conflict of school's drinking water glass reserved for Muslim students only. The administration of the school ignored the atrocities and some fellow students took his dead body to the hospital. Zulfiqar's "Requiem of Shamoon" documents interviews of Shamoon's parents, teachers and other members of the Christian community in the brutal case of violence against marginalized religious minorities.