

Exploring female body politics on screen

Part I

***For Vagina's Sake* + Q&A with Director Kim Bo-ram, moderated by Holly Tarquini**

Periods have been a source of shame and embarrassment for too long. Inspired by a conversation with her Dutch friend, and the famous Instagram banning of artist Rupi Kaur's photograph of a woman with a bloodstain, filmmaker Kim Bo-ram goes on a worldwide adventure in pursuit of personal experiences, and exploring the silence and historical fears surrounding menstruation.

With bursts of vibrant animation, the film bounces through the evolution of menstrual products, and the boom in information availability and sharing through to the internet. Kim presents the international campaigns to make sanitary products freely available in schools, (and to ensure that girls have access to them so they don't miss out on their education by having to stay at home). *For Vagina's Sake* is a playful, funny and vital piece of documentary filmmaking that challenges us to bring an end to the inherent awkwardness and social stigma surrounding what is an entirely natural process, period.

Part II

Roundtable discussion with Director Kim Bo-ram, Jeong Ga-young, Mania Akbari, chaired by Jemma Desai

The discussion follows the screening of *For Vagina's Sake*, and connects with the rest of the "Women's Voices" programme where we observe ideas and fears around female bodies and sexuality beyond the constraints of the heterosexual male gaze. This roundtable discussion will reflect on how a woman's body is explored on film, with regards to behaviours and biological realities that are often muted or denied.

Filmmaker Kim Bo-ram will be joined by her colleague Jeong Ga-young (*Hit the Night*), London-based artist/filmmaker Mania Akbari (*Life May Be*), and Jemma Desai, programmer for the BFI London Film Festival and British Council Film, on demystifying female bodies and exploring the responsibilities of visual media representation.

The conversation will consider how contemporary Korean films like *For Vagina's Sake* and similar UK productions are dismantling the shame and silence around a woman's body, the natural cycles and aiding the female emancipation at large.

Please note: There is only one ticket link for both the screening of For Vagina's Sake and the Roundtable Discussion event. If you book, you are free to attend either or both of these events.

