

The background of the entire poster is a close-up, slightly out-of-focus photograph of a person wearing a black gas mask with a clear visor. The person's eyes are visible through the visor, looking directly at the camera. The lighting is dim, with a blueish-grey tint. The text is overlaid on this image.

**GIFF** | Gandhara  
Independent  
Film Festival

A CIRQUE FILMS INITIATIVE

FESTIVAL 2024 EDITION 5

# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

11 - 20 October 2024

[www.gandharafilmfestival.com](http://www.gandharafilmfestival.com)

Streaming Partner  
**myco**

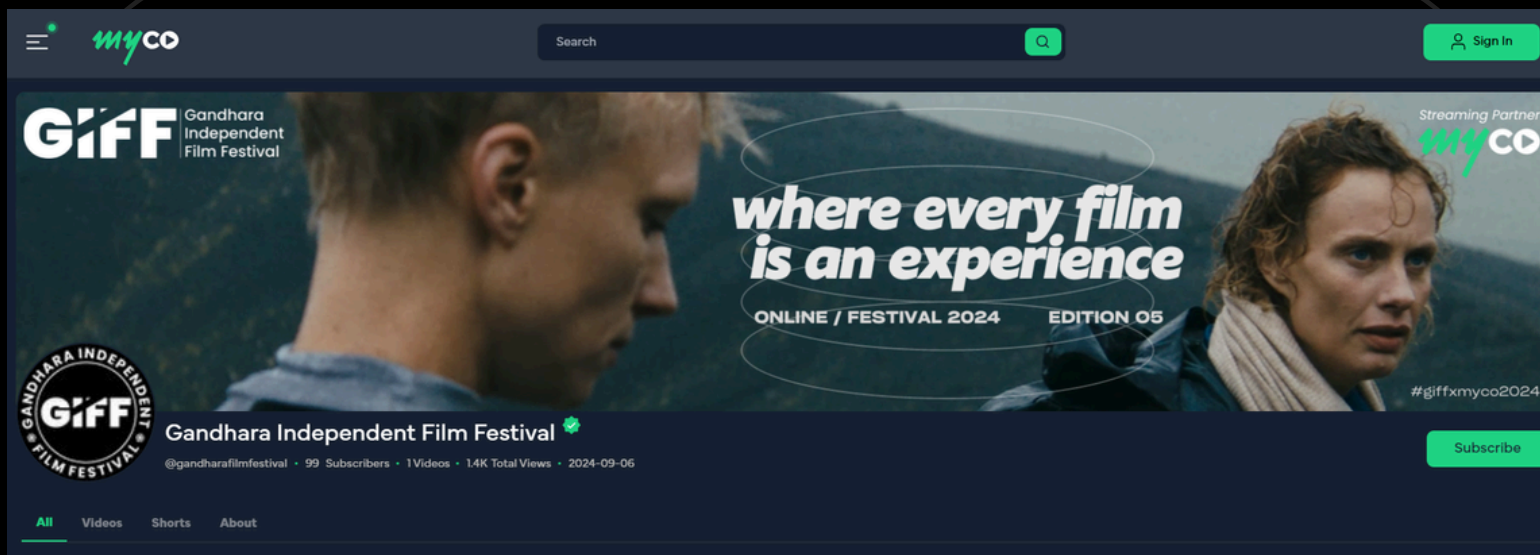
**WHERE EVERY  
FILM IS AN  
EXPERIENCE**

Gandhara Independent Film Festival is pleased to announce its curated lineup of 57 scintillating stories from around the world that will tug at your heart strings and keep you on the edge of your seat.

All 57 films will be available to watch from 11th to 20th October 2024 on our streaming partner myco.

The curation is a smorgasbord of 9 feature films, 24 international short films, alongside 24 Pakistani short films competing for awards. You choose what to watch and when.

Mark your calendars to enjoy Pakistan's premiere digital film festival and experience stellar storytelling.



V I R T U A L   S C R E E N

[myco.io/channel/gandharafilmfestival](https://myco.io/channel/gandharafilmfestival)



# FEATURE NARRATIVE

We're proud to announce 09 outstanding feature films selected for GIFF 2024, Edition 05!  
A celebration of compelling stories and bold visions from filmmakers around the globe.

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# BEYOND THE WETLANDS

A FILM BY ARSALAN MAJID  
PAKISTAN | 97 MIN

FEATURED

TWO RESEARCHERS FROM KARACHI ARRIVE AT HUSHE VALLEY NEAR THE K2 MOUNTAIN FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT ON GLOBAL WARMING. WHEN ONE OF THE RESEARCHER VANISHES INTO THE COLD AND TREACHEROUS VALLEY, A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION IS ORGANIZED TO FIND THE MISSING PERSON.

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# THE BLACK NOTES

A FILM BY ANATOLIY KOLIEV  
RUSSIA | 95 MIN

FEATURED

AT THE HEIGHT OF WW2 IN 1942, TWO BROTHERS FROM THE HIGH MOUNTAIN OSSETIAN VILLAGE AWAIT THEIR FATHER'S RETURN FROM WAR. THEY REALISE THE DAMAGING EFFECTS THE BLACK NOTES, LETTERS INFORMING LOVED ONES OF THEIR BELOVED PASSING IN BATTLE, HAVE ON THE VILLAGERS AND THUS PERSUADE THE POSTMAN TO HIDE ALL THE NOTICES UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR.

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# BROTHERS

A FILM BY DARKHAN TULEGENOV  
KAZAKHSTAN | 100 MIN

FEATURED

AKZHOL, A RECENT GRADUATE FROM THE ORPHANAGE, IS DETERMINED TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS FATHER, WHOM HE BELIEVES IS STILL ALIVE. EAGER TO ESCAPE THE CONFINES OF HIS PAST, HE EMBARKS ON A QUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE. ALONG THE WAY, HE BEFRIENDS DIMASH, A NEIGHBOUR WITH A REBELLIOUS SPIRIT, AND TOGETHER THEY DELVE INTO A LIFE OF PETTY CRIME, NAVIGATING THE UNDERBELLY OF THEIR CITY. WHEN AKZHOL DISCOVERS THAT HIS BROTHER IS ALIVE AND LIVING A LIFE OF PRIVILEGE AND OPPORTUNITY, THEY TEAM UP TO FIND THEIR FATHER. THIS GRIPPING TALE EXPLORES THEMES OF BELONGING AND THE LENGTHS ONE WILL GO TO RECLAIM LOST CONNECTIONS, ULTIMATELY REVEALING THAT FAMILY CAN TAKE MANY FORMS.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# PARVIN

A FILM BY MIRABBAS KHOSRAVINEZHAD  
IRAN | 82 MIN

FEATURED

IN A CONSERVATIVE, RURAL VILLAGE, PARVIN, A SPIRITED TEENAGE GIRL, ALLOWS HER BOYFRIEND TO SNEAK INTO THE HOUSE WHEN SHE IS ALONE. HOWEVER, A DOMESTIC BRAWL AND UNTIMED EARLY RETURN OF HER PARENTS FORCES HER TO RECONSIDER HER FATEFUL CHOICE AND NOW SHE HAS TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET HIM OUT OF THE BUSTLING HOUSE.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**JUJJI**

A FILM BY HABIB SHAHZAD  
PAKISTAN | 72 MIN

FEATURED

IN A CHILLING CRIME THRILLER BASED ON TRUE EVENTS, NAVEED; A POLICE OFFICER, IS DRAWN INTO  
A HIGH-STAKES GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE WHEN A CUNNING SERIAL KILLER BEGINS TERRORIZING THE CITY

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# THE START

A FILM BY ERNAR NURGALIEV  
KAZAKHSTAN | 90 MIN

FEATURED

THE START TELLS THE POIGNANT AND INSPIRATIONAL STORY OF TWO BROTHERS, WHO STRUGGLE TO FIND THEIR FOOTING AFTER THE SUDDEN DEATH OF THEIR FATHER. BURDENED BY GRIEF AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, THEY RESORT TO PETTY THEFTS TO SURVIVE, BECOMING ENTANGLED IN A LIFE OF CRIME, OFTEN DISTRIBUTING THEIR LOOT AMONGST THE VILLAGE CHILDREN.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# FRAGRANT

A FILM BY HADI MOQADAMDOOST  
IRAN | 100 MIN

FEATURED

ALI, A GIFTED PERFUMER KNOWN FOR HIS EXQUISITE BLENDS, IS ON THE BRINK OF REALIZING HIS DREAMS AS HE AND HIS WIFE PREPARE TO WELCOME THEIR FIRST CHILD. HIS LIFE IS FILLED WITH THE SWEET SCENTS OF JOY AND ANTICIPATION—UNTIL HE RECEIVES DEVASTATING NEWS ABOUT HIS HEALTH THAT THREATENS TO UPEND EVERYTHING HE HOLDS DEAR. FACED WITH THE HARSH REALITY OF HIS CONDITION, ALI BECOMES DETERMINED TO SECURE HIS FAMILY'S FUTURE AND CREATE LASTING MEMORIES FOR HIS UNBORN CHILD.

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# WEEKENDS AND WEEKDAYS

A FILM BY SHARAD RAJ  
INDIA | 78 MIN

FEATURED

WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS IS A 78-MINUTE FEATURE IN HINGLISH THAT OBSERVES FROM A DISTANCE BOTH PHYSICAL AND METAPHORICAL, THE LIVES OF FOUR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, PERHAPS PRODUCTS OF A LIBERAL ARTS INSTITUTION WORKING IN VARIOUS FORMS OF MASS MEDIA IN THIS DIGITAL AGE IN THE COMMERCIAL CAPITAL OF INDIA, MUMBAI.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

# **SILENT VICTIMS**

A FILM BY AMIRHOSEIN SAGHAFI  
IRAN | 72 MIN

FEATURED

IN THIS EPISODIC FILM WE SEE THREE WOMEN WHO ARE STRUGGLING AGAINST THE PERVASIVE PATRIARCHY. THE FILM SERVES AS A POWERFUL TESTAMENT TO THE RESILIENCE OF WOMEN, INVITING VIEWERS TO REFLECT ON THE IMPACT OF SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF STANDING UP FOR YOURSELF.



# SHORT NARRATIVE

We're thrilled to present 24 international short films selected for GIFF 2024, Edition 05!  
A celebration of diverse voices and global storytelling, every film promises a unique cinematic experience.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **FISHERMAN'S BURDEN**

A Film By Levan Tskhovrebadze  
Georgia | 18 min 08 sec

Two destitute father and son fishermen witness a shoot out near the lake and take a briefcase of money. Suspected by the police as criminals and hounded by the criminals for the stolen money, their relationship of father and son evolves through the choices they make.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **PELARGONIUM**

A Film By Ekaterina Razvorotneva  
Russia | 19 min 17 sec

Kirill and his grandfather share a close bond. He takes care of him when his mother is at work and allows him to indulge in his mythical fantasies, often spurring him on. However, when tragedy strikes, Kiril and his mother are left to pick up the pieces and be there for each other.

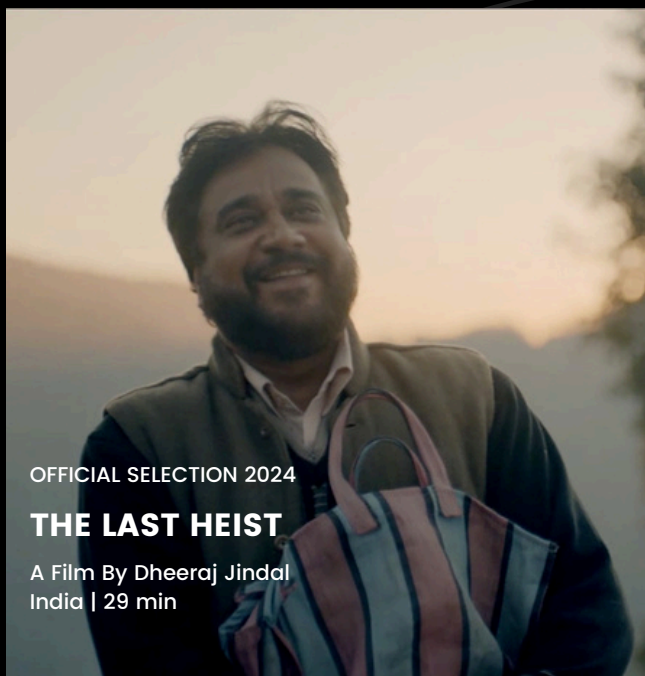


OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **HANNAH**

A Film By Ehsan Abbaszadeh  
Iran | 14 min 49 sec

In a small, conservative community, a father, Ishmael, grapples with the crushing weight of societal expectations and familial honor after his daughter becomes entangled in a scandal that threatens their reputation. As pressure from the family mounts, he must decide which way he will follow, the traditional or one of forgiveness. This powerful narrative explores the depths of familial loyalty, the struggle for identity, and the fight against oppressive societal norms, leaving audiences to ponder the true meaning of honor and sacrifice.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## THE LAST HEIST

A Film By Dheeraj Jindal  
India | 29 min

In the picturesque hills of Uttarakhand, two bumbling thieves are in the midst of their last heist when their plans take a chaotic turn; they are forced to shelter three students as the police close in on the notorious Bawarchi Gang—known for their quirky habit of cooking elaborate meals before committing a crime. Amidst the chaos, the unlikely group learns valuable lessons about life, family, and the importance of honesty. Through humorous exchanges and unexpected camaraderie, they explore themes of migration, dreams, and the pursuit of a better future, all while the hills echo with laughter and absurdity.

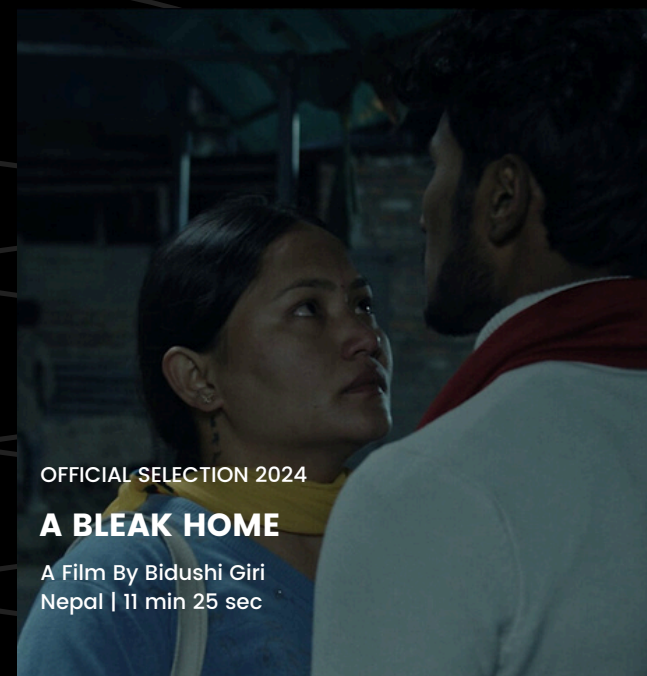


OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## WHAT IS THE CRITERIA?

A Film By Aneesa Khan  
United States | 11 min

Sabah, a young Pakistani-American woman returns to her family home amidst the chaos of her sister Imaan's wedding preparations. Sabah's arrival coincides with her receiving new eyeglasses that help her experience a newfound clarity and insight into the people around her. Through a blend of humor, introspection, and family dynamics, the film explores the intricacies of cultural identity and the complexities of modern relationships.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## A BLEAK HOME

A Film By Bidushi Giri  
Nepal | 11 min 25 sec

Dance tutor Shubhi decides to confront her partner whom she suspects of infidelity with another girl. Later on, she discovers her parent's relationship falling apart. Now, the daughter and mother are in a dilemma of either holding on to the things that are falling apart or to let go of them.





OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **LOOKING SHE SAID I FORGET**

A Film By Naomi Pacifique  
Netherlands | 24 min 58 sec

Having recently relocated to Amsterdam, Lou finds herself alone in her new apartment, which she is preparing to share with her partner, Joel. However, with Joel away on a trip with another intimate partner, Lou is left to navigate the complexities of their Ethically Non-Monogamous relationship. Feeling a mix of anticipation and insecurity, she immerses herself in the vibrant rhythms of the city around her.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **AND HER SLEEVE WET WITH TEAR**

A Film By Farzaneh Foroozesh  
Iran | 20 min

In a world where societal expectations stifle women's voices, a group of women grapples with the oppressive forces that limit their personal desires. Each day, they confront the dullness of routine and the weight of unfulfilled dreams, their struggles manifesting in the wetness of their eyes and the dampness of their sleeves.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **A CRAB FROM A CONCH SHELL**

A Film By Jermaine Tulbo  
Philippines | 27 min

Grieving the loss of her parents, Judy escapes her aunt's care, chasing a distant, human-shaped light that symbolizes hope and solace. Her pursuit nearly leads to disaster when she almost gets into a car accident, but is saved by Karen and her seemingly perfect family. As Judy integrates into their lives, she finds comfort, but her presence ignites jealousy in Karen's daughter, Shirley. As their destinies intertwine, the journey becomes not only a quest for the elusive light but also a deeper exploration of grief, connection, and the search for understanding in a world that feels both lost and full of possibility.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## SHOELACES

A Film By Feisal Azizuddin  
Malaysia | 16 min 52 sec

In a struggling rural community, Ismail has dedicated his life to caring for his mentally challenged brother, Sani. After years of hard work, Ismail finally pays off their father's debts, envisioning a brighter future for them both. However, their newfound stability is shattered when a villager accuses Sani of murdering his daughter—a tragic event that rocks the village and turns the brothers' lives upside down.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED

A Film By Vladimir Motyrev  
Russia | 17 min 30 sec

During a solitary expedition into a dense, untouched forest, an ecologist encounters a mysterious force that disrupts his scientific observations. As he grapples with the strange phenomena surrounding him, he meets a little girl who seems to emerge from the very heart of the wilderness. With an ethereal presence, she captivates Ethan, drawing him deeper into the forest's secrets.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## LIFELINE

A Film By Helena Szoda-Wozniak  
Poland | 12 min

After the tragic loss of her sister Justyna, Marta embarks on a journey of healing, determined to confront the ghosts of her past. Together with her husband Michał and their young daughter, they go camping at a serene beach along the Vistula River—the very place where Justyna's body was discovered. As memories flood back, Marta is haunted by guilt and unresolved emotions, creating an invisible rift between her and Michał.





OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **ACCIDENTALLY INTENTIONAL**

A Film By Kevin Rahardjo  
Indonesia | 14 min 07 sec

Jovan, 16-year-old religious teenager is watching porn for the first time when accidentally the audio is connected to his mother's car Bluetooth. He is punished by his devout Christian parents and asked to repent without explanation.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **LUCKY DAY**

A Film By Roberto Navarro Torres  
Spain | 15 min

In a barren, desert landscape, a lonely man finds a voice recorder and 200 Euros on a bridge. When he plays the recording, he receives a tempting offer: stay on the bridge for 30 minutes and earn an additional 1,000 Euros, or walk away with the money he already has. Determined to earn more, the man accepts the challenge and settles on the bridge, while time slowly ticks away in an environment of total silence and desolation. But something he finds makes him doubt his decision.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **FIVE SLAPS AND ONE TRACTOR**

A Film By Bhagat Singh  
India | 20 MIN

In the northern state of Haryana in India, the village council deals with a rape of a lower caste minor girl within the narrow spectrum of caste politics.



Nilofer was abused by her father and her attempts to seek justice are thwarted by her family's desire to keep the shameful secret hidden. This one-take short film unfolds to visualise Nillofer's inner turmoil as she stands firmly planted in front of a Police station on the cusp of the biggest decision of her life.



Martina has a date with Adri in an open field one summer morning. They talk, play, laugh and reminisce about past adventures. But suddenly something breaks, and those vivid memories are no longer what they seemed.



An accident caused Zhou Zhiyu and several of her friends to fall apart. Years passed, and Zhou Zhiyu, who hadn't been home in a long time, returned to this ordinary small city.





OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **NIGEZ (HOME)**

A Film By Farzana  
Russia | 30 min

The film revolves around an elderly man who lives a bucolic life in the rural countryside while his city dwelling son wants to take him to live out his final days in the city in comfort. The elderly man is attached to the land his home stands upon and finds it difficult to bid it farewell.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **HOMECOMING**

A Film By S M Kamrul Ahsan  
Bangladesh | 30 min

Joya is travelling home from university upon news of a family tragedy. Set against the political upheaval of 66-67 in former East Pakistan, this film delves into a daughter's relationship with her father and the uncertainties of how her life will unfold.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **BLACK WATER**

A Film By Joanna Różniak  
Poland | 18 min 27 sec

Emilka, a young woman grappling with unemployment and debilitating panic attacks triggered by water, finds solace in the company of her spirited younger sister after a devastating family tragedy. Preferring the comfort of their shared world, she avoids confronting her fears, allowing herself to become consumed by the weight of her grief. When an unexpected job opportunity arises that demands a deep dive into the past she begins to confront the trauma that has held her captive.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## FLASHES

A Film By Dmitriy Lebedev  
Russia | 10 min

On November 6, 1941, Moscow is a city gripped by the chaos of war. Inside a once-vibrant cultural center, soldiers march through corridors transformed into makeshift barracks, with barricades replacing windows and the sounds of rehearsals giving way to the deafening explosions of conflict. Amidst this stark reality, Anastasia clings to the remnants of her former life and the art that once defined her. In the frozen foyer of the center, she has a heart-wrenching reunion with her lover, Mikhail, who faces the grim reality of being sent off to fight.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## DUSK

A Film By Ujjal Paul  
India | 23 min 42 sec

Dusk follows the poignant journey of a young Nepalese sex worker navigating life in the bustling red light district of Kolkata. Amidst the chaos and challenges of her daily existence she finds an unexpected connection with a regular client who indulges her request of a brief escape to watch the sunset by the river.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## ON THE MOUNTAIN

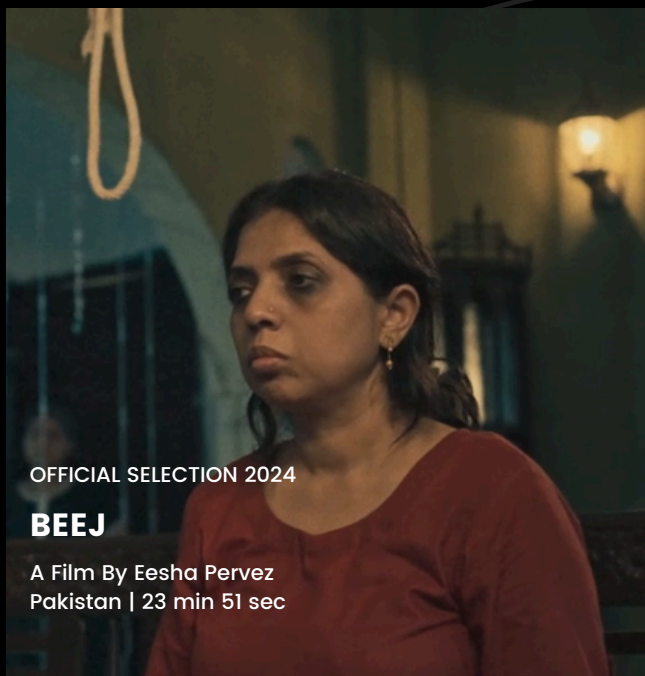
A Film By Anya Raza  
United States | 12 min 47 sec

Rabia, an English teacher from Kabul, faces a challenging dilemma when her family is given the chance to resettle in the United States amidst the chaos of political upheaval. As the clock ticks, she must make an agonizing choice.

# SHORT NARRATIVE

Honored to reveal 24 exceptional Pakistani short films selected for GIFF 2024, Edition 05!  
Get ready for a showcase of cinematic experience that will leave a lasting impact.





OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**BEEJ**

A Film By Eesha Pervez  
Pakistan | 23 min 51 sec

In a world fraught with a deadly airborne disease that has no cure, three friends – Shela, Mehreen, and Kaula, who is pregnant – decide to commit suicide by hanging themselves rather than let death control them. Shela who has her own trauma of her child passing, ultimately faces it when at the last moment, during a fight between Shela and Mehreen, Kaula's water suddenly breaks, and she dies while giving birth. As a seed of mistrust, doubt and fear is sown in Shela's heart toward Mehreen the tension becomes palpable resulting in unforeseen and unpredictable events that follow.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**WHAT WILL YOU TAKE WITH YOU**

A Film By Adil Sher  
Pakistan | 13 min 23 sec

An utterly self-absorbed and emotionally immature father, based in Lahore, Pakistan, Khawaja, is proud of his accomplishments in raising two daughters, one married and one who has just gotten engaged at the start of this film. He's convinced that parents never make wrong decisions and always do the best for their children when choosing partners for them.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**ROYA**

A Film By Sana Hussain  
United Kingdom | 14 min 37 sec

Inspired by the works of Virginia Woolf, Roya is a short film about a woman reliving her memories and coming to terms with her grief.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## UDEEKAN

A Film By Aiza Mustabeen Zahid  
Pakistan | 25 min

Set in the 1940s Punjab, during the lead-up to and aftermath of the Partition of India, Udeekan follows the journey of Rani, a young Sikh Punjabi girl who is anxiously awaiting the return of her husband, Paramjeet, a soldier fighting in World War II. As she clings to the hope of his return, the world around her begins to crumble with the rising tensions and communal riots that accompany the impending Partition. Now Rani has to decide to stay for love or leave to save her life.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## I SHALL NOT HEAR LOVE

A Film By Shahrukh Khan  
Pakistan | 23 min 47 sec

Amina decides to wed in the empty ancestral home of her grandmother. She was unaware that a Sikh ghost haunted the house and repeatedly discovered a hearing aid at home. It enables her to recognize her family's foreign yet familiar roots amidst strange occurrences, but the looming wedding makes her more apprehensive. Amina struggles to make sense of her wedding because she can't reconcile the past with the present. After 75 years, unresolved family memories stitch together a multigenerational love story.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## SAEN AAWAY GA

A Film By O. H. Chaudry  
Pakistan | 26 min 55 sec

When two old friends and poets receive an invitation to a mysterious convention of artists, they eagerly anticipate the wisdom of the legendary sage who orchestrated the gathering. Arriving at an enigmatic venue filled with art and eclectic performers, they find themselves surrounded by a cast of strange characters who challenge their perceptions of art, identity, and their roles as creators. In a captivating blend of humor and introspection, this story delves into the transformative nature of art and friendship, illustrating how the journey of self-discovery can be just as profound as the destination itself.





OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

### **A BARREN SANCTION**

A Film By Kumail Ali Rizvi  
Pakistan | 40 min

The film follows Najma, a woman caught in a web of desperate circumstances. Struggling with her barrenness, she wishes to adopt her friend Samreen's two-year-old daughter as a way to fulfill her longing for motherhood. Meanwhile, Najma's mother-in-law is fixated on finding a suitable match for her paralyzed son, a retired government officer, who has passed away suddenly unbeknownst to anyone except Najma who is wants to pocket his pension and runaway with Samreen's daughter to make a new life for herself and her daughter.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

### **CIN E RAMA**

A Film By Misrah Fatima Nizami  
Pakistan | 29 min

A jaded film critic named Sabeel Rangrez, whose career has been on the decline. Tasked with documenting the iconic CINERAMA in Karachi—an old cinema known for its rich history and charm—he reluctantly agrees to cover its final screening before it shuts down for good. Facing the pressure of losing his job, Sabeel approaches the assignment with skepticism, dismissing the sentimental value that others place on the venue. As the lights dim and the credits roll on CINERAMA, Sabeel must decide whether to share his newfound appreciation with the world or remain trapped in his old views, leaving audiences with a poignant reminder of the lasting legacy of art and the stories that bind us.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

### **MAACHI**

A Film By Hania Sherwani, Abqurah Shaukat  
Pakistan | 06 min

Set in a struggling fishermen's village in the Kemari area of Karachi, the story follows Machi, a mute boy with webbed toes. Though his physical differences make him the target of ridicule, they also grant him extraordinary swimming skills, allowing him to help his father catch fish and support their modest household. Machi's father, hardworking but burdened by guilt for not being able to send his son to school, wishes for a better future for him.





OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**PISHO**

A Film By Aun Ul Haider  
Pakistan | 15 min 46 sec

A seven-year-old girl, Ruqayya, on a mission to find her lost kitten. Suspecting her mother and neighbors, she embarks on a whimsical search. During her quest, Ruqayya stumbles upon a protest against a recent terrorist attack. Inspired by the demonstrators' placards, she creates her own sign seeking help to find her missing kitten Pisho.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**KAFFARA**

A Film By Faheem Sukhera, Hamna Ch  
Pakistan | 10 min 37 sec

Kaffara explores the intricate theme of sacrifice, focusing on the lengths individuals—particularly women—are compelled to go for the sake of family honor, tradition, and financial stability. The film weaves together parallel narratives, juxtaposing the sacrifices made by characters from various social strata, revealing the universal nature of this struggle across different societal contexts.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**KALASHNIKOV**

A Film By Mehroz Amin  
Pakistan | 18 min 28 sec

It is a film that embodies the hardships of an artist to make ends despite their legacy and glorified careers. The storyline portrays the adversities of passionate actors in a society where artists aren't given their due value, respect, and financial stability. It gives an insight into the life of a family of actors who keep their love for art alive despite the inimical circumstances.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**LUNCH BREAK**

A Film By Aarab Khan  
Pakistan | 14 min

After finding a mystery bullet in their school's auditorium, Dilawar and Adil begin the quest to uncover the truth but end up unfolding their regretful past



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**GOODBYE MOTHER**

A Film By Hamza Baig  
Pakistan | 10 min

On his way to the airport, a disheartened young boy meets an optimistic cab driver who tries to show him the good side of humanity.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

**WORKER**

A Film By Mohsin Tariq  
Pakistan | 24 min

After 10 years of disappearance, Shabbir hussain returns to his home, only to realize the tragic fate of his beloved family, igniting a desperate journey to rebuild his life.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## QUEEN

A Film By Usman Salim Paracha  
Pakistan | 13 min 21 sec

In the gripping thriller "RANI," the murder of superstar Zawwar Ahmed sets the stage for lead investigator Yasmeen Mukhtar. Amid her own personal struggles, Yasmeen unearths a haunting tale of domestic violence suffered by Zawwar's wife, Mariam. The film seamlessly weaves Yasmeen's quest for justice with Mariam's desperate actions, prompting a thought-provoking debate on morality in the face of trauma and injustice. "RANI" challenges audiences to question the blurred lines between right and wrong when pushed to the edge, delivering a tense and emotionally charged narrative.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## OMELETTE

A Film By Javeria Fatima  
Pakistan | 13 min 36 sec

Shehnaz, a middle-aged housewife who leads a seemingly ordinary life until the shocking discovery of her late husband's infidelity shakes her world. Confronted with feelings of betrayal, anger, and confusion, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery that challenges societal expectations and her own sense of identity.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## ATM

A Film By Syeda Hamayal Abbas Rizvi  
Pakistan | 18 min 12 sec

Ayaan, struggling with finances during his sister's wedding, turns to a loan app for help. He soon faces harassment from the app for repayment at high rates. Desperate and cornered, Ayaan's troubles escalate when the app threatens him, ruins his wife's reputation and jeopardizes his sister's wedding.





OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

### **FADING RIBBONS**

A Film By Okasha Aijaz Rajpoot  
Pakistan | 25 min 20 sec

Maira, a 14-year-old girl, finds herself grappling with a fading bond between her and a once-close neighbor, Neha. What was once a cherished friendship has gradually eroded, leaving Maira feeling isolated and frustrated. Determined to rekindle their connection, Maira seeks assistance from her trusted school teacher.

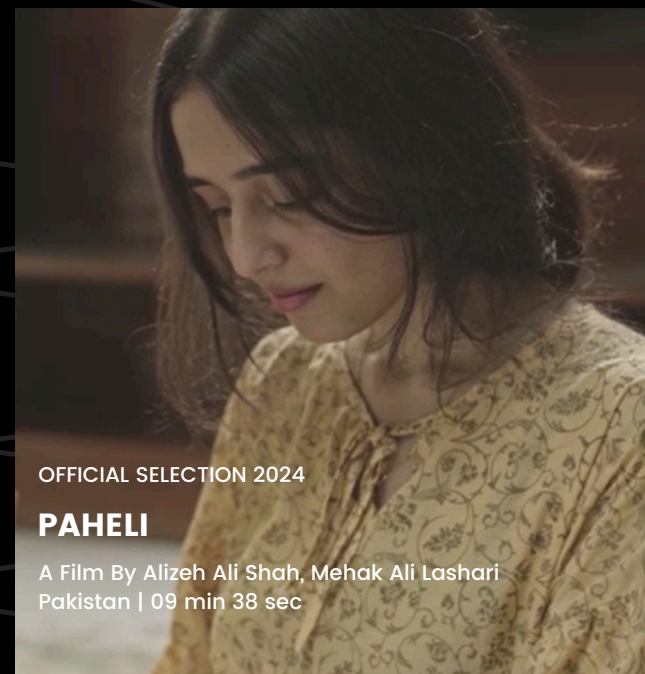


OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

### **WHO'S BETTER THAN WHO?**

A Film By Muhammad Shaan Aatir  
Pakistan | 11 min 51 sec

Loosely adapted from the French play 'Le Dieu Du carnage', the short film is a story of clash and chaos. Two families from different socioeconomic classes are forced to confront each other due to a conflict between their children. A petty fight at school brings them together to resolve their differences for the sake of their children. However, things take a drastic turn when the resolution turns into a clash of classes. Instead of resolving their children's matters, they get into an argument about who's better than who.

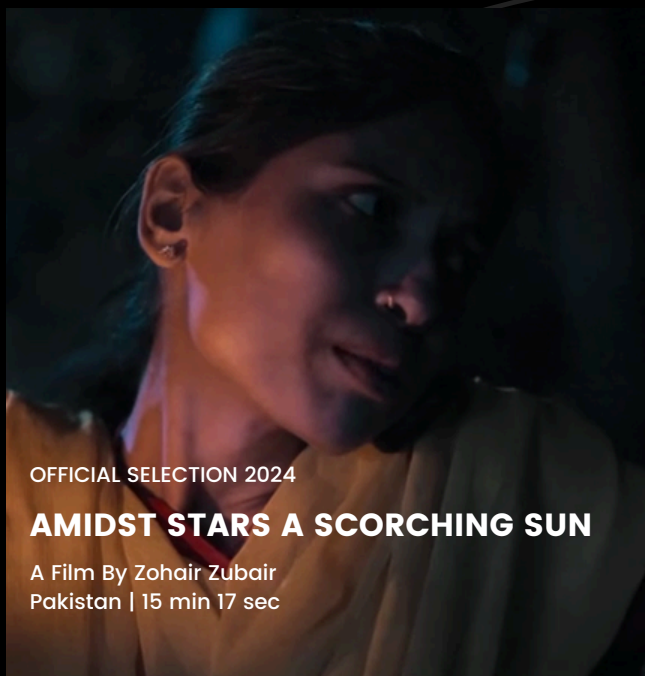


OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

### **PAHELI**

A Film By Alizeh Ali Shah, Mehak Ali Lashari  
Pakistan | 09 min 38 sec

A mother struggles with increasing paranoia as her daughter grows more independent, pushing her to confront her deepest fears and start questioning her sanity.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **AMIDST STARS A SCORCHING SUN**

A Film By Zohair Zubair  
Pakistan | 15 min 17 sec

A conservative village in Pakistan makes it impossible for childhood friends Deepa and Amir to become lovers as adults. One night as Deepa is walking home whilst carrying fresh water from a well she is captured and held captive, which leads to dire consequences for the young lovers.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **BEELA**

A Film By Salina Khan  
Pakistan | 20 min 44 sec

A transgender, Vicky, in Lahore finds himself at odds with fate when a dance party goes horribly wrong that sets him on a path to find the truth and get revenge.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024

## **RAWAYAT**

A Film By Hania Sherwani, Abaurah Shaikat  
Pakistan | 06 min

Azra, a new bride, struggles to adjust as she moves in with her in-laws while her husband is out of the country. She plays the dutiful daughter in law until their familial traditions take a sinister turn.

The vision of the festival is to create a dynamic community for all young independent filmmakers in Pakistan and around the world to showcase the best of their stories.