

## OPENING NIGHT FILM



### **S** WATERMAN

**WORLD PREMIERE**

OPENING NIGHT FILM | MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 88M

DIRECTOR: ISAAC HALISIMA

5-NOV 7:00 PM | BISHOP MUSEUM

18-NOV 7:00 PM | PALACE

20-NOV 8:00 PM | WAIMEA

21-NOV 7:00 PM | KA'AHUMANU

Surfing legend. Olympic superstar. Hawaiian Icon. American hero. Five-time Olympic medalist and Native Hawaiian Duke Paoa Kahanamoku shattered records and brought surfing to the world while overcoming a lifetime of personal challenges. Narrated by Jason Momoa, WATERMAN explores his journey and legacy as a legendary swimmer, trailblazer, and the undisputed father of modern-day surfing, following the sport's first-time inclusion in this year's Olympics - a fitting tribute to his work promoting the sport around the globe. Through Duke's incredible athletic accomplishments and embodiment of the Aloha spirit, the film celebrates his triumphs and philosophy of inclusion, challenging us all to embrace diversity and incorporate Aloha into our own lives.



## CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION



### **S** I WAS A SIMPLE MAN

**HAWAII PREMIERE**

CENTERPIECE FILM | MADE IN HAWAII | KAU KA HŌKŪ NOMINEE

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 100M

DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER MAKOTO YOGI

10-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA

18-NOV 7:00 PM | WAIMEA

21-NOV 7:00 PM | PALACE

Masao is an aging man who lives a solitary existence on O'ahu's North Shore. But when he learns that he's not long for this world, his life's regrets begin to surface, like a slowly rising tide. As Masao becomes bed-ridden, previously distant sons and daughters trickle into his home to provide end-of-life care. Most mysteriously, Masao's late wife, Grace, returns to haunt him, triggering flashbacks to the past Masao must learn to confront.



## CLOSING NIGHT FILM



### **S** BELLE

**HAWAII PREMIERE**

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 122M

DIRECTOR: MAMORU HOSODA

14-NOV 7:00 PM | WARD

20-NOV 5:00 PM | PALACE

21-NOV 4:00 PM | KA'AHUMANU

Suzu is a 17-year-old high school student living in a rural village with her father. For years, she has only been a shadow of herself. One day, she enters "U," a virtual world of 5 billion members on the Internet. There, she is not Suzu anymore but Belle, a world-famous singer. She soon meets with a mysterious creature. Together, they embark on a journey of adventures, challenges and love, in their quest to become who they truly are. BELLE is the latest masterpiece from Oscar-nominated Mamoru Hosoda (SUMMER WARS, WOLF CHILDREN, MIRAI) and had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, receiving universal acclaim.



# FILMS



## 7 DAYS

HAWAII PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 96M  
DIRECTOR: ROSHAN SETHI  
11-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA  
NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

VILCEK  
FOUNDATION

Ravi and Rita get more than they bargained for when the date arranged by their traditional Indian parents turns into an awkward week sheltering in place together in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Trapped inside with nothing else to pass the time, this awkward date transforms into a life-changing experience in this heartfelt and hilarious romantic comedy about navigating life, love and family in uncertain times.



## AMERICANISH

HAWAII PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 90M  
DIRECTOR: IMAN ZAWAHRY  
13-NOV 5:00 PM | KAHALA  
19-NOV 5:30 PM | KAHUMANU  
NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

VILCEK  
FOUNDATION

In a world where tradition is vital, three young muslim women-sisters living in Queens and their newly immigrated cousin-attempt to navigate through the rocky waters of romance and careers. But they also must try to honor the traditions of their culture. AMERICANISH, directed by one of the first female hijabi filmmakers, breaks tropes of typical rom-coms with an endearing story of womanhood, family, and culture and what it takes to achieve it all.



## ANITA

UNITED STATES PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CANTONESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 136M  
DIRECTOR: LONGMAN LEUNG  
7-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA  
10-NOV 5:00 PM | KAHALA



HIFF is proud to present the US Premiere of the long awaited ANITA, a biopic spanning the life of legendary singer and actress Anita Mui. A household name in Hong Kong, queen of Canto pop, Anita Mui was the very definition of a cultural icon during Hong Kong's golden age in the eighties and nineties. The film opens with her unforgettable last concert, and spans her incredible life, from her childhood days singing with her sister, to her activism and community service in her later years.



## ALONG THE SEA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN | KAU KA HOKU NOMINEE  
JAPAN, VIETNAM | JAPANESE, VIETNAMESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 88M  
DIRECTOR: AKIO FUJIMOTO  
5-NOV 6:00 PM | KAHALA  
7-NOV 5:30 PM | KAHALA

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES

ALONG THE SEA follows three Vietnamese women in their early 20s, Phuong, An, and Nhu who moved to Japan to work. When they decide to escape their workplace, where their passports have been confiscated, they become illegal migrants. A broker, based in a quiet fishermen village, helps them to find a shelter and a new job in a small fish factory. Yet, as they begin their new life, Phuong falls ill. Phuong must now figure out how to get fake documents in order to save herself.



## ANIMA

HAWAII PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA | KAU KA HOKU NOMINEE  
CHINA | CHINESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 120M  
DIRECTOR: CAO JINLING  
7-NOV 4:00 PM | KAHALA  
11-NOV 6:30 PM | KAHALA

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES



Tutu and his little brother Linzi belong to the Lonki forest tribe. One day while in the forest Linzi falls into a bear den, and young Tutu shoots the bear, a bad omen for them both. Years later, Tutu and Linzi have been forced to eke out a living as lumberjacks clearing the surrounding woods. When they both fall for the same woman a wedge is driven between the brothers. Both brothers will learn that to live in this changing world, sacrifices will be made.



## ARAATIKA!

HAWAII PREMIERE  
PACIFIC SHOWCASE | INDIGENOUS LENS  
AUSTRALIA | ABORIGINAL, ENGLISH | 81M  
DIRECTOR: LARISSA BEHRENDT  
21-NOV 1:30 PM | KAHUMANU  
NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

30PIC NIA TERO

Compared to their pan-Pacific rivals, the Australian rugby national team had one glaring deficiency: their pre-game "unity dance" did little to inspire fear into their competition and courage among their fans. ARAATIKA! (a.k.a. THE FIGHT TOGETHER) is a documentary about one man's mission to take on decades of racism and cultural injustice to incorporate more indigeneity into the sport. For these players, rugby is their platform for restoring pride into their community, and this dance is their warrior's voice.



## ARC

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 127M

DIRECTOR: KEI ISHIKAWA

12-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

19-year-old dancer Rina finds herself living on the streets after abandoning her baby at age 17. But when she encounters a mysterious woman, Ema, at a dance performance, an opportunity arises that changes her fate. Ema brings Rina into her world of 'plastination', a new technique that allows the human body to be preserved in perfect condition after death. However, when Ema's brother discovers how to preserve the living human body indefinitely, it sets the stage to change the course of humanity forever.

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES



## THE ART OF INCARCERATION

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

PACIFIC SHOWCASE | INDIGENOUS LENS

AUSTRALIA | ENGLISH | 81M

DIRECTOR: ALEX SIDMONS

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Seen through the eyes of Indigenous prisoners at Victoria's Fulham Correctional Centre, THE ART OF INCARCERATION explores how art and culture can empower First Nations people to transcend their unjust cycles of imprisonment. This narrative documentary humanizes the over representation of Indigenous Australians within the prison system, and provides an insight into the inmate's quest for cultural identity and spiritual healing as they prepare for the annual 'Confined' exhibition and life on the outside.

30 PIC NIA  
TERO



## A BALANCE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 152M

DIRECTOR: YUJIRO HARUMOTO

10-NOV 6:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

When a news story breaks about a student's suicide after alleged assault by her teacher, it is not long before the teacher also takes his own life. Documentary filmmaker Yuko strikes out to learn the truth behind the incident. What she finds instead is two families' lives torn apart, first by the loss of their loved ones, and secondly by their ostracization in the community. As Yuko struggles to eke out a story for her film, an incident at home leaves her questioning her own motives.

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES



## ARCADE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FILMMAKER IN FOCUS: ALBERT PYUN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 85M

DIRECTOR: ALBERT PYUN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Teens disappear when they play Arcade, a virtual-reality game with seven deadly levels. Written by then unknown David S. Goyer (THE DARK KNIGHT Trilogy) and starring '90s teen staples Megan Ward and Seth Green, ARCADE was released in that early '90s VR-to-film output like LAWNMOWER MAN and VIRTUOSITY. Stay for the '90s teen goth chic and Amiga-sourced graphics!

COMIC CON



## ATOMIC COVER-UP

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 52M

DIRECTOR: GREG MITCHELL

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

ATOMIC COVER-UP is the first documentary to explore the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 from the unique perspective, words, and startling images of the brave cameramen and directors who risked their lives filming in the irradiated aftermath. It reveals how this historic footage, created by a Japanese newsreel crew and then an elite U.S. Army team, was seized, classified top secret, and then buried by American officials for decades to hide the full human costs of the bombings as a costly nuclear arms race raged.

HONOLULU  
CIVIL BEAT



## BARAGAKI: UNBROKEN SAMURAI

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN | ASIAN CINERAMA

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 144M

DIRECTOR: MASATO HARADA

6-NOV 8:00 PM | KAHALA

12-NOV 8:00 PM | KAHALA

Veteran director and HIFF-fan favorite Masato Harada is back with his most action-packed samurai epic to-date. The master of historical drama, Harada turns his impeccable attention to detail on the life of Toshizo Hijikata, vice-commander of the shinsengumi and staunch opposer of the Meiji Restoration. Starring Junichi Okada as Hijikata in one of his best career performances, and supported by an all-star cast, BARAGAKI: UNBROKEN SAMURAI is based on the novel 'Moeyo Ken' by Ryutaro Shiba.

ASIAN CINERAMA  
HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES



# FILMS

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## THE BIG BEND

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA | KAU KA HŌKŪ NOMINEE

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 103M

DIRECTOR: BRETT WAGNER

6-NOV 8:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

While exploring the vast and unknowable land of Texas, two families—the Prices and the Talbotts—reunite in a remote desert as they confront marriage, friendship, parenthood, and mortality, attempting to survive and live amongst one another in a foreign world. **THE BIG BEND**, directed by Brett Wagner, surveys the landscape of Texas with a keen eye, drifting through the dark, cold desert and the families who live troubled lives in between it all.



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## BIGGER THAN ME

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

SURF CINEMA

AUSTRALIA, UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 53M

DIRECTOR: CLAIRE GORMAN

9-NOV 6:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Filed over the course of ten years, **BIGGER THAN ME** is a documentary that follows Wrenna, a big dreamer with an ardent adoration for the ocean. But Wrenna must also navigate through challenges of being a woman and being the next great surfer. This endearing coming-of-age tale highlights the complex obstacles a nineteen-year-old athlete faces while risking everything to greet the big waves of Hawai'i, which she's been trying to conquer since childhood.



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## BORN TO BE HUMAN

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC | CHINESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 105M

DIRECTOR: LILY NI

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

When a Taiwanese boy, Shi-nan, experiences abdominal pain and begins to urinate blood, his family discovers that he is intersex. His parents take extreme measures to avoid telling him the news at first, but it results in malicious medical coercion that pushes Shi-nan into an emotional spiral. **BORN TO BE HUMAN** confronts the fear and horror of the mental and physical dysphoria the intersex community experiences, thus examining Taiwan's disturbing past with intersex individuals.



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## BRUISED

HAWAII PREMIERE

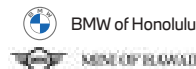
PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 129M

DIRECTOR: HALLE BERRY

14-NOV 2:00 PM | KAHALA

Jackie "Justice" (Halle Berry, who also directs) is a washed up MMA fighter, scraping by in life working multiple jobs and trying to make ends meet. When her boyfriend manages to trick her into going to an underground fight, her passion for the sport is reignited. As Jackie prepares to go back to "the only thing she is good at," the son she once abandoned is dropped off at her doorstep. Confronted by her past choices and traumas, Jackie will have to fight to reclaim the two most meaningful things she has walked away from: six-year-old Manny and an MMA title.



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## C'MON C'MON

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

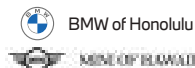
UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 108M

DIRECTOR: MIKE MILLS

5-NOV 7:30 PM | KAHALA

14-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA

Johnny (Joaquin Phoenix) and his young nephew (Woody Norman) forge a tenuous but transformational relationship when they are unexpectedly thrown together in this delicate and deeply moving story about the connections between adults and children, the past and the future, from writer-director Mike Mills (**BEGINNERS**, **20TH CENTURY WOMEN**).



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## CAPTAIN AMERICA

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FILMMAKER IN FOCUS: ALBERT PYUN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 97M

DIRECTOR: ALBERT PYUN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Frozen in ice since World War II, Captain America is revived and must save the President of the United States from an enemy with a tie to his past. Before the MCU, there was Albert Pyun's **CAPTAIN AMERICA!** Released in 1990, with little budget and resources, Pyun channeled all his chutzpah and ingenuity to craft an under-appreciated comic book movie during a dark time when Marvel was not viable or cool.



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## CAT DADDIES

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 89M

DIRECTOR: MYE HOANG

6-NOV 5:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

CAT DADDIES showcases portraits of "cat dads" from all over the country, some of which struggle to navigate the unprecedented events of 2020 with their little furry friends. They include a group of firefighters, a stuntman, a truck driver, a Bay Area tech worker, a schoolteacher, an Instagram influencer, and a terminally ill homeless man living on the streets of New York. These men couldn't be more different, but they share an unconditional love of their beloved pets.



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## COME BACK ANYTIME

HAWAII PREMIERE

EAT. DRINK. FILM.

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 81M

DIRECTOR: JOHN DASCHBACH

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

A self-taught master chef, Masamoto Ueda serves delicious ramen to a loyal community of regular customers from a small storefront in Tokyo. Renowned for his delicious cooking and charming personality, Masamoto balances his restaurant with pilgrimages to the Japanese countryside with some of his closest friends and customers. Easily one of the most delicious films from Hot Docs 2021, COME BACK ANYTIME is a soul-nourishing crowd pleaser guaranteed to spike your appetite.



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## CYBORG

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FILMMAKER IN FOCUS: ALBERT PYUN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 86M

DIRECTOR: ALBERT PYUN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

A martial artist (Jean Claude Van Damme) hunts a killer in a plague-infested cyberpunk future. Rebased in 1989 and shot over 3 weeks, CYBORG is a benchmark in Albert Pyun's oeuvre, including contributing to a little known Van Damme's rising status as an '80s action hero, and the director's fascination with dystopian settings.



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## CATCH THE FAIR ONE

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA | INDIGENOUS LENS

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 85M

DIRECTOR: JOSEF KUBOTA WLADYKA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

In this absorbing revenge thriller executive produced by Darren Aronofsky, a Native American woman embarks on the fight of her life when she goes in search of her missing sister. The former boxer intentionally gets entangled in a human trafficking operation in order to retrace the steps of her kid sister and work her way up the chain of command to find the man responsible. Real life US boxing champion Kali Reis plays the fearsome protagonist, delivering a breakout performance.



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## CROSSINGS

WORLD PREMIERE

FILM FOR THOUGHT

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH, KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 90M

DIRECTOR: DEANN LIEM

13-NOV 2:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

In CROSSINGS, a group of internationally renowned women peacemakers crosses the DMZ from North to South Korea, calling for peace on the Korean peninsula. The film follows key women leaders, including Gloria Steinem and Nobel Peace Laureates Leymah Gbowee and Mairead Maguire, led by Korean American activist Christine Ahn, on this historic journey. Through their story, the film explores enduring questions about war's legacies and the role women play in resolving the world's most intractable conflicts.



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## DARK RED FOREST

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA | KAU KA HÖKŪ NOMINEE

CHINA | TIBETAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 83M

DIRECTOR: JIN HUAQING

13-NOV 3:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Every year, thousands of Tibetan nuns hike 4,000 meter up to the Yarchen Monastery in their relentless pursuit of enlightenment, healing, and faith. As they develop severe cold-borne illnesses while each dwelling in small portable wooden houses, these nuns will even stray from their holy path every now and then. DARK RED FOREST is an exceptionally intimate portrayal of the lives and experiences of these women, a rare and lengthy glimpse into a community that is often politically shrouded and even "left behind" in a rapidly contemporizing China.



# FILMS



## DAUGHTERS OF THE WAVES

HAWAII PREMIERE

PACIFIC SHOWCASE | SURF CINEMA | INDIGENOUS LENS

FRANCE | ENGLISH, FRENCH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 53M

DIRECTOR: SÉBASTIEN DAGUERRESSAR, LISA MONIN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

In the Tahitian American blended Fierro family, all the women are surfers-Vahine (20), Heimiti (16) and Kohai (14). Vahine, the eldest, is already a world champion. Still in high school, Heimiti is training hard in the only sports medicine program on the islands. And the youngest, Kohai, is dead set to follow in her sister's footsteps. DAUGHTER OF THE WAVES captures the love, passion and determination of these vibrant young women, their tight-knit family, and the potential futures that will be unlocked by these groundbreaking sisters.

PLAYS WITH: A MOMENT WITH THE ARTIST TIM MCKENNA



## THE DEVIL'S DEAL

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 115M

DIRECTOR: LEE WON-TAE

5-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA

11-NOV 8:00 PM | KAHALA

20-NOV 8:00PM | KAHUMANU

In Lee Won-tae's crime thriller, THE DEVIL'S DEAL, a no-name politician, Jeon Hae-won is eliminated from an assembly-member election by a local big-wig who finds Jeon to be a thorn in his side. Coupled with the stress of threatening loan-sharks, Jeon decides to take revenge and finish his political aspirations. But this decision leads to a disturbing relationship with a gang member that encourages corruption and the fall of a previously altruistic father.



## DOLLMAN

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FILMMAKER IN FOCUS: ALBERT PYUN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 82M

DIRECTOR: ALBERT PYUN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

An intergalactic policeman named Brick Bardo lands on Earth, in pursuit of alien criminals. Though regular sized on his home planet, he soon discovers he is doll-sized (13 inches) on Earth! Brick is besieged by an onslaught of curious kids, angry gang members, and his own doll-sized enemies. Comedian Tim Thomerson is an absolute gem as the hard-boiled Bardo, and Jack Earle Haley is manic as ever as the main baddie, in one of his earliest performances.



## DRIFTING

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG | ASIAN CINERAMA

HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CANTONESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M

DIRECTOR: JUN LI

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Fai (Francis Ng), a homeless man recently released from prison, finds his old friends on the streets in Sham Shui Po, one of Hong Kong's poorest districts. One night, the group is rudely awakened by an unannounced street sweep. Seeing their possessions stolen by police officers and trashed, Fai and his friends decide to stand up for the dignity of their homeless community with the help of Ms. Ho (Cecilia Choi), a social worker.



## DRIVE MY CAR

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 179M

DIRECTOR: RYŪSUKU HAMAGUCHI

6-NOV 4:00 PM | KAHALA

9-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA

20-NOV 1:30 PM | KAHUMANU

Yusuke is a successful stage director and actor married to the enigmatic Oto. But when Oto dies suddenly, Yusuke finds himself left with many unanswered questions. Two years later and still grieving the loss, he accepts a job in Hiroshima and sets off in his red Saab. Upon arrival, he discovers that he will be required to have a chauffeur drive him. His chauffeur turns out to be the taciturn young Misaki. As they increasingly log hours together in the Saab, Yusuke and Misaki form an unexpected bond.



## ETERNALLY YOUNGER THAN THOSE IDIOTS

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118M

DIRECTOR: RYOHEI YOSHINO

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Horigai is more than eager to finish her college career and begin her new job at a child welfare center in her hometown. She strikes up an awkward friendship with a fellow classmate named Inogi, but after the sudden death of a friend, their friendship evolves, leading Inogi to share the secret of her tragic past. Horigai realizes she's been willfully blind to the adult world and the deeper sadness experienced by everyone around her.







## THE FABLE: THE KILLER WHO DOESN'T KILL

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 131M

DIRECTOR: KAN EGUCHI

11-NOV 5:00 PM | KAHALA

13-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA

19-NOV 5:30 PM | WAIMEA

Based on the Japanese manga series of the same name, **THE FABLE: THE KILLER WHO DOESN'T KILL** stars Junichi Okada as legendary assassin Akira Sata, aka The Fable. Following his boss's order to "kill no one and live like a normal man for a year," Akira lives a peaceful life that is interrupted when he encounters a young woman in a wheelchair and a shady NPO representative he was once assigned to kill.



## FACELESS

CB HONOLULU  
CIVIL BEAT

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | CANTONESE, ENGLISH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 80M

DIRECTOR: JENNIFER NGO

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Directed by journalist Jennifer Ngo, **FACELESS** focuses on four people who participated in the 2019 protests in Hong Kong in response to the controversial Extradition Bill: the Artist concerned about the Hong Kong LGBTQ+ community's future, the Student on the cusp of graduation, the Believer who advocates for non-violent resistance, and the loving Daughter of a police officer. As Hong Kong's political status remains precarious, this documentary is more pertinent than ever in understanding the complexity of the fight for personal freedoms against an encroaching authoritarianism.



## FLEE

CB HONOLULU  
CIVIL BEAT

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

DENMARK, FRANCE, NORWAY, SWEDEN, UNITED STATES | DANISH, DARI, ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, SWEDISH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 83M

DIRECTOR: JONAS POHER RASMUSSEN

6-NOV 7:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

One of the most riveting and captivating films of the year, with breathtaking animation, **FLEE** recounts the true story of Afghan refugee Amin Nawabi. Living in Denmark, on the cusp of marriage, Amin reveals a secret that he has kept for 20 years. For the first time in his life Amin shares the story of his daring escape from Afghanistan as a child refugee in the 1990s.



## THE FABULOUS FILIPINO BROTHERS

BMW of Honolulu  
KINE OF HAWAII

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

PHILIPPINES, UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 98M

DIRECTOR: DANTE BASCO

13-NOV 2:30 PM | KAHALA

20-NOV 5:30 PM | KAHUMANU

21-NOV 7:00 PM | WAIMEA

Dante Basco (**HOOK, THE DEBUT**) makes his directorial debut, and he's bringing his entire family with him. **THE FABULOUS FILIPINO BROTHERS** is an intergenerational comedy that is sweet, at times raunchy, and full of heart. Dante co-stars with siblings Darion, Arianna, Dionysio, and Derek. From cockfights to adultery, and finding new (and old) love in unexpected places, each of the brothers finds themselves in different situations that will ultimately challenge their beliefs on love and family, all leading up to a climactic family wedding!



## THE FIRST STEP

CB HONOLULU  
CIVIL BEAT

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 89M

DIRECTOR: BRANDON KRAMER

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

CNN commentator Van Jones decided to controversially cross party lines to win bipartisan support for criminal justice. Van's journey building bridges in a time of extreme polarization takes him deep into the messy drama of the Trump administration, internal divisions within both parties, and the lives of activists fighting on the frontlines for their communities. The film also explores deeper questions of "top down" leadership vs. grassroots activism and shows how, for those who choose to bridge the political divide, the personal costs can be devastating.



## FOOD FOR THE REST OF US

NIA TERO  
HFI

HAWAII PREMIERE

GREEN SCREEN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 83M

DIRECTOR: CAROLINE COX

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Recent social movement campaigns such as #BlackLivesMatter, #IdleNoMore, and #TimesUp have also inspired other ways to close the gaps for disenfranchised communities in the long term, focusing on the food supply chain. **FOOD FOR THE REST OF US** focuses on four examples in particular: an Indigenous-owned organic farm in Hawaii, a Black urban high school land-farm in Kansas City, a female Kosher butcher working with the queer Colorado community, and an Inuit community operating a small, climate-friendly geodesic dome.

# FILMS



## FROM EARTH TO SKY

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA | INDIGENOUS LENS

CANADA | ENGLISH | 83M

DIRECTOR: RON CHAPMAN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

FROM EARTH TO SKY explores the work of seven unique and accomplished Indigenous Architects as they design and complete extraordinary 'buildings' in cities and communities across North America and Turtle Island. Beautiful and intimate, the film sparks a vital conversation paramount to transforming perspectives on how we approach our built environment. These architects are uniformly driving a movement as climate change threatens the planet. They are world leaders in aesthetic, form, sustainability and ultimately protecting the planet. Their stories have never been more important.



## GIRLS CAN'T SURF

HAWAII PREMIERE

SURF CINEMA

AUSTRALIA | ENGLISH | 108M

DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER NELIUS

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

In 2019, the World Surf League announced that it'll award equal pay to all surfers, bringing an end to years of inequality for female surfers. GIRLS CAN'T SURF follows champion female surfers through the early years of professional surfing. While battling sexism and thwarting the shallow media coverage of bikini contests, these surfers took on a male-dominating sport, helping change the game forever.



## GUIDANCE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

CHINA | MANDARIN CHINESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 93M

DIRECTOR: NEYSAN SOBHANI

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

In the future, all hope rests on a fragile peace brokered 10 years after the Great War. During a weekend trip to the countryside, a couple begin to use 'Guidance', a radical device originally conceived to create enlightened human beings. However, they soon subvert Guidance to manipulate and lie - all in the hope of saving what they're afraid of losing most: each other.



## GIFT OF FIRE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 111M

DIRECTOR: HIROSHI KUROSAKI

6-NOV 1:00 PM | KAHALA

During World War II, the Japanese government commissions a young scientist named Shu to develop a bomb that could change the course of the war. As his research progresses yet the war effort sways heavily against their nation, Shu has to choose between his devotion to science, his country, and his sense of humanity. Based on actual historical events, it focuses on the lives of three young people, blending the romanticism of scientific exploration and the moral conundrums that emerge in the process.



## GOOD DEAL

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118M

DIRECTOR: CHO KYOUNG-HO

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

GOOD DEAL is a woven tapestry of the interconnected lives of people striving through the day-to-day of contemporary Korean society. Quite a spectrum of themes are covered: romance, crime, sports, family, work, and even Russian literature! As each of its characters seek to make a "deal" with another person to help them stay ahead or even stay alive, they find their interactions much more involved and complex than they first thought. Written and directed by Cho Kyung-ho, the film mixes wickedly dark humor and sincere sentimentality through its interwoven yet still seamlessly linear style of storytelling.



## THE HAND OF GOD

HAWAII PREMIERE

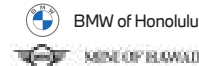
PANORAMA

ITALY | ITALIAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 130M

DIRECTOR: PAOLO SORRENTINO

6-NOV 2:00 PM | KAHALA

From Academy Award-winning writer and director Paolo Sorrentino (THE GREAT BEAUTY) comes the story of a young man's heartbreak and liberation in 1980s Naples, Italy. THE HAND OF GOD follows Fabietto Schisa, an awkward Italian teen whose life and vibrant, eccentric family are suddenly upended first by the electrifying arrival of soccer legend Diego Maradona and then by a shocking accident from which Maradona inadvertently saves Fabietto, setting his future in motion. Sorrentino returns to his hometown to tell his most personal story, a tale of fate and family, sports and cinema, love and loss.







## HAWAI'I PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CANTONESE. WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

**DIRECTOR: CHAN KIN LONG**

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE



## HAWAI'I PREMIERE

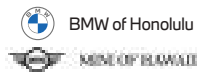
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA | ASIAN CINERAMA

SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

**DIRECTOR: IM SANG-SOO**

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

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HAWAI'I PREMIERE

## PANORAMA

IRAN | FARSI. WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 131M

**DIRECTOR: ASGHAR FARHADI**

7-NOV 3:30 PM | KAHALA



UNITED STATES PREMIERE

FILM FOR THOUGHT | GREEN SCREEN

NEW ZEALAND | ENGLISH | 82M

**DIRECTOR:** NIVA KAY, EMILY MCDOWELL, NIA PHIPPS, PHIL STEBBING

21-NOV 1:30 PM | PALACE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

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## HAWAII PREMIERE

## SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

**SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN. WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 94M**

**DIRECTOR: PIL GAM-SUNG**

13-NOV 8:30 PM | KAHALA

14-NOV 5:00 PM | KAHALA

19-NOV 8:00 PM | WAIMEA

19-NOV 8:00 PM | KA'AHUMANU



## WORLD PREMIERE

FILM FOR THOUGHT | MADE IN HAWAII'I | PACIFIC SHOWCASE | INDIGENOUS LENS

COOK ISLANDS, SPAIN, UNITED STATES | ENGLISH, PUKAPUKAN,  
RAROTONGAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

**DIRECTOR: GEMMA CUBERO DEL BARRIO**

9-NOV 6:00 PM | KAHALA

21-NOV 2:30 PM | WAIMEA

NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

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# FILMS

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## ISLANDS

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA | KAU KA HŌKŪ NOMINEE

CANADA | ENGLISH, TAGALOG, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 94M

DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDRALIN

14-NOV 4:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Joshua, a timid, middle-aged Filipino immigrant in Canada has lived in the comfort of his parents' care his entire life. When his mother suddenly passes and his father's health declines, he quits his job to look after his father full-time despite his inexperience taking care of anyone, including himself. In comes Marisol, an OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker) and caretaker, who moves in to help, as she does not want to return to her life in Kuwait. Anxious of being alone, have Joshua's prayers been answered?



BMW of Honolulu

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## IT'S A SUMMER FILM!

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M

DIRECTOR: SOUSHI MATSUMOTO

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Hadashi aka "Barefoot" is a samurai cinema-obsessed Japanese high school teen who feels alienated from the rest of her school's film club. She spends most of her time watching the classics with her two best friends: a kendo enthusiast and a sci-fi geek. Tired of competing for attention with the club's director and her incessant rom-com endeavors, Barefoot decides to finally produce her unrealized script Samurai Spring over the course of a summer. IT'S A SUMMER FILM! is a film for cinephiles, a love letter to the affirmative power of the medium.

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## ITO

RETURN ENGAGEMENT

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 116M

DIRECTOR: SATOKO YOKOHAMA

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

High school student Ito lives in rural Aomori prefecture in northern Japan. Teased at school for her thick accent and Tsgaru dialect she has become introverted and afraid to speak. Her only creative outlet is the shamisen, which she learned to play in the style of her mother and grandmother. When Ito sees a job advertisement for a 'maid cafe' in Aomori, she sees this as an opportunity to break free of her shyness. But it may be the shamisen that rescues her (and the cafe) after all.

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## JAMES & ISEY

HAWAII PREMIERE

PACIFIC SHOWCASE | INDIGENOUS LENS

NEW ZEALAND | ENGLISH, MAORI, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M

DIRECTOR: FLORIAN HABICHT

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Ahead of her 100th birthday, Isey and her devoted son James prepare for the party of a lifetime. Ngāti Manu woman Isey Cross lives with her youngest son, James, on a farm in Kawakawa, a small town on New Zealand's North Island. Cheeky and vivacious, the 99-year-old is preparing to celebrate her centenary. Over the next seven days, as James organizes the festivities, capping the last two decades of preparing his mum to cross over to the spirit world. JAMES & ISEY is a film about aroha (love).

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## JOCKEY

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 93M

DIRECTOR: CLINT BENTLEY

9-NOV 7:30 PM | KAHALA

An aging jockey (Clifton Collins Jr.), hopes to win one last title for his longtime trainer (Molly Parker), who has acquired what appears to be a championship horse. But the years - and injuries - have taken a toll on his body, throwing into question his ability to continue his lifelong passion. And the arrival of a young rookie rider (Moises Arias), who claims to be his son, and whom he takes under his wing, further complicates the path to fulfilling his dream.

PLAYS WITH: MIA, MARGUERITE & MARGE



BMW of Honolulu

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## JUNHO

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA, UNITED STATES | ENGLISH, KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M

DIRECTOR: DAVID BOO

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Junho wanted nothing more than to be a great actor. But when his prestigious Seoul acting troupe is rocked by a #MeToo scandal, he escapes to San Francisco, to start a new life. Unlike Junho's attempt to overcome loneliness, isolation and the loss of his best friend Jin, who was a victim of the scandal, his transgression from the past dislocates him from the present. Filmed on location in Seoul and San Francisco, JUNHO is a contemporary story that intertwines themes of sexual abuse, male culpability, immigration and identity.

KOETC  
영화진흥위원회  
Korean Film Council



KBFD



## KARMALINK

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

FILM FOR THOUGHT | SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

CAMBODIA, UNITED STATES | ENGLISH, KHMER, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 102M

DIRECTOR: JAKE WACHTEL

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

KARMALINK is a buddhist sci-fi mystery that follows a boy named Leng Heng. Living in the slums of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Leng is jolted awake by another dream of mysterious treasure he believes is rooted in his past life. He recruits his friends to help him search for the treasure, using "nanobugs" to navigate through foreign memories. On their journey, Leng and his friends uncover conspiracies of reincarnation and confront the man behind it all.



## KIM MIN-YOUNG OF THE REPORT CARD

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 94M

DIRECTOR: LEE JAE-EUN, LIM JISUN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Jung-hee and Min-young are best friends about to graduate high school. They study for their college entrance exams. Min-young ends up at Daegu University, while Jung-hee languishes in her hometown, working a repetitive job that she claims is a stepping stone to better things. One day, Min-young invites Jung-hee to meet her in Seoul. And so we follow the misadventures of these two girls-some real, some imagined, some remembered-as their lives begin to diverge.



## LAN YU (4K RESTORATION)

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CANTONESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 86M

DIRECTOR: STANLEY KWAN

6-NOV 3:00 PM | KAHALA

It's 1988 in Beijing. Domineering businessman Chen Handong lives a life of success. But when he meets a young student from the countryside, Lan Yu, the two men become first sexually, then romantically involved. Based off Bei Tong's novel Beijing Comrades, widely hailed as a milestone in queer Chinese literature, LAN YU chronicles Chen Handong and Lan Yu's relationship through a decade of political and economic upheaval in China.



## THE LAST GOZE

WORLD PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 109M

DIRECTOR: MASAHARU TAKIZAWA

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Blind since infancy, Haru had little opportunity as a young girl in Japan. With her father passed and her mother ill, Haru's best option is to become a "goze" - a traveling singer and storyteller respected by many of the common folk. THE LAST GOZE is the tragic yet inspiring true story of Haru Kobayashi, one of the last artists of her kind. Haru endures relentless emotional and physical violence to become one of the most famous performers of her generation, eventually named one of Japan's Living National Treasures.



## LAST OF THE WOLVES

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 139M

DIRECTOR: KAZUYA SHIRAIISHI

7-NOV 4:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Set three years after THE BLOOD OF WOLVES, Detective Shuichi Hioka successfully implements Shogo Ogami's plan to control the yakuza as Ogami, his slain partner, intended. But when a sinister individual is released from prison, Hioka's plan unravels, and his wish for peace between gangs and a crimeless community is put to the test. LAST OF THE WOLVES follows up the first film as an inventive, crime-thriller and a reinvention of the cop-versus-gangster genre.



## LIMBO

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

CHINA, HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CHINESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118M

DIRECTOR: SOI CHEANG

10-NOV 8:00 PM | KAHALA

14-NOV 8:00 PM | KAHALA

From director Soi Cheang, comes the biggest Hong Kong Chinese action crime thriller of the year. A serial killer is on the loose. Under public pressure to solve the case, the police reinstate veteran detective Cham (Gordon Lam Ka Tung) on active duty and assign him to the case with rookie cop Will (Mason Lee). However, Cham's past returns to haunt him when he encounters To (Cya Liui), the girl who killed his wife and child in a car accident.





# FILMS



## LISTEN BEFORE YOU SING

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC | CHINESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M

DIRECTOR: YANG CHIH-LIN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Budget cuts and a small student body cause Jiu Pu Elementary to be threatened with closure. In an attempt to stay open, the school enters a choir competition. The school tends to children from the Bunun tribe, an indigenous group from Taiwan that is known for their musical ability. By coming back to their roots with the help of tribe elders, can the children find their own voices and learn to sing as a collective?



## LONG DAY

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

DIRECTOR: CHO SUNG-KYU

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Over the course of a day in four vignettes, a group of interconnected people have a series of interactions. When a novelist moves into his house, he finds a woman who claims she used to live there. A filmmaker scouts a location with her boyfriend, but arguments get in the way. Two people who lost their spouses in a car accident deliberate whether the deceased were having an affair. A writer visits an old friend, hoping to receive permission to turn her story into a film.



## THE LOST DAUGHTER

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

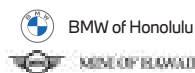
GREECE, UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 121M

DIRECTOR: MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL

10-NOV 7:30 PM | KAHALA

14-NOV 3:00 PM | KAHALA

While on a summer holiday, middle-aged university professor Leda (Oscar® winner Olivia Colman) becomes transfixed by Nina (Dakota Johnson), a young mother. The chance encounter turns into an obsession that triggers memories of motherhood, career turns, and past loves. Soon, under the burning sun of the small coastal town, Leda's darkest impulses and hidden truths emerge. Maggie Gyllenhaal adapts Elena Ferrante's acclaimed novel, deftly channeling the book's emotional energy through a sensibility entirely her own.



## LOVE AND FURY

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA | INDIGENOUS LENS

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 93M

DIRECTOR: STERLIN HARJO

11-NOV 5:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

A bold and honest look at the complexities of Native identity and art, through the lens of Sterlin Harjo (RESERVATION DOGS), in conversation with Indigenous artists living in the US and abroad. This yearlong portrait of 20 creatives (musicians, poets, sculptors, performance artists, muralists, comedians) reminds the viewer of the rich, diverse and sometimes brooding artistic expression of Native peoples.



A Master Class with director Sterlin Harjo will follow the screening.



## MAD GOD

HAWAII PREMIERE

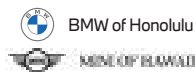
PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 83M

DIRECTOR: PHIL TIPPETT

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

MAD GOD is a jaw-dropping stop-motion animated journey into madness, 30 years in the making, birthed by FX titan Phil Tippet (STAR WARS, ROBOCOP, JURASSIC PARK). Defying description, MAD GOD opens with a steampunk explorer as it navigates a series of horror-filled worlds populated by deranged mad scientists, gruesome experiments, and amorphous creatures. There is no "good and evil," just cruelty and chaos explored through themes of exploitation, destruction, and frenzied capitalism. MAD GOD is a beautifully deranged artistic achievement with an uncompromising vision.



## THE MAGICIAN ON THE SKYWALK (SERIES)

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC | MANDARIN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 500M

DIRECTOR: YANG YA-CHE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Set in 1980s Taipei, Budian, the imaginative son of a shoe vendor, fantasizes that the titular magician who also sells his wares next to him, has supernatural powers and is able to channel the various urban legends and folklore to life. This proves as a great narrative vehicle for the series, as stories depicting children of working-class families in a now bygone era, is realized by engaging performances and a sizable TV production budget. For many Taiwanese, this is a nostalgic trip worth taking.



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## MANZANAR, DIVERTED: WHEN WATER BECOMES DUST

HAWAII PREMIERE

GREEN SCREEN | INDIGENOUS LENS

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 84M

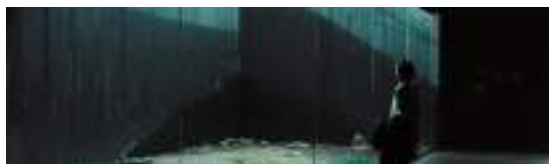
DIRECTOR: ANN KANEKO

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Beginning in Payahuunadū ("the land of flowing water"), also known as Owens Valley, director Ann Kaneko lights the colonial legacy of injustice shared at the site of Manzanar. This documentary is a contentious memorial to the internment of Japanese Americans and the little known grounds where indigenous communities have fought for their rights to the lands and water that sustain them. Poetically weaving memories of Native Americans, Japanese American WWII incarcerated, and environmentalists, this film is an embodiment of solidarity you will not want to miss.



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## MEMORIA

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

COLOMBIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, MEXICO, THAILAND, UNITED KINGDOM |

ENGLISH, SPANISH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 136M

DIRECTOR: APICHA TPONG WEERASETHAKUL

5-NOV 8:00 PM | KAHALA

13-NOV 1:00 PM | KAHALA

From the visionary director of TROPICAL MALADY, Apichatpong Weerasethakul tells a serene tale of an expatriate woman named Jessica (Tilda Swinton). Ever since Jessica is mysteriously awakened to a loud noise, she is unable to sleep and experiences strange sensory issues. While this occurrence disturbs her, she begins to look at the world differently. MEMORIA is a haunting, introspective account of a woman trying to discover the origins of a noise only she can hear.



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## MISSION: JOY

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 90M

DIRECTOR: PEGGY CALLAHAN, LOUIE PSIHOSYOS

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is known for his brave work in South Africa, namely his anti-apartheid activism. And the Dalai Lama, is one of the most prominently famous spiritual leaders of the world. When the two beloved, spiritual figures gather for MISSION: JOY, their shared ethos for achieving happiness-offered through personal stories of their childhood and activism-crafts a portrait that also highlights the transcendental nature of compassion.



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## MARVELOUS AND THE BLACK HOLE

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 81M

DIRECTOR: KATE TSANG

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Teenage delinquent Sammy Ko teams up with a surly children's party magician (Rhea Perlman) on a bizarre adventure to navigate her tumultuous home life and inner demons. She finds inspiration in this strange spinster who grabs joie de vivre by the bootstraps, and tries to teach herself magic of her own. An appealing odd-couple road movie, this endearing and quirky coming-of-age story that touches on unlikely friendships, grief, and finding hope in the darkest moments.



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## MIRACLE CITY KOZA

WORLD PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 119M

DIRECTOR: KAZUHIRO TAIRA

7-NOV 1:00 PM | KAHALA | 19-NOV 5:00 PM | PALACE

20-NOV 5:00 PM | WAIMEA | NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

Koza City, Okinawa, present day. Shota, the grandson of legendary rocker Haru, has been spending his days in idleness, when his grandfather is killed in a traffic accident. Shortly thereafter, Haru's ghost appears to Shota with an otherworldly proposition: trade bodies so grandpa can take care of unfinished business! Suddenly, Shota finds himself transported to the 1970s, his spirit transmuted to the then young Haru. The problem is Shota doesn't know how to play rock n' roll...

PLAYS WITH: NINUFABUSHI MIATI

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## MONEY HAS FOUR LEGS

HAWAII PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

MYANMAR | BURMESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 98M

DIRECTOR: MAUNG SUN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

A young director is determined to realise his first feature film while balancing a demanding producer, strict government censors, a wife and child at home and a deadbeat brother-in-law. When his camera breaks and he is left with no other choice to continue his shoot, he is forced to make a series of unpredictable decisions to turn his life around in this timely satire of the life of an artist in modern Myanmar.

# FILMS

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## MONEYBOYS

HAWAII PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN | ASIAN CINERAMA

TAIWAN ROC | MANDARIN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 120M

DIRECTOR: C.B. YI

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

MONEYBOYS depicts the culture clash between China's urban metropolises and rural villages as seen through the eyes of a young hustler named Fei. He finds work in the city as a moneyboy, but is devastated when he realizes that his family accepts his money but not his homosexuality, leading him to struggle to build up a new life.



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## NEMESIS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FILMMAKER IN FOCUS: ALBERT PYUN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 95M

DIRECTOR: ALBERT PYUN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Troubled LA cyborg cop Alex is ordered to apprehend his former partner Jared, accused of smuggling data to information terrorists plotting to kill government officials. Continuing in Albert Pyun's fascination with cyborg dystopian settings, NEMESIS is Albert Pyun delving hard into William Gibson cyberpunk mode, but with multinational backdrops and business-suits-and-machine-pistols aesthetic, and where shotguns and shoot ballistic missiles. It's still balls-to-the-wall Pyun!



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## NIGHT RAIDERS

HAWAII PREMIERE

FILM FOR THOUGHT | INDIGENOUS LENS | KAU KA HŌKŪ NOMINEE

CANADA, NEW ZEALAND | CREE, ENGLISH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M

DIRECTOR: DANIS GOULET

6-NOV 5:30 PM | KAHALA

8-NOV 7:30 PM | KAHALA

2043 - In a dystopian future a military occupation controls disenfranchised cities in post-war North America. Children are considered property of the regime which trains them to fight. A desperate Cree woman joins an underground band of vigilantes to infiltrate a State children's academy and get her daughter back. A parable about the experience of the Indigenous peoples of North America, NIGHT RAIDERS is a female-driven sci-fi drama about resilience, courage and love, executive produced by Oscar winner and HIFF favorite Taika Waititi.



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## NINJA GIRL

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 88M

DIRECTOR: YU IRIE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

A Japanese city servant cares for her dying grandfather, a prominent opposer to the Immigrant Elimination Ordinance. Suddenly, a family friend commits suicide after admitting his role in concocting fraudulence to help push the act through. The city servant takes it upon herself to make things right after her grandpa informs her that she is actually the last survivor in a long lineage ... of ninjas. Directed by Yu Irie, NINJA GIRL goes beyond the stereotypes of ninja culture and cinema and offers a satirical take with strong, socially-relevant themes to current events in Japan.



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## OFF COUNTRY

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

PACIFIC SHOWCASE | INDIGENOUS LENS

AUSTRALIA | ENGLISH | 96M

DIRECTOR: JOHN HARVEY, RHIAN SKIRVING

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Every year, around 3000 Indigenous students receive scholarships to attend some of Australia's most prestigious boarding schools. It is an immense opportunity, setting many of the youngsters on a path to a bright future, but it also means they must leave their homes and communities. Over the course of a year, OFF COUNTRY follows several such students, who, despite hailing from distinct nations and having vastly different circumstances, each share a commitment to doing themselves and their families proud - no matter the difficulties.



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## OFFICE ROYALE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 102M

DIRECTOR: KAZUAKI SEKI

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Naoko Tanaka (Nao) is an ordinary office lady, who witnesses constant violence between the warring OL factions within her place of employment. The factions are blindsided by a newcomer, Ran Hojo, who quickly defeats everyone within the company. After extending her control over many factions throughout the city, Ran catches the eyes of opponents, who challenge her position as top office lady. Meanwhile, Nao discovers new abilities that may allow her to secure that position for herself...







## OKAGESAMA DE ~HAWAI'I NIKKEI WOMEN'S TRAJECTORY~



WORLD PREMIERE  
DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA  
JAPAN | ENGLISH | 112M  
DIRECTOR: HIROYUKI MATSUMOTO  
NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

On February 8, 1885, the first 153 Japanese immigrants arrived in Hawai'i to work in the plantations. Almost 150 years later, "Nikkei" have become one of the most influential groups to shape the Hawai'i we know today. In OKAGESAMA DE, filmmaker Hiroyuki Matsumoto focuses on documenting testimonials and stories of Nisei women, especially stories about their parents, the Issei generation, unweaving stories about plantation life, WWII, and their contribution to Hawai'i in reshaping government and society during the post-war.



## ONE SUMMER STORY



HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN  
JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 138M  
DIRECTOR: SHUICHI OKITA  
NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

High school student Minami has a happy life with her mom and stepdad. She's never met her biological father, but hasn't been too bothered about that. However, when she receives a mysterious handwritten talisman it sets off her interest in her 'real dad'. With help from classmate Shohei, she learns that her father was the leader of an infamous cult who has disappeared. Determined to track him down, Minami masterminds a plan to sneak off from her summer swim camp and meet her enigmatic dad.



## PARALLEL MOTHERS



HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
SPAIN | SPANISH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 123M  
DIRECTOR: PEDRO ALMODÓVAR  
7-NOV 7:30 PM | KAHALA

Two single women meet in a hospital room where they are both going to give birth. One is middle aged and doesn't regret it, while the other is adolescent and scared. As they wander the hospital hallways in the late hours, the two women form a strong bond with one another as they both confront motherhood. The latest from Pedro Almodóvar is a unique chamber piece that combines telenovela with a serious take on his country's unresolved past.



## ONE SECOND



HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA  
CHINA | CHINESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M  
DIRECTOR: ZHANG YIMOU  
13-NOV 5:30 PM | KAHALA  
NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

China's Zhang Yimou is a giant of international cinema. His many films, including RAISE THE RED LANTERN, HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS, and SHADOW have cemented his place in history. With ONE SECOND, he offers a powerful reminder of why film matters. A touching drama set against striking desert landscapes and marked by Zhang's characteristic flashes of humour, this is a fable about how cinema can inspire us.



## THE PANTHERS (SERIES)

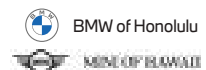


HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
PACIFIC SHOWCASE | INDIGENOUS LENS  
NEW ZEALAND | ENGLISH | 90M  
DIRECTOR: MIKI MAGASIVA, TOM HERN, VEA MAFILO'O  
NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Set in Auckland in 1974, THE PANTHERS focuses on how a group of Polynesian students and street gangsters led by Tongan student Will 'Iolalia formed a revolutionary movement called the Polynesian Panthers, drawing inspiration from the American Black Panther Party. HIFF is honored to present the first three episodes of this groundbreaking New Zealand TV miniseries.



## PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT



HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
FRANCE | FRENCH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 84M  
DIRECTOR: JACQUES AUDIARD  
NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Émilie meets Camille who is attracted to Nora, who crosses paths with Amber. Three girls and a boy – They're friends, sometimes lovers and often both. The latest film from French auteur Jacques Audiard (A PROPHET), comes a unique adaptation of short stories from "Optic Nerve," by famed cartoonist Adrian Tomine. The script, co-written by another famed auteur Celine Sciamma (PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE) "frenchifies" Tomine's work into a sensual and sexy triptych.

# FILMS



## PAU HANA YEARS : GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF MOLOKAI HOMESTEADING (SERIES)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH, HAWAIIAN | 120M

DIRECTOR: MONTE HICKOK

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Presented as part of the 100 Years: Hawaiian Homes Commission Act archival screening series, 'Ulu'Ulu: the Henry Ku'ualoha Guigni Moving Image Archive of Hawai'i presents four restored episodes of the 1975 series PAU HANA YEARS with host Bob Barker which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first Moloka'i homesteads.



## PETIT MAMAN

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

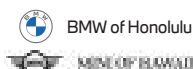
FRANCE | FRENCH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 72M

DIRECTOR: CELINE SCIAMMA

7-NOV 1:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

8-year-old Nelly is spending time at her recently deceased grandmother's house while her mother and father clean out the home. While her parents set about packing, Nelly explores the surrounding woods. There she encounters Marion, a girl her age with a striking resemblance. The two quickly become friends, they build a fort, make pancakes, and share about their lives. As their bond deepens, the past and the present merge revealing intergenerational insights and intimacies.



## THE POWER OF THE DOG

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

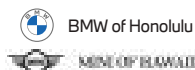
AUSTRALIA, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 126M

DIRECTOR: JANE CAMPION

13-NOV 4:00 PM | KAHALA

20-NOV 8:00 PM | PALACE

Created by legendary director Jane Campion, Phil (Benedict Cumberbatch) instills fear in the eyes of those around him. His brother (Jesse Plummer)-all too aware of his brother's menacing nature-decides to bring home a new wife and her son. But Phil employs his most deadly, awe-inspiring capacity to inflict fear in his brother's new wife and son. THE POWER OF THE DOG explores toxic masculinity and living between the borders of insanity and passion.



## THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

HAWAII PREMIERE

EAT. DRINK. FILM.

JAPAN | ENGLISH, JAPANESE, SPANISH, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 79M

DIRECTOR: TOSHIMICHI SAITO

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION follows four leading chefs in Japan today as they relentlessly work to pursue their dreams and perfect their cuisine. Featuring kaiseki chef Takemasa Shinohara of Ginza Shinohara, pastry chef Natsuko Shoji of Eté, French-trained Yosuke Suga of Suglabo, and sushi chef Takaaki Sugita of Nihonbashi-Kakigaracho Sugita. Presented in the style of CHEF'S TABLE, with mouth-watering photography of unbelievably amazing food, this film is best served with a delicious meal of your choice.



## RED ROCKET

HAWAII PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 128M

DIRECTOR: SEAN BAKER

13-NOV 8:00 PM | KAHALA

The audacious new film from writer-director Sean Baker (The Florida Project, Tangerine), starring Simon Rex in a magnetic, live-wire performance, RED ROCKET is a darkly funny, raw, and humane portrait of a uniquely American hustler and a hometown that barely tolerates him.



## REEL WAHINE OF HAWAII: SEASON 3 (SERIES)

WORLD PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 51M

DIRECTOR: HEATHER GUIGNI, ERIN LAU, ANNE MISAWA, SHIRLEY THOMPSON,

VERA ZAMBONELLI

7-NOV 2:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

Produced by Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking, REEL WAHINE OF HAWAII celebrates gender and cultural diversity behind the camera. But it also highlights the difficulties female filmmakers experience while directing. Season 3 follows six women of varying backgrounds speaking to the lack of diversity in the industry, the power of cinema for Native Hawaiian people, and the little known but long history of female filmmakers making movies in Hawai'i.



PLAYS WITH: BLUE COOLER & OUR WALKS IN HAWAII



## RE-FASHIONED

HAWAII PREMIERE

GREEN SCREEN

HONG KONG SAR CHINA | ENGLISH | 83M

DIRECTOR: JOANNA BOWERS

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Three passionate Hong Kongers strive to disrupt the textile and recycling industries by innovating sustainable solutions to change mindsets and transition towards a circular economy before the landfills overflow. Their stories are set against a backdrop of the rise and fall of the 'made in Hong Kong' industrial era through the eyes of the people who lived it, and begins to stitch together what the future of sustainable fashion and the beginnings of a circular economy in the city may look like...



## RIDE THE WAVE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SURF CINEMA

UNITED KINGDOM | ENGLISH | 84M

DIRECTOR: MARTYN ROBERTSON

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

14-year-old Ben Larg from the isle of Tiree, has made a name for himself as a Scottish surfing champion. Now follow Ben and his family as he trains to ride one of the biggest and most dangerous cold water waves in the world at Mullaghmore, Ireland. With this unforgiving wave, if he gets it right, he joins an elite group. If he gets it wrong, the consequences are terrifying. Danger, opportunity, and parental dilemma collide propelling Ben and his family towards an unknown destiny.

PLAYS WITH: ICEBOX



## ROCK BOTTOM RISER

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 70M

DIRECTOR: FERN SILVA

21-NOV 4:00 PM | PALACE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Hawaii's swirling, rolling flow of volcanic lava provides the anchor for this energetic, visually and sonically bold cinematic essay by experimental filmmaker Fern Silva. Filled with astounding telescopic imagery and engaging digressions into philosophically related phenomena, ROCK BOTTOM RISER breaks temporal and generic boundaries, touching upon everything from astronomy to geology to ethnography, from the origins of the universe to colonialism's remapping of our planet. Silva erupts all notions of what one might expect from "nature documentary" filmmaking, and shows viewers familiar worlds made alien.



## THE RETURN: LIFE AFTER ISIS

HAWAII PREMIERE

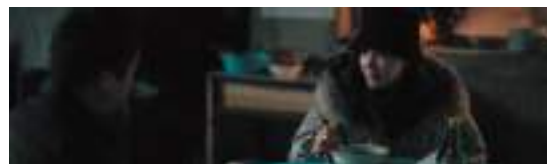
DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

SPAIN, UNITED KINGDOM | ENGLISH | 90M

DIRECTOR: ALBA SOTORRA CLUA

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

THE RETURN offers an intimate, up-close-and-personal portrait of the young women who were seduced to leave the west and devote their lives to ISIS. After the fall of ISIS in 2017, these women along with other families of ISIS fighters were placed in Prison Camp Roj in Syria, where they languish in limbo, stateless to this day. With unfettered access, director Alba Sotorra Clua and her team allow these women to tell their own stories for the first time.



## RIPPLES OF LIFE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA | KAU KA HOKU NOMINEE

CHINA | CHINESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 123M

DIRECTOR: WEI SHUJUN

8-NOV 7:00 PM | KAHALA

12-NOV 5:00 PM | KAHALA

An inventive film about the making of a film, RIPPLES OF LIFE is a clever satire, both amusingly humorous and deeply contemplative. From newcomer director/writer Wei Shujun this delightful ode to the absurdity of filmmaking unfolds through a triptych of stories, told from the perspective of three different protagonists, all involved in a film production set in a small town.



## ROLLING

HAWAII PREMIERE

EAT. DRINK. FILM.

SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 75M

DIRECTOR: KWAK MIN-SEUNG

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

25-year-old Juri has been languishing away since the pandemic hit, living in her family's apartment, playing video games all day and ordering in take-out food. Her mother Young-shim on the other hand, has been working hard to keep her kim-bap shop alive. When Young-shim has to leave town suddenly, she gives Juri an ultimatum. Take over the shop while she's away, or move out. The unenthusiastic Juri must step up to the plate and perfect her mother's diverse kim-bap recipes or else!



# FILMS

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## THE SALT IN OUR WATERS

HAWAII PREMIERE

GREEN SCREEN

BANGLADESH | BENGALI, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 106M

DIRECTOR: REZWAN SHAHRIAR SUMIT

14-NOV 1:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Rudro, an artist from Dhaka, travels to a remote fishing village beset by climate change in the Ganges Delta. His enormous box of art supplies singles him out as a city slicker among the rural population. Upon arrival, Rudro soon learns that he has come ashore in a deeply conservative Muslim community, and tensions surface when the villagers help Rudro unload his art supplies, and discover that he is a sculptor: a maker of idols.



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## THE SEEDS OF VANDANA SHIVA

HAWAII PREMIERE

GREEN SCREEN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 82M

DIRECTOR: CAMILLA BECKET, JAMES BECKET

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

THE SEEDS OF VANDANA SHIVA profiles one of the most important activists and revolutions of the modern day: a strong-willed daughter of a Himalayan forest conservator engaged in a David and Goliath-esque strife against multinational corporations such as Monsanto who aim to perpetuate their highly profitable yet environmentally degenerative agricultural practices. In the global war for control over food production systems, Dr. Shiva fights on behalf of both people and Mother Earth, and only one side can possibly prevail.



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## SHORT TERM 12 WITH DESTIN DANIEL CRETTON

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

PANORAMA

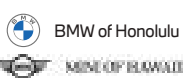
UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 96M

DIRECTOR: DESTIN DANIEL CRETTON

11-NOV 8:30 PM | KAHALA

Calm and competent, Grace (Brie Larsen) is a young counsellor at a California care unit for at-risk teens (LaKeith Stanfield, Kaitlyn Dever). However, her cool facade begins to crack in the pressure cooker atmosphere as she and some of the unruly residents are reminded of past and present abuses. HIFF revisits Destin Daniel Cretton's SHORT TERM 12, the film that put him on the map to a vibrant Hollywood career and the smash hit SHANG-CHI.

A Master Class with Destin Daniel Cretton will follow the screening.



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## SHRIEKING IN THE RAIN

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 102M

DIRECTOR: EIJI UCHIDA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

A first-time young female film director pushes her production to the brink. Frequently melting down, isolating herself from everyone, giving vague directions, and insisting on dozens of takes per scene, her mostly male subordinates berate her constantly. A pure and genuine artist at heart, however, the director insists on a specific vision to the very end. SHRIEKING IN THE RAIN ventures behind the scenes of filmmaking with a cast of misfits who are all a little overwhelmed by their shared circumstances.



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## SINKHOLE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M

DIRECTOR: KIM JI-HOON

NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

Park Dong-Won is thrilled. Finally after 10 years of saving, he has managed to purchase an apartment for his family. However, after moving in, something seems a bit strange, the apartment seems slightly tilted. But Dong-Won is too excited to pay this much mind. However, the morning after his housewarming party, disaster strikes! Without warning, a massive sinkhole opens up, plunging the building 500 meters into the earth. Dong-Won, his hungover colleagues, and his surly neighbor must band together if they have any chance at survival!



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## SOUNDS OF TAIWAN: A SYMPHONY BY BAO YUANKAI

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC | MANDARIN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 95M

DIRECTOR: HEATHER TSUI

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Celebrated Chinese composer Bao YuanKai had an artistic breakthrough when he came to Taiwan nearly three decades ago. Director Heather Tsui (LONG TIME NO SEA, HIFF38) follows Bao over the past decade and shows him at work, in rehearsal with orchestras, visiting parts of the island nation that inspired his compositions, in conversation with his peers, and preparing for his magnum opus, capturing the beautiful sights, culture and unique perspectives of Taiwan.





# FILMS



## TICK, TICK...BOOM!

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

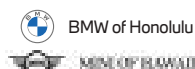
UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 115M

DIRECTOR: LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

12-NOV 5:15 PM | KAHALA

13-NOV 12:30PM | KAHALA

Lin-Manuel Miranda (HAMILTON) makes his feature directorial debut with TICK, TICK...BOOM!, an adaptation of the autobiographical musical by Jonathan Larson, who revolutionized theater as the creator of RENT. The film follows Jon (Andrew Garfield), a young theater composer who's waiting tables at a New York City diner in 1990 while writing what he hopes will be the next great American musical. With the clock ticking, Jon is at a crossroads and faces the question everyone must reckon with: What are we meant to do with the time we have?



**FLUX** The CURRENT of HAWAII



## TIME

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CANTONESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 99M

DIRECTOR: RICKY KO

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

After being fired, replaced due to his inability to keep up, Chau re-enters his old life: being a hitman for hire. He's joined by his aging partners to resume their special missions. But like their youth, their once-exciting job has disappeared, and now they must service the elderly, calling hits on themselves, until a young girl subscribes to their services, challenging Chau to make an important decision. TIME is an exploration of aging and community.



## TIONG BAHRU SOCIAL CLUB

HAWAII PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

SINGAPORE | ENGLISH | 88M

DIRECTOR: BEE THIAM TAN

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Meet Ah Bee: an office worker who always puts on a smile for others. For his thirtieth birthday, his doting mother gifts him membership to Tiong Bahru Social Club, a new planned community that maximizes the happiness of its residents through an all-seeing artificial intelligence. When Ah Bee arrives, he also signs up to become a "happiness agent" for seniors in Tiong Bahru's assisted living facilities. Is this where he will finally find fulfillment?



## TRY HARDER!

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 85M

DIRECTOR: DEBBIE LUM

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

At Lowell High School, the top-ranked public high school in San Francisco, the seniors are stressed out. As they prepare for the emotionally draining college application process, students are keenly aware of the intense competition for the few open spots in their dream colleges. With humor and heart, director Debbie Lum takes us to the reality of the American college application process and the intersection of class, race, and educational opportunity as experienced by high school seniors living through it.



## USERS

HAWAII PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 81M

DIRECTOR: NATALIA ALMADA

14-NOV 1:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Winning for Best Directing, U.S. Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, USERS is the first English-language effort by 2012 MacArthur "Genius" Awardee Natalia Almada. Almada asks what the world will be like for her child and whether she is comfortable with his potential loss of human agency in a "technopoly." Supported by Bennett Cerf's astounding photography and a dreamy score compiled by Dave Cerf and featuring the Kronos Quartet, USERS reflects on an anthropological past that is, indeed, our uncanny present.



## WE'VE ONLY GOT THIS WORLD

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

PACIFIC SHOWCASE | INDIGENOUS LENS

VANUATU | BISLAMA, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 77M

DIRECTOR: PETER WALKER

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Rodney and Betty are classmates in Vanuatu. He is an ardent environmentalist who has a crush on her, while she is boy crazy for a local DJ. Rodney is driven to bring awareness of the effects of climate change to his community. When Betty is sent to visit her grandfather, only then does she realize that the climate crisis is real. Can her new awareness bring her closer to Rodney, who runs into trouble with local leaders when his one man crusade causes tensions?







## WHEEL OF FORTUNE AND FANTASY

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN | ASIAN CINERAMA

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 121M

DIRECTOR: RYUSUKE HAMAGUCHI

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

In this triptych of short films, coincidence and chance encounters interrupt the fragile reality of everyday life. Alternately playful, comedic, and cynical, WHEEL OF FORTUNE AND FANTASY plumbs the theatrical depths beneath simple stories: an unexpected love triangle, an attempt to blackmail a professor, and a meeting between two old friends. Appearances deceive, actions lie, and people are not who they seem to be. (Silver Bear winner, 2021 Berlin International Film Festival.)



## WHETHER THE WEATHER IS FINE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE | KAU KA HOKU NOMINEE

PHILIPPINES | TAGALOG, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

DIRECTOR: CARLO FRANCISCO MANATAD

14-NOV 7:30 PM | KAHALA

14-NOV 7:00PM - 11:00PM | ONLINE

17-NOV 7:00PM - 11:00PM | ONLINE

In Tacloban, the worst of Typhoon Haiyan has passed. But for Miguel and his mother, Norma, the real ordeal is what comes after. As rumors of another impending storm circulate, Miguel and his girlfriend Andrea try to board a Manila-bound ship, and Norma searches for a man from her past. Processions of the living and dead pass them by, more surreal than somber, challenging our three survivors to make sense out of the seemingly senseless.



## WHO WE ARE: A CHRONICLE OF RACISM IN AMERICA

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 117M

DIRECTOR: EMILY KUNSTLER, SARAH KUNSTLER

6-NOV 1:30 PM | KAHALA

Interweaving lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews, and shocking revelations, criminal defense and civil rights lawyer Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-Black racism in the United States, from slavery to the modern myth of a post-racial America.



## WOODLANDS DARK AND DAYS BEWITCHED

HAWAII PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH, PORTUGUESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 193M

DIRECTOR: KIER-LA JANISSE

10-NOV 6:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

The first documentary on the history of folk horror, exploring the history of this unique genre from its beginnings in the 1960s to its revival today tracking its trajectory from the UK, Europe, America and Asia. Touching on over 200 films, WOODLANDS DARK AND DAYS BEWITCHED investigates the many ways that we alternately celebrate, conceal and manipulate our own histories in an attempt to find spiritual resonance in our surroundings.



## THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

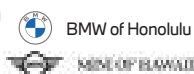
DENMARK, FRANCE, NORWAY, SWEDEN, UNITED STATES | NORWEGIAN, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 127M

DIRECTOR: JOACHIM TRIER

14-NOV 4:30 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Julie is not what you'd call a committed person. When we first meet her, she's on the cusp of her 30th birthday, about to switch her college major, and on the verge of leaving her long-term boyfriend. We soon learn that life-altering changes of heart are among the few constants in her life and, if she seems a tad frustrating at first, we soon come to admire her ornery resistance to being defined - even if that resistance costs her dearly.



## WRITING WITH FIRE

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

INDIA | HINDI, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 93M

DIRECTOR: SUSHMIT GHOSH, RINTU THOMAS

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

In the midst of a patriarchal news landscape, the reporters with Khabar Lahariya - India's only all-female news network - are taking it upon themselves to cover their country's inequities with unflinching and intrepid determination. Armed only with their smartphones, these fearless journalists roam the state of Uttar Pradesh, exposing the country's extremist Hindu leadership, rape culture, and rampant corruption. WRITING WITH FIRE follows this ambitious group of Dalit women-led by their chief reporter, Meera, one of the undaunted women from India's lowest caste behind Khabar Lahariya.



# FILMS



## THE YEAR OF THE EVERLASTING STORM

HAWAII PREMIERE

GREEN SCREEN

UNITED STATES | ENGLISH | 115M

DIRECTOR: ANTHONY CHEN, DAVID LOWERY, JAFAR PANAH, LAURA POITRAS, DOMINGO SOTOMAYOR, MALIK VITTHAL, APICHA PONG WEERASETHAKUL

14-NOV 6:00 PM | KAHALA

NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

Featuring seven stories from seven auteurs from around the world, the film chronicles this unprecedented moment in time, and is a true love letter to the power of cinema and its storytellers.



## ZOKKI

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN | JAPANESE, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M

DIRECTOR: TAKUMI SAITOH, NAOTO TAKENAKA, TAKAYUKI YAMADA

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

Based on several short stories by manga artist Hiroyuki Ohashi and co-directed by Takumi Saitoh, Naoto Takenaka, and Takayuki Yamada, ZOKKI is difficult to categorize, best described as an off-beat comedy from Japan that interweaves five stories into an intelligent yet often-absurd cohesive whole. All of the stories deal with ways in which loneliness can manifest itself into deception, including self-deception. By the end, these disparate narratives indeed collide into a satisfying conclusion.

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES



## HIFF41 OHANA DAY AT BISHOP MUSEUM

On **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH**, join HIFF and the Bishop Museum for a special presentation of HIFF's KEIKI SHORTS Program, plus a Return Engagement of award winning short film KAPAEMAHU (HIFF 2020).

The selection of short films will loop continuously from 10AM - 5PM, and viewing will be included with admission to the museum.

*Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets for lawn seating. Chairs are not provided.*



### FILM PROGRAM

BISHOP MUSEUM

#### BLUE COOLER

DIRECTOR: LAURA MARGULIES

#### BLUSH

DIRECTOR: JOE MATEO

#### HOW TO CATCH A TAOTAOMONA

DIRECTOR: NEIL TINKHAM

#### KAPAEMAHU

DIRECTORS: HINALEIMOANA WONG-KALU, JOE WILSON, DEAN HAMER

#### MILK

DIRECTOR: CELIA JASPERS

#### SINA MA TINIRAU

DIRECTORS: VILSONI HERENIKO, GAVIN ARUCAN



## HIFF41 AND TAIJI TERASAKI PRESENT: KAIMANA NOVEMBER 5 - 28 | BISHOP MUSEUM

Hawaii-based artist Taiji Terasaki presents KAIMANA - an outdoor, walk-through art and film installation offering a cinematic work projected onto a dramatic, interactive mist curtain. The images projected onto the mist-screen reflect memories of old Hawaii and Pacific island life, highlighting fond memories of the Waikiki Natatorium's community and vibrant ocean culture.

#### THE TINY TREE

DIRECTOR: ANNIE CUSICK WOOD

#### YUAN YUAN AND THE HOLLOW MONSTER

DIRECTOR: CATHERINE CHEN



## ACM UHM SHOWCASE

### AVAILABLE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE



A selection of the best new short films from students at the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and college students studying in Hawai'i.



### AGAPE

DIRECTOR: JUSTIN KIMATA, CHRISTIAN LEE

### BLOOM

DIRECTOR: DESIRENE GAMBOA

### DAY AND NIGHT

DIRECTOR: JEWEL RACASA

### I WILL BE YOUR BREATH

DIRECTOR: MALIA ADAMS, ALESSANDRA GALLIAN

### LAST NIGHT

DIRECTOR: DOUGLAS HABAN

### MESSAGES

DIRECTOR: DANIEL OKA

### ONIPAA

DIRECTOR: DYLLON CHING

### LAST NIGHT

DIRECTOR: DOUGLAS HABAN

## DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

### AVAILABLE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

A selection of short documentaries from around the world in tandem with our Documentary Panorama program at HIFF41.



### BAREFOOT EMPRESS

DIRECTOR: VIKAS KHANNA KHANNA

### EAGLES

DIRECTOR: KRISTY GUEVARA-FLANAGAN, MAITE ZUBIAURRE

### F1-100

DIRECTOR: EMORY CHAO JOHNSON

### IN THE SHADOW OF THE PINES

DIRECTOR: ANNE KOIZUMI

### KALINGA (CARE)

DIRECTOR: KENT DONGUINES

### PANT HOOT

DIRECTOR: RICHARD REENS

### RADICAL CARE: THE AUNTIE SEWING SQUAD

DIRECTOR: VALERIE SOE

### UNEMPLOYMENT HOTLINE

DIRECTOR: NIKOS CAMPBELL

### WE CAME BACK FOR YOU

DIRECTOR: AKIRA BOCH, TAIJI TERASAKI

### YELLO

DIRECTOR: KING YAW SOON

## EAT. DRINK. FILM.

### AVAILABLE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

A pupu platter of delectable short film delights in tandem with our Eat. Drink. Film. program at HIFF41.



### LITTLE FISH

DIRECTOR: EDWARD COLUMBIA

### NO PLACE LIKE KASAMA

DIRECTOR: KERRI PANG

### PHOENIX BAKERY: SWEETS FOR THE SWEET

DIRECTOR: JANET CHEN

### TANAGOKORO: A CULINARY PORTRAIT

DIRECTOR: VICTORIA FISTES, MASASHI NOZAKI



# SHORTS



## GREEN SCREEN

### AVAILABLE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE



A selection of environmentally focused short films from around the world in tandem with our GREEN SCREEN program at HIFF41.



### CALL OF THE HEART

DIRECTOR: HARUN GULER

### CITIZENS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

DIRECTOR: TOM ABOOD

### FISHPOND: LOKO I'A

DIRECTOR: LEAH WARSHAWSKI

### GALAPAGOS

DIRECTOR: ANTOINE JANSSENS

### HE KAU HEAHEA A HI'IAKA

DIRECTOR: TY SANGA

### I AM A PLASTIC

DIRECTOR: RICHARD HAMASAKI

### LIFE BELOW WATER

DIRECTOR: BRIAN SCHULZ

### PILI KA MO'O

DIRECTOR: JUSTYN AH CHONG

### PLANT HEIST

DIRECTOR: GABRIEL DE CUBA, CHELSI DE CUBA

### ZONA

DIRECTOR: MASAMI KAWAI

## KEIKI

### AVAILABLE

7-NOV | BISHOP MUSEUM | FREE WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION  
NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE | FREE

A selection of family friendly shorts appropriate for all ages, especially geared towards the keiki.



### BLUE COOLER

DIRECTOR: LAURA MARGULIES

### BLUSH

DIRECTOR: JOE MATED

### HOW TO CATCH A TAOTAOMONA

DIRECTOR: NEIL TINKHAM

### MILK

DIRECTOR: CELIA JASPERS

### THE TINY TREE

DIRECTOR: ANNIE CUSICK WOOD

### YUAN YUAN AND THE HOLLOW MONSTER

DIRECTOR: CATHERINE CHEN

## PACIFIC SHOWCASE

### AVAILABLE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE



This annual showcase of the very best short films by and about the first peoples of the Pacific presents a broad cross section of genres and themes, ranging from comedy, slice of life drama, magical realism and the varied stories and traditions of Pacific Islanders.



### DISRUPT

DIRECTOR: JENNIFER TE ATAMIRA WARD-LEALAND

### FIRE IN THE WATER, FIRE IN THE SKY

DIRECTOR: MÍRIA GEORGE

### HE KAU HEAHEA A HI'IAKA

DIRECTOR: TY SANGA

### HOW TO CATCH A TAOTAOMONA

DIRECTOR: NEIL TINKHAM

### KA MO'OPUNA I KE ALO, THE GRANDCHILD IN THE PRESENCE

DIRECTOR: SANCIA SHIBA NASH

### MAHĀLANG

DIRECTOR: NATHANIEL BROWN, ELLIOT DEBRUYN, CAILI QUAN

### MALIHINI

DIRECTOR: HAAHEO AUWAE-DEKKER

### PILI KA MO'O

DIRECTOR: JUSTYN AH CHONG

### SINA MA TINIRAU

DIRECTOR: GAVIN ARUCAN, VILSONI HERENIKO

### URCHIN

DIRECTOR: TAOFIA PELESASA



## MADE IN HAWAII

Presenting the very best in short films from kama'aina filmmakers, as well as stories based and shot in Hawaii, the MADE IN HAWAII shorts program is an early indicator of Hawaii's emerging talents, both in front and behind the camera.



**NICHOLS**  
FAMILY FILM FUND

**FilmHawaii**  
Hawaii's Film Community

### PROGRAM ONE

#### AVAILABLE

4-NOV 7:00 PM | WARD  
19-NOV 8:00 PM | PALACE  
20-NOV 2:45 PM | WAIMEA  
NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

#### ALA MOANA BOYS

DIRECTOR: KELI'I GRACE

#### KA HO'I - THE RETURN

DIRECTOR: MITCHEL VIERNES

#### RIVER OF SMALL GODS

DIRECTOR: BRADLEY TANGONAN

#### I WILL BE YOUR BREATH

DIRECTOR: MALIA ADAMS,  
ALESSANDRA GALLIAN

#### LAST HAWAIIAN SUGAR

DIRECTOR: DÉJÀ CRESENCIA BERNHARDT

### PROGRAM TWO

#### AVAILABLE

8-NOV 6:30 PM | KAHALA  
20-NOV 2:00 PM | PALACE  
21-NOV 4:45 PM | WAIMEA  
NOV 10 - 28 | ONLINE

#### AREA 77

DIRECTOR: VEGARD BYE  
HILO, KAUAI & ONLINE

#### BALLISTIC

DIRECTOR: ZACK HARRIS

#### BLUE COOLER

DIRECTOR: LAURA MARGULIES  
ONLINE, ALSO PLAYS WITH KEIKI SHORTS

#### BROK3N

DIRECTOR: KURT JONES

#### CASHBACK

DIRECTOR: ZOE EISENBERG

#### ESCAPE VELOCITY

DIRECTOR: SAMUEL DAVENPORT  
O'AHU & ONLINE

#### GONE CAMPING

DIRECTOR: EMILY KIM  
O'AHU & ONLINE

#### IN THE LIGHT

DIRECTOR: KAILER SCOPACASA  
HILO, KAUAI & ONLINE

#### MIA, MARGUERITE & MARGE

DIRECTOR: MARISSA DIMITRION  
ONLINE, ALSO PLAYS WITH JOCKEY

#### OUR WALKS IN HAWAII

DIRECTOR: LEE-WON FULBRIGHT  
ONLINE, ALSO PLAYS WITH REEL WĀHINE OF HAWAII

#### TROUBLE IN PARADISE

DIRECTOR: MIKE BAYMAN

#### WHEN YOU STOP RUNNING

DIRECTOR: KRISTA LEI  
O'AHU & ONLINE

### PROGRAM THREE

#### AVAILABLE

13-NOV 11:30 AM | KAHALA  
18-NOV 7:00 PM | KA'AHUMANU  
NOV 15 - 28 | ONLINE

#### FISHPOND: LOKO I'A

DIRECTOR: LEAH WARSHAWSKI

#### HONOLULU'S NAUGHTIEST NIGHTCLUB OWNER

DIRECTOR: RICK QUAN

#### NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

DIRECTOR: LIZ BARNEY

#### OUR MAKAWAO

DIRECTOR: ROBERT STONE, MATT YAMASHITA

# SHORTS



## PANORAMA

### AVAILABLE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE

A selection of fiction shorts from around the world in tandem with our global Panorama program at HIFF41.



### ALA KACHUU - TAKE AND RUN

DIRECTOR: MARIA BRENDLE

### BEND

DIRECTOR: GEORGIA GOGGIN

### THE COCKTAIL PARTY

DIRECTOR: JESSICA SANDERS

### FROM HERE

DIRECTOR: SAMANTHA FUTERMAN

### METRO6

DIRECTOR: GEOFF HECHT

### A NICKNAME

DIRECTOR: SEAN SANKALP RAJU

### NUEVO RICO

DIRECTOR: KRISTIAN MERCADO

### SUNSHINE CITY

DIRECTOR: EVAN LAMAGNA

## SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

### AVAILABLE

NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE



A selection of some of the best new short films from South Korea, presented as part of HIFF's 2021 focus on new voices in Korean cinema.



### CASUALLY, FOR THE WORSE

DIRECTOR: KIM YE-WON

### FANNING

DIRECTOR: JEON YEJIN

### GEORGIA

DIRECTOR: PAK JAYIL

### HAIRY MONSTER

DIRECTOR: KIM OH JISOOK

### INTERPRETING HYUN-JU

DIRECTOR: KANG JI-HYO

### JANGMI

DIRECTOR: LEE KI-HYUK

### NOSES ON THE RUN

DIRECTOR: KIM BORAM

### PLOT

DIRECTOR: JEON IN-HWAN

### TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS

DIRECTOR: JEON SHI HYOUNG

### WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE RAINBOW STATE

DIRECTOR: JINYOUNG LEE WON





Comprising Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Mixed Reality (MR), and beyond, Extended Reality (XR) bridges the real world with the boundlessness of our imagination! HIFF XR is proud to present a free program of VR and AR pieces by VR storytellers and XR world builders from around the globe. Step into our HIFF XR LOUNGE at the Entrepreneurs Sandbox for access to VR headsets that will immerse you completely within the digital world. Both our in-person and online audience can view select AR and 360° web-based experiences from anywhere through a mobile device or computer. Discover the power of XR and allow it to transport you through the dynamic and inspiring vehicle of immersive storytelling.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE.

For more information or to reserve your place, visit [HIFF.ORG](https://hiiff.org)

## LOCATION

### HIFF XR LOUNGE

NOV 20 - 21 | 12:00PM - 6:00PM

#### ENTREPRENEURS SANDBOX

643 Ilalo St, Honolulu

Immerse yourself in the wondrous stories and interactive experiences through Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), showcased at our HIFF XR LOUNGE. View our selection of VR and AR experiences and book a 40 minute session by visiting us online at [HIFF.ORG](https://hiiff.org). For the safety of our staff and guests, walk-ins are welcome, however RSVP is highly recommended.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

VR might not be suitable for all users. Young users may find it difficult to comfortably wear a headset, so VR is not appropriate for children under the age of 8. In some cases, participating in VR experiences may cause discomfort for some people, including nausea, dizziness, headaches, disorientation or injury. Due to executive order, everyone entering must provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccine or negative test. Masks must be worn at all times. CDC-approved sanitation supplies will be used to sanitize headsets before and after each usage.

### XR PROJECTS ONLINE

November 4-28, 2021

[HIFF.ORG](https://hiiff.org)

No matter where you are in the world, our selection of AR and 360° web-based experiences are easily accessible through your mobile device. Learn more about the art pieces available to our online audience by visiting [HIFF.ORG](https://hiiff.org) from November 4-28, 2021.

## XR PROGRAMS

### XR TALK

NOV 19 | 5:00PM - 8:00PM

**BOXJELLY | RSVP REQUIRED**

Join us at our HIFF XR Weekend Launch Party to learn about the burgeoning spaces of XR through the personal journeys of XR Artists, SUTU and JULIANA LOH. Guests must RSVP online at [HIFF.ORG](https://hiiff.org).

### VR FILMS

HIFF's selection of awe-inspiring XR pieces offer a look into the ever-evolving possibilities of storytelling. Sift through a wartime diary in *A LIFE IN PIECES* as writings and drawings come alive to reveal a Japanese-American teenager's story during WWII. Get swept away in *SYMPHONY*, a musical journey through both real and imaginary settings by some of the best-known compositions in classical music. Explore the concept of the Embodied Cognition in the mystical *SAMSARA*. Follow the journey of life in *NAMOO*, an animated narrative poem that's deeply personal yet surprisingly universal. Interact with surprising characters on a strange planet in the fun-filled animated experience *BONFIRE*.

### SPOTLIGHT ON XR ART

Artist: SUTU

Move through the VR neon world of *THE GIRL AND THE CRANE* to follow a famous fashion designer battling through the spectre of greed and fame. Experience the hidden perspective of paranoid time traveler, *MODERN POLAXIS*, through his private journal hidden away in a layer of AR and accessible through an app, comic book and posters. Step into the sacred space of *BREONNA'S GARDEN*, a powerful and moving AR installation that allows us to pause and honor the life of Breonna Taylor while remembering those whom we miss.

Artist: JULIANA LOH

As a tribute to the healers of the world amidst the current pandemic, *THE BLUE BOAT* offers a VR 360° guided tour of a dream-like paradise world that brings hope to humanity. Explore the VR and 360° web-based experiences of *AWAKEN THE GIANTS*: *SINISTERIA* to bring balance to the battle between nature, humanity and technology. Meander through the underwater world of the fun-filled *BIG ORANGE FISH* as it comes to life through augmented reality.

To learn more about HIFF's XR Spotlight Artists, visit [HIFF.ORG](https://hiiff.org).



## 2021 XR EXPERIENCES

### AWAKEN THE GIANTS: SINISTERIA VR

A precarious symmetry persists between nature, humanity and technology. We are asked to play a game of hide and seek in VR to figure out how to bring balance to this battle. This VR art piece will be available in-person with the 360° web-based version debuting at HIFF XR. The web-based experience is accessible to our online audience.

### BIG ORANGE FISH

Through a fun and lighthearted augmented reality (AR) experience, you'll get to explore the underwater world through your mobile device from anywhere in the world. People of all ages can appreciate this art piece featuring a sea creature that is like the 'taxi' of the sea, whose main job is to transport all the little fish musicians in his/her mouth to the next musical location.

### THE BLUE BOAT

This VR art piece that we'll be showcasing as a 360° guided tour, was created for the healers of the world and journeys into a dream-like paradise world. The experience depicts a tribal-looking man and woman delivering Pandora's Box and Light to the world. They are sent to guard the treasure and to bring hope to humanity especially in the midst of the pandemic.

### BONFIRE

Through this interactive animated VR experience starring comedian, writer and actress Ali Wong, you are on a mission to discover a new home for the human race. When tragedy strikes and your spaceship crash lands on a strange planet, you have only your robot sidekick and the light of your makeshift bonfire to guide you. And what's that sneaking around out there in the dark alien jungle?

### BREONNA'S GARDEN

In solidarity with Breonna Taylor's family, Breonna's Garden is a revolutionary framework for veneration through augmented reality (AR). As a sacred space, the Garden is brimming with flowers, butterflies, and a few of Breonna's favorite things.

### THE GIRL AND THE CRANE

Hermanio was once a famous fashion designer who had the gift to communicate true beauty through his art. But when he became corrupted by commerce and fame he lost his gift. A chance meeting with a crane and a girl, gave him an opportunity to redeem himself - which he did, briefly - until the spectre of greed and fame haunted him once again and he fell back into his corrupted ways.

### A LIFE IN PIECES: THE DIARY AND LETTERS OF STANLEY HAYAMI

This VR film brings to life the wartime diary of Stanley Hayami, a Japanese-American teenager imprisoned with his family during WWII at the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming. Stanley's writings and drawings literally come alive using live-action characters, Quill 3D animation, and photogrammetry of real barracks.

### MODERN POLAXIS

Modern Polaxis is a paranoid time traveller that writes about all his strange experiences in his private journal, which he hides away in a layer of augmented reality (AR). This experience is accessible through the app, book, and posters.

### NAMOO

Namoo is a narrative poem that comes to life as an animated VR film. Inspired by Erick Oh's grandfather's death, it follows his journey from birth to the end of his life. With a tree as a metaphor for a man's life, you'll experience his story through objects from times he'd rather soon forget. The film is a deeply personal yet surprisingly universal piece that will resonate with each viewer.

### OFFING

On a volcanic island located southeastern of Taiwan lives an Austronesian descent - the Tao tribe. A-Lan, one of the younger generations who return home, has found a way of living, yet he is still torn between traditional and modern lives. Step onto the island and surrounding waters through this VR experience.

### SAMSARA

In this interactive VR experience, audiences can explore the concept of the Embodied Cognition. After hundred years of space travel, we have re-engineered our DNA and artificially evolved into a new form. As a result, the viewer is transformed into different beings' bodies and experiences the world from entirely new perspectives.

### SYMPHONY

Symphony is an immersive VR experience that takes spectators on a journey through emotions and music. Led by Gustavo Dudamel, viewers are placed inside both the orchestra and the instruments themselves, right at the heart of music. Throughout different real and imaginary settings, a unique musical experience will be lived, accompanied by some of the best-known compositions in classical music.



**Kosasa Foundation**

Presenting the very best of short films from the youth of Hawai'i who are under 18-years-old.

**MCINERNY  
FOUNDATION**

**AVAILABLE**  
NOV 4 - 28 | ONLINE | FREE



## ANIMATION

### BAM BAM CRASH!

DIRECTOR: MARISA TONAKI

### MĀLAMALAMA - LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE

DIRECTOR: AI LANGEVIN, KAYLA LIM-TAM

### PAPER PLANES

DIRECTOR: TERINA CHANG AND LAM NGUYEN

### RAINY DAY

DIRECTOR: ARIANNA NICHOLS

### HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY ANIMATION CLASS 4

DIRECTOR: DANE ANDERSON, CONNIE CHEN,  
JORDY DAVENPORT, KADEN KOBASHIGAWA,  
TITUS LEE, NOAH NISHIMOTO, SAMANTHA  
SEBASTICAN, JARREN SESON, MICAH SHIBUYA,  
JOLIE TANABE, KALEE ANN TANI

## DOCUMENTARY

### AUPUNI

DIRECTOR: INEZ ANDERSON, MAE HA

### A BOY'S JOURNEY: CROSSING THE ALENUIHAA CHANNEL

DIRECTOR: DEVERAUX GALLAGHER

### LEEWARD DRIVE INN

DIRECTOR: ISABELLA DELA PENA

### MALASADA COUPLE

DIRECTOR: CHAZZ COPPA

### PERSPECTIVE

DIRECTOR: CARLOS FLORES

## ENVIRONMENTAL

### DROWNING

DIRECTOR: KAILANI IBANEZ, KEANU FRITH,  
KA'IMI KALELEIKI

### 'IKE 'ĀINA: A SENSE OF PLACE

DIRECTOR: MAGNOLIA PADGETT, MAHINA  
BRAUN, NOHI CASCO, MAKALI'AHU HEWAHEWA

### PAINTING THE APOCALYPSE WITH BOB ROSS

DIRECTOR: KATHERINE SALOMON, HARLEY  
STRAIN, MARLEE WHYTE

### SEA CREATURES STRIKE BACK

DIRECTOR: KIANA HAUGG, KATHERINE  
SALOMON, BIANCA HAUGG, MALAKAI KARACA,  
ISABELLA SALAMONE, SYDEN SMITH

### SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION ON MAUI

DIRECTOR: KAWAI KAPUNI, ERIN TANAKA, DEVIN  
ANDALUZ, KA'ILI CASCO

### WAIHE'E VIRTUAL HUAKA'I

DIRECTOR: KAILANI IBANEZ, HO'OHIEOKALĀ  
LUNA-BEAMER, KA'IMI KALELEIKI

## EXPERIMENTAL

### FOOTPRINT

DIRECTOR: BRANDAN AOKI, KYLIE AOKI

### MONOTONY

DIRECTOR: MEMPHIS SAVAGE

### ROULETTE ROULETTE

DIRECTOR: MIN KUK KIM

## NARRATIVE

### AVERAGE

DIRECTOR: TYLER TARA

### BURNOUT

DIRECTOR: KAILANI IBANEZ

### CLOSING THE DISTANCE

DIRECTOR: MORIAH GILMORE

### HOMESICK

DIRECTOR: JOHN KIM,  
KENTA TERASAKI, JOHN SUNG

### PERFECT

DIRECTOR: MARISA TONAKI