



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 14
20-23 MARCH 2024
WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

webpage: <http://cafoscarishort.unive.it> – *e-mail:* cafoscarishort@unive.it

SHORT *meets* FARAZ ARIF ANSARI

This year, the section dedicated to Indian cinema, curated by **Cecilia Cossio**, will be focused on the director, **Faraz Arif Ansari**. They are widely recognized in the festival network and have won numerous awards for their LGBTQ+ films in which they analyze the different interpretations of “queer”. For this occasion, the festival will present three short films made by Ansari between 2015 and 2021.

Faraz Arif Ansari was born in Mumbai, 1986. They initially studied in India and then continued their studies in the United States. Ansari has been a fan of theater from a young age, and sees it as a means of education and socio-political struggle, like cinema. From 2009 to 2011, they used theater as a form of education for children living in the slums, and in 2016 they co-founded *Gift* and *Meal-India*, foundations that help children living on the streets. In 2009, Ansari started working as a writer, screenwriter, director's assistant and choreographer for various production and tv companies. In 2018, they wrote, directed and produced the tv series, *Wanted*, for iDiva, and also directed some episodes of the Netflix tv series, *The Big Day*, between 2019 and 2021. They directed three short films: *Siberia* (2015), *Sisak* (Sobbing, 2017) and *Sheer Qorma* (Milk and Dates, 2021). The final short film of this series crowned Ansari's career, starring the Indian cinema icon, Shabana Azmi also. Ansari is now working on a queer remake of *Taare zameen par* (Stars on Earth, 2007), Aamir Khan's great success.

PROGRAMME OF THE SELECTED WORKS:

SIBERIA (India, 2015, 16')

A young woman who lives in a nice apartment tries to kill a rat that is making her crazy. However, does the rat really exist? Or is it just a hallucination caused by her mental fragility?

SISAK (India, 2017, 16')

Acclaimed as “the first queer silent movie”, the film is about two men that regularly take the same train home and is dedicated to all those forbidden love stories that have never had the possibility to come true.

SHEER QORMA (India, 2021, 32')

Saira's mother cannot accept her daughter's homosexual relationship, morally and socially condemned by Islam, but love can overcome even the most deep-seated conventions.