

MADE IN PAKISTAN

“Made in Pakistan” explores the untold stories and talents in Pakistan through the medium of films and art. This happens to be the most popular programme of the Aks festival every year, and also helps us promote and celebrate local films and artists. Made in Pakistan is also part of Aks OutReach programme and will be used for the educational and awareness purposes in Pakistan and at other International film and art festivals. For booking please contact info@aksfestival.com



THE HAZARA



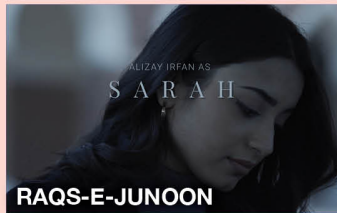
KATAS RAJ



HELP ME



AAJ RANG HAI... LAAL



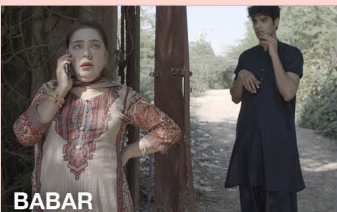
RAQS-E-JUNOON



BHEETAR



KHWAJA SIRAS



BABAR



DYAD

THE HAZARA, A Case for Identity

Dir: Safar Ali Danish, Duration: 12 min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Farsi with English subtitles

In this cinematically rich and important documentary, Hazara filmmaker, Safar Ali Danish, explores the Hazara identity being an ethnic minority in Pakistan through interviews of Hazara musicians, activists and culturalists. Hazaras are known for their distinctive music and literary traditions with a rich oral history and poetry. Hazaragi poetry and music are mainly folkloric, having been passed down orally through the generations. Despite being focused on exploring the cultural heritage of Hazaras, Safar raises questions about how this indigenous identity of Hazaras in Pakistan is perceived? What are the stereotypes, biases and stigmas towards this centuries old nation with a rich and diverse cultural heritage and history.

KATAS RAJ

Dir: Abu bakar Ghaffar, Duration: 12 min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Pakistan is full of many cultures and civilizations, many cultures exist here, one of which is Hinduism, which started with Shri Katas Raj and then spread throughout the sub-continent. This documentary gives a glimpse of the beginnings of Hinduism, how the first foundations of Hinduism were laid in the subcontinent and how the Pandavs themselves spent twelve years of exile. Lord Shiva's symbol of love is also present in Katas Raj in the form of a pond which gives a message of love to the whole world. It conveys the message that if the god of destruction can be so sad for his love, then how sad should we as human beings be? There are many other cultures in Pakistan apart from Hinduism to work on and reflect on. It is our responsibility to do it in a legitimate film.

HELP ME

Dir: Faseeh Bari Khan, Duration: 22 min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Shama, a school teacher, lives with her 10 year's old daughter Toto. Her strenuous life, being a single mother with a small salary, makes her give into the filthy demands of the wicked school headmaster. Whilst the young careless Toto dreams only to celebrate her coming birthday party with cakes and grand festivities. Being exposed to the man's owned society where woman's vulnerability is always at stake, Shama is extremely concerned for innocent Toto and teaches her young daughter about the good touch and bad touch on children by others and she prepares her to scream loud and say “HELP ME”, in certain situations. When the time comes, is there a chance for Toto to scream “Help Me” out loud enough while it's needed most.

AAJ RANG HAI LAAL

Dir: Faseeh Bari Khan, Duration: 22 min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Laali, a naive teenager from a small village is married off to her much older twice widowed, truck driver cousin Kamaal, who is not only a patriarch but also a womanizer and

a drug addict. Laali is now living a miserable newly married life in the city. An encounter with the next door neighbor Maya, brings a hope in her life. Maya not only befriends Laali but also helps her live childhood dreams of driving a car in the big city. Maya trains Laali to be proficient at driving, while keeping this a secret from Kamaal who strongly rejects the idea of women behind the car steering. Maya's friendship and encouragement boosts a new confidence and excitement into Laali's life. Until a day when only a driver can save Kamaal's life, will Laali reveal her newly learnt skill or remain unbothered to help her disgraceful husband?

RAQS-E-JUNOON

Dir: Salina Khan, Duration: 11 min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Noorulain, an emerging poetess and author, pens down her own love story in a published novel Raqs-e-Junoon. When she finally gathers courage to give this novel to her beloved, the journey may not be so easy, not only due to the unpleasant weather that causes long train delays, but also the fear of confrontal for their uncommon love.

BHEETAR

Dir: Mazhar Moin, Duration: min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

A tale of unconditional love, when the two lovers longing for each other is indescribable and beyond societal understanding and acceptance. They risk everything for their love without having a thought for what the consequences may be for their taboo love.

BABAR

Dir: Mazhar Moin, Duration: 28 min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Babar is a young gender non-confirming person, who is battling between gender identity, familial pressure and societal injustice. Babar lives in a working class family with an aggressive brother and a loving and protective mother, who worries for her child's safety from violence at home as well as from the vicious society outside. Babar falls in love with Rehan, a cunning and foul man, who emotionally manipulates Babar to make choices that may be the most regrettable.

DYAD

Dir: Ammara Khalid, Duration: 17 min, Country: Pakistan, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

Gender transition is a taboo in Pakistan. People are harassed, stigmatized, stabbed and even killed for pursuing it. "Dyad" is a story of a trans man who not only went through gender transition but also fought hard to make his identity known and accepted in the face of all challenges. It is a journey of trauma and scars. But above all, it's a journey of "self actualization".

KHAWAJA SIRAS: Pakistan's Trans Community in Between Tradition and Modernity

Dir: Mariam Wolter, Duration: 30 min, Country: Pakistan and Germany, Language: Urdu with English subtitles

The Khawaja Sira community has been instrumental in bringing about a number of changes in the political environment of Pakistan, including the passage of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in 2018. The documentary examines the recent political developments in Pakistan and presents the perspectives of members of the community and activists.