

# colours of sexuality



**chennai queer  
film festival 2012**

june 15 – 17  
goethe-institut /  
max mueller bhavan  
nungambakkam,  
chennai

[chennaiqueerfilmfest.blogspot.com](http://chennaiqueerfilmfest.blogspot.com)



## PROGRAMME

*Day 1: 6pm – 9.30pm*

Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, in association with local lesbian, gay, bi and transgender (LGBT) community groups Chennai Dost and Orinam, bring you Colours of Sexuality, a three-day series of feature films, shorts, a panel-discussion and a photo exhibition showcasing sexual diversity and issues.

The film festival is open to all members of the public and will emphasize our common humanity that transcends boundaries of sexuality, gender identity and culture.

The series, held from June 15th till 17th 2012, is organized in conjunction with the Chennai Rainbow Pride month, a series of LGBT events being held around the city this June. Twenty eight films including shorts, documentaries and feature films from ten countries are being screened.

**Photographs and art work** on sexuality and gender identity themes will be exhibited at the venue through the three days of the film festival.

On Saturday, June 16th 2012, documentary and feature films will highlight the need for families to support their LGBT children and include a **panel discussion** featuring parents of LGBT people in Chennai, a counselor and a human rights lawyer.

Screenings at Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan auditorium

6.00 - 9.30 p.m. on Friday 15 June

6.00 - 9.30 p.m. on Saturday 16 June (including panel discussion)

5.00 - 9.00 p.m. on Sunday 17 June

Everyone is welcome!

### 1. **Y Can't I Run?**

Payoshni Mitra, 2011: India

Tamil with English subtitles, 10 minutes 30 seconds



The story of Santhi Soundarajan, track and field athlete from Tamil Nadu, who remains in public memory after failing a sex test at the Asian Games in Doha in 2006. Since then her intersex body has been publicly discussed, her

anatomy scrutinized, and her identity questioned.

### 2. **Someone Like You**

Andil Gosine, 2004: Canada

Hindi/Urdu, 05 minutes 29 seconds

A daydream for broken dreams, inspired by Nazia Hassan's *Aap Jaisa Koi*, from the 1980 film *Qurbani*. Winner of Jury Prize, InsideOut Film Festival, Toronto.

### 3. **Rites of Passage**

Jeff Roy, 2012: USA

English, 20 minutes

Maya Jafer, originally from Chennai and residing in the USA, goes to Thailand for her sex reassignment surgery. This film follows Maya as she struggles to maintain her faith despite persecution from her family and religious community.



4. **Muro / Wall**

Juanma Carrillo, 2010: Spain  
Spanish (text), 04 minutes 57 seconds

Two young lovers meet against a city soundscape. The wall becomes their medium for communication. Muro was awarded best short film at International Short Queer Film Festival, Berlin, 2011



5. **My Inner Turmoil**

Rashmi, 2012: USA  
English, 08 minutes 06 seconds



India premiere of Rashmi's film, a compelling short that captures the angst of the central character, Priya, as she navigates living life in two genders. The film explores her emotional hardship of switching genders on a daily basis

and her inability to be her true self, brought in by complications of immigration, employment, culture and her family's incomplete acceptance.

6. **Deep End**

Brettan Hannam, 2012: Canada  
English, 06 minutes 17 seconds



Dane, a 13 year old, finds out that his elder brother is gay and must choose to join between following the views of his small town and defending his brother.

7. **Logging Out**

Nakshatra, 2012: India  
English, 07 minutes

Like so many teenagers in middle-class urban India, Aayush logs on to find true love on a social networking site. What does he find?



8. **Love, Lust and Leela**

Diana Morris, 2012: India  
English, 33 minutes



A light-hearted romp through the lives of lesbians and bisexual women in an Indian metro. Leela is ready to start dating again, and seeks the help of best friend Likita, founder of Sapphic Traffic, a site for queer women. Add a touch of dyke drama and a dash of love potion.

9. **Cure(d)**

Aaron Chan, 2011: Canada  
English, 06 minutes 06 seconds

After coming out to his parents about his attraction for boys, Jason asks them for a 'cure' for his homosexuality because he wants to be like everyone else. They oblige. But what's in the pill?

10. **The Island**

Trevor Anderson, 2008: Canada  
English, 5 minutes

This imaginative Canadian short was inspired by a homophobic email that Anderson received suggesting that all gays should be "put on an island, so you can give each other AIDS." This got Anderson thinking - why not?

11. **Kalvettukal**

Gee Ameen Suleiman, 2012: India  
Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi with English subtitles, 33 minutes 20 seconds



A film in three chapters, described by the filmmaker thus: "The first fictionalizes the true story of Tintu and Swapna, a transgender man and his partner who fled Kerala to live and love in a less oppressive space. The second chapter explores the

erotic desires of the community and the third chapter captures the issues of transgender men through interviews".

12. **Unbearable Not Impossible**

Gary Paramanathan, 2011: Australia  
English, 10 minutes 40 seconds

Noose knot, study chair, saved in a moment. Damon, a 14-year old boy, damaged by his immediate world, runs from his friends, and runs to find a life and a world he may never get out of.

*Day 2: 6pm - 9.30pm*

1. **She is my Son**

Jarryd Austin and Kalki Subramaniam, 2011: India  
Tamil, 13 minutes 52 seconds

Moving conversations with the mother of transwoman Sandhiya.

2. **More than a Friend**

Debalina, 2010: India  
Bengali with English subtitles, 35 minutes 06 seconds



This film explores the lives and outlooks of four characters: Rupsa, her girlfriend Ranja, Ranja's mother and their domestic help, Lakkhir Ma. This heartwarming film is interspersed with real-life interviews of people

belonging to various sections of the society, set against the backdrop of Section 377, Indian Penal Code.

3. **Mr. & Mr. Iyer**

Charukesh Sekar, 2011: India  
Tamil and English, 08 minutes 28 seconds

Based on the short story *Deviance* (2008) by Chennai blogger Lavanya Mohan, Mr. and Mr. Iyer is a humorous take on a TamBrahm family's reaction to their son's declaration of intent to marry his boyfriend. His paatti (grandmother) has the last word, of course.

*Panel Discussion on parental acceptance of LGBT youth*

4. **Coming Out**

Matthias Freihs, 1989: (formerly east) Germany  
German, with English subtitles, 108 minutes

Premiering at the Kino International in Berlin on the very night that the Berlin Wall collapsed, November 9, 1989, *Coming Out* was the first and last East German feature film that dealt centrally with the lives of gay and bisexual men. The film deals with the process of the protagonist's "coming out" and admitting to himself and others that he is attracted to men. The film was shot in East Berlin locations that were common meeting points for homosexuals in East Germany such as the Fairytale Fountain (Märchenbrunnen) in Volkspark Friedrichshain and bars such as "Schoppenstube" in Prenzlauer Berg and Zum Burgfrieden, located at Wichertstraße 69.





*Day 3: 5pm - 9pm*

1. **Ennai Thediya Naan**

Geetha Raajput, 2010: India  
Tamil, 11 minutes 41 seconds

The story of Vijay, a teenage male child coming to terms with transgender identity. Will Vijay's school and family support Vijay in the journey to self-discovery?

2. **One Hundred and Eleven**

Hieu Tran, 2012: USA  
English, 14 minutes 11 seconds

After breaking up Adam and Jacob give their relationship a second chance.



3. **Amen**

Ranadeep Bhattacharyya, 2010: India  
English, 23 minutes 57 seconds



When Harry meets Andy through an online dating website, they experience hope amidst confusion, explore truths about sexuality and the self and delve into the profound meaning of life in the continuum of its trifles.

4. **Engayging Lives**

Shruti Rao, 2010: India  
English, Hindi, Marathi with English subtitles, 26 minutes

Four gay men from Mumbai - a designer, an NGO employee, a gay activist and his partner – recount their journeys to self-acceptance. Film courtesy Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival.

5. **You Can't Curry Love**

Reid Waterer, 2009: India/USA  
English, 23 minutes 29 seconds



A handsome east Indian from London travels to India on work, and falls in love with a guy there. East and West: can the twain meet (again)?

6. **Dish**

Brian Harris Krinsky, 2008: USA  
English, 13 minutes 31 seconds

Two emos in eastern Los Angeles chat about the sexual escapades of others. After Israel has found out everything from Louie, Israel decides it is about time he knew what it is all about. The proviso is that the hair has to stay in place.

7. **Traces**

Rachel Zisser, 2007: USA  
English, 19 minutes

A father bids his son farewell at the airport. That same night, he makes a terrible discovery. Following the traces that lie before him, he embarks on a sad and painful journey for which there is no end at sight.

8. **KhwaishQein**

Anil Lakhwani, 2011: India  
Hindi, 10 minutes 30 seconds

A story about a special bond between two unique soulmates, struggling with the complexities and desires in their lives.

9. **La Ducha/ The Shower**

Maria Jose San Martin, 2010: Chile  
Spanish with English subtitles, 10 minutes



A couple spends their last morning together in the bathroom. One of them is about to leave the country. The other has decided to stay. But who will take care of the cat?

10. **Erè Mèla Mèla**

Daniel Wiroth, 2000: Luxembourg  
Amharic, 07 minutes

Bodies brush against each other, hands speak to each other and loving glances are exchanged. A cinematic poem dedicated to the other – without whom one is nothing. Set to the music of Ethiopian artist Mahmoud Ahmed.



11. **Tommy**

Tora Martens, 2007: Sweden/Cuba  
Spanish with English subtitles, 18 minutes

Havana, Cuba. The film's director returns to the island to meet the film's protagonist, Tommy who was a dancer at the Cuban national opera house and is HIV positive. In this film, he talks about love and his sense of longing as he shares his life with us.



12. **B Teme/ In the Theme**

Olga Popova, 2007: Russia  
Russian with English subtitles, 14 minutes



Two young women celebrate their first wedding anniversary. Over a bottle of champagne, they look back at their relationship. They ponder upon questions pertaining to marital rows, quarrels with their peers, the desire for children and their daily lives *in the theme*.

## Glossary of Terms

Aravani/hijra: Term used in the Indian subcontinent to refer to a traditional community of male-born transgender individuals who perceive themselves to be a third gender, or neither man nor woman

Bisexual: People significantly attracted to others of more than one sex.

Emo: short for 'emotional hardcore', emo refers to a post-2002 youth subculture drawing on punk and goth music and lifestyles

Gay: Men who are predominantly or exclusively attracted to other men

Intersexed person: People whose external features or internal structures contain elements of both male and female biology

Kothi: Refers to same-sex attracted males who are feminine in their behavior and/or appearance

Lesbian: Women who are predominantly or exclusively attracted to other women

Queer: A formerly derogatory term that has been reclaimed by the community, 'queer' is often used as an umbrella term for people of alternate sexualities and gender identities.

Transgender: People who feel themselves to be of a gender other than that corresponding to their biological sex.

**The organizers thank all the volunteers and filmmakers who made this film festival possible.**

## About the Organizers

**Goethe-Institut** is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. We promote knowledge of the German language abroad and foster international cultural cooperation. We convey a comprehensive picture of Germany by providing information on Germany's cultural, social and political life. We face the cultural policy challenges of globalisation and develop innovative concepts for a world made more human through mutual understanding, where cultural diversity is seen as an asset. Website: <http://www.goethe.de/ins/in/che/enindex.htm>



**Chennai Dost**, started in Aug 2009, is a community for gay, lesbian and bisexual people from southern India. CD is building up a strong online presence, provides support and a forum for young gay and bi men, organizes social meets, exhibitions, cultural events, fund-raising parties, HIV awareness campaigns, human rights awareness programs, and movie screenings since 2009. As part of the Chennai Rainbow Coalition, it has played a vital role in the Chennai Rainbow Pride. Members have regularly appeared, sensitized the media and public on many LGBTQ related issues such as gay extortion, homophobia, TV-9 news against homosexuality, college campus LGBTQ related issues, same-sex relationships, coming out and many other issues. Website: <http://chennai-dost.blogspot.com>



**Orinam** is a Tamil word that means 'One kind' or 'One community'. Initiated in 2003, Orinam is an online-offline space providing support spaces and resources for those of us who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender, particularly those with cultural ties to Tamil Nadu, India, and its global diaspora. Over the past nine years, MP/Orinam has touched many lives and has given a strong sense of belonging and support to its members, both local and those in the diaspora. Website: <http://orinam.net>

