

Honolulu  
OCT 15-26

West O'ahu  
OCT 28-30

Kaua'i  
NOV 1-2

Big Island (Waimea)  
NOV 7-9

Maui  
NOV 8-9

Big Island (Hilo)  
NOV 13-16

Moloka'i  
NOV 14-16

# HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI

SUPPORTING FILM AND FILMMAKERS  
45  
SINCE 1981



SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

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HIFF STAFF

Aaron Hansen | Director of Operations  
Alana Eagle | Marketing & Membership Manager  
Anderson Le | Artistic Director  
Beckie Stocchetti | Executive Director  
Jana Park | HIFILM Industry Manager  
Jen May Pastores | Education Director  
Joshua Nye | Festival Manager  
Melina Kiyomi Coumas | Programming Manager  
Ross Matlin | Director of Communications & Partnerships

HIFF45 TRANSPORTATION TEAM

Randall Yakota, Kellen Ferguson,  
Sally Chow, Paul Halvorson

FESTIVAL INTERNS

Briana Carroll	Leviticus Kaopuiki
Brooke Beltran	Naia Hoggan
Cyris Laury-Schaefer	Ninalyn Ver
Hailey Park	Roma Lerner
Janya Khurana	Salote Vaha'i
Jaylynn Gangstad	Sebastian Williams
	Shawn Araki
	Thomas Yuta Jones

HIFF45 FESTIVAL TEAM

Anette Arinix | Event Coordinator  
Anuheia Nihipali | Social Media Coordinator  
Bendy Sysomboun | Operations Assistant  
Cathy Yasuda | Volunteer Japanese Interpreter  
Duncan Caillard | HIFF Legacy Project Coordinator  
Elise Byers | Venue Operations Manager  
Heather Wilson | Operations Coordinator  
Ian Stewart | Transportation Manager  
Joey Carranza | Guest Services Coordinator  
Jordan Brown | Festival Operations Coordinator  
Keith Champaco | HIFF45 Photographer  
Quinn Chun | Booth Operations Manager  
Sarah Di Bella | Festival Projectionist  
Sean Oketani | Programming & Education Coordinator  
Shain Miller | Festival Projectionist  
Sthanlee B. Mirador | HIFF45 Photographer  
Tanyah Tavorn | Festival Projectionist  
Thomas Pang | Box Office Manager  
Trúc Mai | Festival Projectionist

HIFF45: THE KEY VISUAL



CONVERGENCE

Points of Connection visualizes HIFF as more than a festival — it is a living meeting ground where stories, cultures, and generations intersect. By weaving together layered archival photographs with candid contemporary moments, the work situates each image within a shifting framework of intersecting shapes. These structures echo the ways people, histories, and ideas converge, overlap, and diverge, reminding us that the space between is often where dialogue begins. What initially appears fragmented gradually reveals a larger coherence, reflecting HIFF’s evolving role as a site of encounter. The gaps and crossings between images become symbolic thresholds — spaces of movement, transformation, and exchange. In this sense, Points of Connection is not a static composition but a dynamic reflection of cinema’s ability to create bonds across distance and difference. It underscores how shared cinematic experiences are built not only from the films themselves but from the conversations, perspectives, and relationships that emerge in the margins, always in flux and always in motion.

We’re Middle MGMT, a creative agency specializing in Brand Strategy, Experience, and Activation.

MIDDLE  
MGMT

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- Owen Ogawa
- Isoo (Dick) Oshima

HIFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

Aloha e kākou,

When I first stepped into HIFF in 2009, “film” still meant celluloid. I was brand new to Hawai‘i, working multiple jobs to make ends meet, when I answered a Craigslist ad for a HIFF Print Inspection intern. It was an unpaid position that had me splicing reels of film, shipped in heavy metal cans from across the globe, and hauling them up steep staircases to projection booths. It was meticulous, physical, and often solitary work. To keep up with it all, I would sneak naps in the back of theaters that weren’t sold out only to wake up to the sound of laughter, applause, or tears from audiences watching a film I had prepared. Even then, at the bottom of the organizational ladder, I felt the rush of being part of something so much bigger than myself. I was a part of HIFF.

Sixteen years later, I am humbled to lead HIFF into its next era. The splicing tape and platters have given way to digital files and streaming links. But what endures, and grows stronger every year, is the sense of belonging, of being part of a community bound together by story. HIFF is no longer just a film festival - it is a home, a platform, a halawai, a gathering place. It is where Hawai‘i’s stories and storytellers stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those from around the world, creating a shared space of connection and transformation.

This year, as we celebrate our 45th anniversary under the theme Convergence, we honor HIFF’s legacy as a bridge across cultures while looking ahead to new possibilities. What began as a modest showcase of seven films has grown into a crossroads where cinematic traditions of the past meet the boldest visions of the future. HIFF45 presents 77 feature films, 143 shorts, and 42 world premieres representing 46 countries. We open with RENTAL FAMILY by HIKARI, starring Academy Award–winner Brendan Fraser. This is an especially meaningful choice as HIKARI’s earlier works were nurtured at HIFF: TSUYAKO won the Audience Award for Best Short Film at HIFF31 in 2011, and 37 SECONDS received the Kau Ka Hōkū Award at HIFF39 in 2019. HIFF45 embodies what the Festival has always stood for: championing filmmakers across decades and celebrating their ever-growing success.

HIFF is excited to showcase acclaimed auteur Park Chan-wook’s NO OTHER CHOICE as our Centerpiece film.



BECKIE STOCCHETTI  
Executive Director

We are privileged to honor extraordinary artists and visionaries including Park Chan-wook, Yuriyan Retriever, Kenji Tanigaki, and the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander creative team behind Apple TV’s Chief of War. Their achievements exemplify the Pasifika artistry, innovation, and cultural integrity that HIFF is proud to uplift.

HIFF45 also marks the launch of our inaugural HIFILM Industry Conference, a three-day gathering of filmmakers, executives, and thought leaders from across the Pacific Rim. HIFILM will deepen dialogue on authenticity, production, and opportunity, strengthening Hawai‘i’s role in the global creative economy. The HIFILM conference continues HIFF’s legacy of building bridges between local storytellers and international collaborators, laying pathways for the next generation of talent from Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

As the only statewide film festival in the United States, HIFF extends far beyond Honolulu. This year, screenings and special events will reach audiences across Maui, Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i Island, and Moloka‘i, reaffirming our commitment to making world-class cinema accessible to communities throughout our islands. These neighbor island screenings are not only a hallmark of HIFF, but also a celebration of the shared stories and experiences that unite us across the ‘āina.

HIFF45 is a testament to the spirit of convergence that happens off screen - in the lobbies, classrooms, and late-night conversations that make this Festival more than just films on a screen. It is in these moments that strangers become friends, students discover their voice, and our community finds strength in shared imagination. This has been a challenging year for the arts in Hawai‘i and beyond, but our audiences, artists, and community continue to show up with passion, resilience, and aloha. As we look forward to our 50th anniversary, our mission is clear: to remain a place of convergence and belonging, to elevate local voices while fostering global exchange, and to build an ecosystem where the next generation of storytellers can thrive.

HIFF is more than a festival. It is a celebration of who we are and who we can become. Thank you for being part of our story—and welcome to the 45th Hawai‘i International Film Festival presented by Halekulani.

Mahalo nui e me ke aloha pumehana. See you at the movies,



JEFF BELL  
HIFF Board President

PRESENTED AWARDS

**HALEKULANI VISION IN FILM AWARD**  
The Halekulani Vision In Film Award is the apex of our honoree distinctions. It is given to a film professional who has consistently been at the top of their game, considered as one of the global cinema innovators of our time. Sometimes, the award is given to an organization for their incredible impact on cinema history. The Vision In Film has only been given eight times in HIFF’s forty-five year history. Past recipients include Stanley Nelson, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Ang Lee, Zhang Yimou, and the American Film Institute (AFI).

**HALEKULANI GOLDEN MAILE FOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
According to Hawaiian tradition, the maile lei is often reserved for the most memorable occasions. It is known as the ‘lei of royalty’ given to signify respect and honor. The HIFF Golden Maile Award for Career Achievement is bestowed to an artist who has reached the career pinnacles very few have achieved via industry awards and accolades and a body of work that is known globally. They can represent an entire country’s film industry by producing work that is best representative of that country’s very best in cinema, developing an illustrious and varied filmography that truly captures cultural snapshots through powerful storytelling and exemplary movie-making. Past recipients include Masato Harada, Quentin Tarantino, Samuel L. Jackson, Maggie Cheung, and Wong Kar Wai.

**LEANNE K. FERRER TRAILBLAZER AWARD PRESENTED BY PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS**  
This award, presented by Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC), is given to a cinema artist of Pacific Islander heritage who broadens the scope of Pacific Islander stories onto the world stage, producing award winning work in independent and global cinema. This honoree is a true trailblazer, whose work aligns with PIC’s mission, which is to support, advance, and develop Pacific Island media content and talent that results in a deeper understanding of Pacific Island history, culture, and contemporary challenges. Past recipients include Taika Waititi, Keala Settle, Kerry Warkia, and Cliff Curtis.

COMPETITION AWARDS


**FilmHawai‘i NICHOLS FAMILY FILM FUND**  
**MADE IN HAWAI‘I FILM AWARDS**  
Select fiction, non-fiction features and short films that are made by locally-based filmmakers or involve locally-based stories are eligible for one of two Best Made in Hawai‘i film awards with cash prizes totaling \$10,000. The Made in Hawai‘i program is presented by the Hawai‘i Film Office and the cash award is made possible by the Nichols Family Film Fund.

**HIFF BEST SHORT FILM AWARD PRESENTED BY HAWAIIAN AIRLINES**  
Short films are usually the initial steps for an emerging filmmaker. They help establish tone, style and a filmmaker’s creative vision to form the foundation of a budding career. These works can also be proof of concepts or progenitors to a feature film, but they must stand alone as their own succinct and unique work. Short films come in many forms, genres and lengths and it is always a welcome challenge by the HIFF programmers to sift through thousands of entries per year to curate these programs. The winner of the Best Short Film Award will also receive a cash award made possible by Fields Psychiatric Consultants. HIFF is an Academy Awards® accredited festival where the winner of the Best Short Film and Best Made in Hawai‘i Short Film categories are eligible to Shorts Film competition for the concurrent season, provided that the films meet all the requirements set forth in our official rules for that season which can be found at [www.oscars.org/rules](http://www.oscars.org/rules).

**KAU KA HŌKŪ AWARD PRESENTED BY HAWAIIAN AIRLINES**  
The KAU KA HŌKŪ (Shooting Star) Award presented by Hawaiian Airlines will be awarded to an emerging filmmaker (first or second feature film). Both fiction and non-fiction feature films may be nominated by the festival programmers and adjudicated by an international jury.

**PASIFIKA AWARD PRESENTED BY PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS**  
Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) will present a Pasifika Award for Best Feature Film. Select fiction and non-fiction feature films with a Pacific Islander perspective will be judged by the inaugural Pasifika Award Jury comprised of film professionals of Pacific Islander descent. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$5,000.


**NETPAC AWARD**  
Founded in 1990 by Cinemaya and UNESCO, the Network for the Promotion of Asian-Pacific Cinema (NETPAC) is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting Asian and Pacific film throughout the world. The prestigious NETPAC award is given at select international film festivals to promote Asian and Pacific cinema by spotlighting exceptional works and discovering new talent. The NETPAC award is presented annually at international film festivals in Berlin, Cannes, Venice, Rotterdam, Busan, Singapore, Taiwan, Yamagata, Amiens and Hawai‘i. HIFF is the only film festival in North America given permission to present the NETPAC award.

  
**HALEKULANI MAVERICK AWARD**  
HIFF’s Halekulani Maverick Award is given to an international cinema artist who has a unique and eclectic career trajectory, contributing to international cinema and the filmed arts in an innovative way. This maverick does things on his or her terms, creating work that can have a rabid, cult following to a mass appreciation in today’s pop culture. Like a trendsetter and tastemaker, their work may not have been appreciated early on, but has become an artistic benchmark. Past recipients include Don Lee, Awkwafina, Randall Park, Tadanobu Asano, and Steven Yeun.

**HALEKULANI NEW VANGUARD AWARD**  
HIFF’s Halekulani Vanguard Award is the Festival’s “rising star” award, honoring an innovator, who has catapulted so quickly into the cultural zeitgeist as an artist, an advocate and a role model. In this new age of streaming, where there is a need and desire to produce authentic storytelling and a drive to push for broader diversity above and below the line to properly reflect society today, the HIFF Vanguard honoree has navigated through the sea of content to rise above it all and leave an indelible mark on audiences, both young and old, around the globe. Past recipients included Lana Condor, Rachel Brosnahan and Sakura Ando.



**BMW HAWAII’I DRIVEN STUDENT FILMMAKER AWARD PRESENTED BY BMW HAWAII**  
  
HIFF and BMW Hawaii are thrilled to celebrate and support a local university student filmmaker through this award and cash scholarship. The filmmaker of the best short film from the HIFF University Showcase will be presented with the award to fund further film scholarship, courtesy of BMW Hawaii.

**AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD PRESENTED BY HAWAII NEWS NOW**  
  
Vote for your favorite feature film, documentary or short film playing at HIFF. After watching a program, you will be able to cast your vote online, accessible from 8AM to midnight on the program’s respective screening day. Winning films will be announced on Hawaii News Now following the Festival. Vote at [hiff.org/vote/](http://hiff.org/vote/).



FESTIVAL DATES

- HONOLULU  
October 15-26, 2025
- WEST O'AHU  
October 28-30, 2025
- KAUA'I  
November 1-2, 2025
- BIG ISLAND (WAIMEA)  
November 7-9, 2025

- MAUI  
November 8-9, 2025
- BIG ISLAND (HILO)  
November 13-16, 2025
- MOLOKA'I  
November 14-16, 2025

BOX OFFICE & TICKET INFORMATION

Advance purchases can be made online at [HIFF.ORG](https://hiff.org) or by calling the HIFF Box Office at the hours listed below. For ticketing questions you can email us at [tickets@hiff.org](mailto:tickets@hiff.org).

**BOX OFFICE HOURS**  
**Online**  
Online - Chat with us at [HIFF.ORG](https://hiff.org)

**PHONE HOURS**  
+1 808-792-1577  
**SEPT 13 - SEP 28**  
2:00PM - 6:00PM | Closed Sundays  
**SEP 30 - OCT 17**  
10AM - 6:00PM | Daily

**AT CONSOLIDATED KAHALA THEATRES:**  
The Box Office opens one hour prior to the first showtime everyday and will stay open until the start of the last screening of the day.

TICKET PRICING

- GENERAL ADMISSION: \$17
- PREMIUM SCREENINGS: \$20
- MATINEE AND SHORTS SCREENINGS: \$15
- SENIOR/STUDENT/MILITARY: \$2 Discount
- I ❤️ HIFF MEMBERS: \$3 Discount
- DAY OF SHOW/RUSH TICKET: \$20

Tickets Purchased within 12 hours of showtime are not eligible for membership or other discounts and no vouchers will be accepted.

FALL FESTIVAL PASSES

- ALL-ACCESS PASS:** \$500 (\$400 for I ❤️ HIFF Members)
  - Access to ALL Screenings
- PLATINUM PASS:** \$1000 (\$900 for I ❤️ HIFF Members)
  - Reserved Seating at ALL Screenings
- MATINEE PASS:** \$200 (\$170 for I ❤️ HIFF Members)
  - Access to All weekday screenings before 4:30 PM only
- WEEKEND PASS:** \$200 (\$170 for I ❤️ HIFF Members)
  - Access to all regular screenings on Saturday and Sunday (not including premium events)
- GUEST PASS**
  - This badge is for those invited to attend the festival and not representing a film

TICKET PACKAGES

- 6-PACK:** \$90 (\$80 for I ❤️ HIFF Members)
- 12-PACK:** \$160 (\$150 for I ❤️ HIFF Members)

**PASSES AND PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT:**  
[HIFF.ORG/HIFF45-PASSES/](https://hiff.org/hiff45-passes/)

FESTIVAL ACCREDITATION

For further information please email [guestservices@hiff.org](mailto:guestservices@hiff.org)

**FILMMAKER:** Qualified applicants who have a film in the current Festival program.

**PRESS:** Members of the press and approved content creators.



HA‘AHEO MĀKOU I KE KĀKO‘O  
I NA NANI O KO KĀKOU ‘ĀINA.

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE  
2025 HIFF FALL FESTIVAL

The most authentic and meaningful practices of aloha and kuleana happen in our communities. Events like this help us connect with what makes our Hawai‘i so special.







# Pack more into your next Neighbor Island trip (literally)

Your bag always flies free between the Islands\* with Huaka'i by Hawaiian, including golf clubs, bikes and surfboards. So whether you're flying for business or holoholo, be sure to sign up for your free membership first at [HawaiianAirlines.com/Huakai](https://HawaiianAirlines.com/Huakai).



**HAWAIIAN**  
AIRLINES.

\*First standard checked bag on Neighbor Island flights is free for any HawaiianMiles member with an address in Hawai'i. Terms and conditions apply.

## HIFF MEMBERSHIP

### I ♥ HIFF MEMBERSHIP

The Hawai'i International Film Festival is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that enriches our islands through the cinematic arts. By joining the I ♥ HIFF membership, you'll not only support our marquee events including the Fall Festival and Spring events, but as a member, you'll enjoy discounts, special event access, and more. I ♥ HIFF Memberships are year-round!



### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

#### HIFF SUPPORTER

**\$50 / Per Year**

- 20% discounts on individual film tickets
- 20% discounts on HIFF Merchandise
- Early access to tickets and passes

#### INDUSTRY

**\$100 / Per Year**

- All benefits of HIFF Supporter level plus:
- Monthly events alternating between in-person events and virtual events.
- HIFILM members only event at HIFF Spring & Fall Festivals (included in membership)
- Access to apply to fiscal sponsorship
- Inclusion in the HIFILM Industry Database

#### HIFF SELECTS

**\$120 / Per Year**

- All benefits of HIFF Supporter level plus:
- Complimentary access to monthly HIFF Selects premiere screenings
- 2 Free tickets for 1 Fall Festival screening

#### HIFF SELECTS+

**\$200 / Per Year**

- All benefits of HIFF Supporter level plus:
- Complimentary access to monthly HIFF Selects premiere screenings for 2
- 2 Free tickets to a Fall Festival screening

#### HIFF PLATINUM

**\$1500 / Per Year**

- HIFF Selects+ Benefits for 1 year
- Platinum Pass at 2025 Fall Festival
- Platinum Pass at 2026 'Ōpio Fest

#### HIFF PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

**\$2,500-\$100,000+ / Per Year**

Exclusive high-level benefits and premier recognition. As a 501(c)(3), your contribution is partially tax deductible. Please contact HIFF if interested in learning more.

JOIN US IN PRESERVING THE ARTS AND SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CINEMA IN HAWAII.



**SUPPORT HIFF AND BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**

[www.hiff.org/membership](https://www.hiff.org/membership)





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MILK BABY	48
MY WONDERFUL LIFE	48
OVARY-ACTING	48
YA HANOUNI	48
PACIFIC SHORTS	
ATA PŪAO	47
CHERRIES	48
CHIMERA	48
IN CONVERSATION WITH DAN TAULAPAPA MCMULLIN	48
INVISIBLE DRAGONS	48
KŪĪ	48

PICKING CREW	48
STRANGER, BROTHER	48
QUEER SHORTS	
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LIBRARY	50
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG / 如你所愿	50
DANDELION	50
DRAGFOX	50
GRANDMA NAI WHO PLAYED FAVORITES	50
SWEET TALKIN' GUY	50
THE FISHBOWL GIRL	50
UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE	
A LINE TO DRAW	50
CLEAN.EXE	50
E LEI NŌ AU I KO ALOHA	50
LAST DANCE	50
REMINISCENCE	50
THE REMOVER	50
THE RUNNING MAN.	50
SHRIMPTON: SHRIMPLY THE BEST	50
TAO PO	50
TWO SIDES OF PARADISE	50
WINNER	50
VIETNAMESE JOURNEYS	
ON HEALING LAND, BIRDS PERCH (ĐẤT LÀNH CHIM ĐẬU)	50
WE WERE THE SCENERY	50
WEBS WE WEAVE SHORTS	
COLORS OF THE SKY'S END	51
FLAVOR OF THE MONTH	51
FRIENDS	51
GEORGE	51
LITTLE SHREW (SNOWFLAKE)	51
NEWBIES	51
SHE IS GUILTY	51
THAT SPLIT-UP PLACE	51
THE TRUCK	51
WELLNESS SHORTS	
2392 MILES	51
ĀYÍ	51
DEARS IN THE HEADLIGHTS	51
LIVESTREAMS WITH GRANDMAPUZZLES	51
SHORELINE	51
SILVER NEEDLE	51
THEY CALL ME THE TATTOO WITCH	51
TINY TREE CONCERT	51
TO DANCE AGAIN	51



IN-PERSON SCREENING SCHEDULE

VENUES

KHL - CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KAHALA 4311 WAIALAE AVE #3080 HONOLULU, HI 96816	KAP - CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KAPOLEI 890 KAMOKILA BLVD #107 KAPOLEI, HI 96707	MACC - MAUI ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER 1 CAMERON WAY KAHULUI, HI 96732	KCC - KAUA'I COMMUNITY COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 3-1901 KAUMUALII HWY LIHU'E, HI 96766	KAH - KAHILU THEATRE 67-1186 LINDSEY RD WAIMEA, HI 96743	MGO - THE MANGO THEATER 61 ALA MALAMA AVE UNIT 1 KAUNAKAKAI, HI 96748	PAL - THE PALACE THEATER 38 HAILI STREET HILO, HI 96720
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THURSDAY OCTOBER 16TH

7:00 PM-8:54 PM	RENTAL FAMILY	US, JP	KHL
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

12:00 PM-2:17 PM	LIVING THE LAND	CN	KHL
12:30 PM-2:27 PM	PUT YOUR SOUL ON YOUR HAND AND WALK	FR, PS	KHL
3:00 PM-4:50 PM	THE PRESIDENT'S CAKE	IQ	KHL
3:30 PM-5:49 PM	SENTIMENTAL VALUE	NO, FR, DK, DE	KHL
5:00 PM-6:47 PM	NIKA AND MADISON	CA	KHL
5:30 PM-8:54 PM	WELLNESS SHORTS	US, CN, ZA, VN	KHL
6:00 PM-7:16 PM	MĀHŪ SHORTS	US, NZ, HI	KHL
6:30 PM-8:45 PM	CLIMBING FOR LIFE	JP	KHL
7:00 PM-8:46 PM	REELING	US, HI	KHL
7:45 PM-9:36 PM	PACIFIC ISLANDER SHOWCASE SHORTS	US, NZ, AU, PF, HI	KHL
8:00 PM-10:11 PM	PROJECT Y	KR	KHL
8:15 PM-10:18 PM	ENDLESS NIGHT SHORTS	FR, US, JP, PH, KR	KHL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

10:15 AM-1:31 PM	HERO'S ISLAND	JP	KHL
10:30 AM-12:03 PM	KEIKI SHORTS	CA, US, RU	KHL
10:45 AM-1:13 PM	ARMY ON THE TREE	JP	KHL
11:30 AM-2:39 PM	WELLNESS SHORTS	US, CN, ZA, VN	KHL
11:45 AM-1:33 PM	IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT	IR, FR, LU	KHL
12:00 PM-2:41 PM	RESURRECTION	CN, FR	KHL
12:30 PM-2:35 PM	INDIGENOUS SHORTS	CO, US, AU, MY	KHL
1:30 PM-2:32 PM	NĀ WĀHINE BUDA KIAKAHI	US, HI	KHL
2:00 PM-3:43 PM	KINOBU: FOOD, TRADITION & IDENTITY	US, JP	KHL
2:15 PM-4:00 PM	FOOD DELIVERY: FRESH FROM THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA	PH	KHL
2:30 PM-4:44 PM	THE JOURNEY TO GYEONG-JU	KR	KHL
3:00 PM-5:17 PM	LIVING THE LAND	CN	KHL
4:00 PM-5:59 PM	METAMORPHOSIS SHORTS	US, AT, JP, CA, IN, NL, BE, CN	KHL
4:30 PM-6:34 PM	SLANTED	US	KHL
4:45 PM-6:40 PM	SHAKTI	NP, US	KHL
5:15 PM-7:28 PM	THE FURIOUS	HK	KHL
5:30 PM-7:14 PM	THE WAVES WILL CARRY US	TW	KHL
6:00 PM-7:32 PM	MĀLAMA MĀKUA + SHORTS	US, HI	KHL
7:00 PM-9:32 PM	FWENDS	AU	KHL
7:15 PM-9:18 PM	DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS SHORTS	NL, BE, LU, US, GB, KH, NO	KHL

7:30 PM-9:22 PM	HEDDA	GB	KHL
8:15 PM-10:27 PM	MAG MAG	JP	KHL
8:30 PM-10:05 PM	REMATHAU: PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN	US	KHL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

11:00 AM-1:07 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL SHORTS	GR, US, CF, AU, AR, BO, BR	KHL
11:15 AM-12:56 PM	STEP OUT	JP	KHL
11:30 AM-2:40 PM	A USEFUL GHOST	TH, FR, SG, DE	KHL
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES PANEL	US	KHL
12:30 PM-2:26 PM	PROJECT Y	KR	KHL
1:00 PM-2:49 PM	A PARADISE LOST	US, HI	KHL
1:30 PM-3:04 PM	ARCO	FR	KHL
2:00 PM-4:07 PM	O MOTHER WHERE ART THOU SHORTS	US, TH, GB, DE, SG, NO, SE, FR	KHL
2:15 PM-4:55 PM	KY NAM INN	VN	KHL
3:00 PM-4:04 PM	'ULU 'ULU: SPOTLIGHT ON GEORGE TAHARA	US, HI	KHL
3:30 PM-5:22 PM	A PRIVATE LIFE	FR	KHL
4:00 PM-6:01 PM	BEFORE THE MOON FALLS	US	KHL
4:15 PM-6:18 PM	LUCKY LU	US, CA	KHL
5:00 PM-7:14 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL+ :CURRENTS	US, FR, BJ	KHL
5:30 PM-7:11 PM	SNOW LEOPARD SISTERS	GB	KHL
6:30 PM-8:12 PM	AINU PURI	JP	KHL
7:00 PM-8:28 PM	KINOBU: FOOD, TRADITION & IDENTITY	US, JP	KHL
7:30 PM-9:54 PM	NO OTHER CHOICE	KR	KHL
8:00 PM-9:59 PM	GLIMMERS SHORTS	US, NZ, ID, TW, GB	KHL
8:15 PM-10:22 PM	KŌKĀ	NZ	KHL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

12:00 PM-1:31 PM	REELING	US, HI	KHL
1:00 PM-2:48 PM	LUCKY LU	US, CA	KHL
2:00 PM-3:52 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL SHORTS	GR, US, CF, AU, AR, BO, BR	KHL
2:30 PM-4:11 PM	STEP OUT	JP	KHL
4:30 PM-6:35 PM	KAEDE	JP	KHL
5:15 PM-6:47 PM	LESBIAN SPACE PRINCESS	AU	KHL
5:30 PM-7:33 PM	EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS	JP, CN, TW, PL, GB, PH, US	KHL
6:00 PM-8:34 PM	SOUND OF FALLING	DE	KHL
6:30 PM-9:01 PM	PIKE RIVER	NZ	KHL
7:30 PM-9:37 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS	US, HI	KHL
8:00 PM-10:13 PM	QUEER SHORTS	US, CN, DE, GB, KH, FR, TW	KHL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

1:00 PM-3:16 PM	LA GRAZIA	IT	KHL
1:30 PM-3:04 PM	A PARADISE LOST	US, HI	KHL
2:00 PM-3:20 PM	REMATHAU: PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN	US	KHL
3:30 PM-5:22 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS	US, HI	KHL
4:30 PM-6:32 PM	HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE SHORTS	US, HI	KHL
5:30 PM-8:11 PM	RESURRECTION	CN, FR	KHL
6:00 PM-7:39 PM	FILAM FRAMES - SHORT FILMS FROM THE DIASPORA	US, PH	KHL
6:15 PM-8:29 PM	BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY	TW	KHL
6:30 PM-8:30 PM	UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE	US, HI	KHL
7:30 PM-9:27 PM	ROSEMEAD	US	KHL
7:45 PM-9:02 PM	THE PRICE OF PARADISE	US, HI	KHL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

12:00 PM-1:27 PM	AINU PURI	JP	KHL
12:30 PM-2:20 PM	INDIGENOUS SHORTS	CO, US, AU, MY	KHL
2:00 PM-4:45 PM	THE SECRET AGENT	BR, FR, NL, DE	KHL
2:30 PM-3:17 PM	NĀ WĀHINE BUDA KIAKAHI: THE LEGACY OF HAWAIIAN BUDDHIST WOMEN	US, HI	KHL
3:00 PM-5:16 PM	LA GRAZIA	IT	KHL
3:30 PM-4:54 PM	FILAM FRAMES - SHORT FILMS FROM THE DIASPORA	US, PH	KHL
4:30 PM-6:05 PM	THE GOLDEN SPURTLE	GB	KHL
5:00 PM-6:52 PM	LAHAINA RISING	US, HI	KHL
5:30 PM-7:50 PM	CHRISTY	US	KHL
5:45 PM-7:37 PM	O MOTHER WHERE ART THOU SHORTS	US, TH, GB, DE, SG, NO, SE, FR	KHL
6:00 PM-7:59 PM	BOSS	KR	KHL
6:30 PM-9:19 PM	LEFT-HANDED GIRL	TW	KHL
6:45 PM-8:47 PM	WEBS WE WEAVE SHORTS	VN, US, CN, GB, ES	KHL
7:15 PM-9:13 PM	THE FURIOUS	HK	KHL
7:30 PM-9:15PM	MĀRAMA	NZ	KHL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

12:00 PM-1:52 PM	HEDDA	GB	KHL
12:15 PM-1:52 PM	LAHAINA RISING	US, HI	KHL
1:00 PM-2:58 PM	QUEER SHORTS	US, CN, DE, GB, KH, FR, TW	KHL
2:00 PM-4:19 PM	SENTIMENTAL VALUE	NO, FR, DK, DE	KHL
2:30 PM-4:24 PM	RENTAL FAMILY	US, JP	KHL
3:00 PM-4:57 PM	MAG MAG	JP	KHL
4:30 PM-6:10 PM	SHAKTI	NP, US	KHL
4:45 PM-6:45 PM	SIRĀT	FR, ES	KHL
5:00 PM-6:44 PM	BOSS	KR	KHL
5:30 PM-7:43 PM	ARMY ON THE TREE	JP	KHL
6:00 PM-7:30 PM	FOOD DELIVERY: FRESH FROM THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA	PH	KHL

6:15 PM-8:07 PM	A PRIVATE LIFE	FR	KHL
6:30 PM-8:00 PM	MĀRAMA	NZ	KHL
7:00 PM-8:58 PM	KULEANA	GB, US	KHL
7:30 PM-9:21 PM	24 FLAVOURS	HK, CN	KHL
7:30 PM-9:18 PM	TOKYO TAXI	JP	KHL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

11:00 AM-12:44 PM	THE WAVES WILL CARRY US	TW	KHL
11:30 AM-1:11 PM	SNOW LEOPARD SISTERS	GB	KHL
12:30 PM-2:54 PM	NO OTHER CHOICE	KR	KHL
1:00 PM-2:59 PM	BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY	TW	KHL
2:00 PM-3:47 PM	WEBS WE WEAVE SHORTS	VN, US, CN, GB, ES	KHL
2:00 PM-3:02 PM	THE PRICE OF PARADISE	US, HI	KHL
2:15 PM	NETPAC AWARD WINNER - TBD	-	KHL
3:30 PM-5:46 PM	PIKE RIVER	NZ	KHL
3:30 PM-5:50 PM	CHRISTY	US	KHL
3:45 PM-5:44 PM	THE JOURNEY TO GYEONG-JU	KR	KHL
4:00 PM-6:03 PM	RENOIR	JP, FR, SG, PH, ID, QA	KHL
4:15 PM-7:00 PM	MAGELLAN	PT, ES, FR, PH, TW	KHL
4:30 PM	MADE IN HAWAII AWARD WINNERS - TBD	US, HI	KHL
5:00 PM-6:54 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL+ :CURRENTS	US, FR, BJ	KHL
6:30 PM-9:49 PM	TANGATA PAI (GOOD PEOPLE) - PART 1	NZ	KHL
7:00 PM	TBD	-	KHL
7:00 PM-9:34 PM	SOUND OF FALLING	DE	KHL
7:00 PM-9:19 PM	RANGGA & CINTA	ID	KHL
7:15 PM-8:51 PM	PACIFIC ISLANDER SHOWCASE SHORTS	US, NZ, AU, PF, HI	KHL
7:30 PM-9:12 PM	ROSEMEAD	US	KHL
8:00 PM-9:48 PM	ENDLESS NIGHT SHORTS	FR, US, JP, PH, KR	KHL



IN-PERSON SCREENING SCHEDULE

VENUES

KHL - CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KAHALA 4311 WAIALAE AVE #3080 HONOLULU, HI 96816	KAP - CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KAPOLEI 890 KAMOKILA BLVD #107 KAPOLEI, HI 96707	MACC - MAUI ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER 1 CAMERON WAY KAHULUI, HI 96732	KCC - KAUA'I COMMUNITY COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 3-1901 KAUMUALII HWY LĪHU'E, HI 96766	KAH - KAHILU THEATRE 67-1186 LINDSEY RD WAIMEA, HI 96743	MGO - THE MANGO THEATER 61 ALA MALAMA AVE UNIT 1 KAUNAKAKAI, HI 96748	PAL - THE PALACE THEATER 38 HAILI STREET HILO, HI 96720
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

10:00 AM	KAU KA HŌKŪ AWARD WINNER – TBD	-	KHL
10:30 AM–12:22 PM	KŌKĀ	NZ	KHL
11:00 AM–12:34 PM	ARCO	FR	KHL
11:30 AM–1:14 PM	METAMORPHOSIS SHORTS	US, AT, JP, CA, IN, NL, BE, CN	KHL
12:00 PM–1:55 PM	25 CATS FROM QATAR	US, QA	KHL
12:00 PM–1:48 PM	IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT	IR, FR, LU	KHL
1:00 PM–2:45 PM	DIAMOND DIPLOMACY	US	KHL
1:15 PM–2:47 PM	NIKA AND MADISON	CA	KHL
2:00 PM–3:56 PM	ANOTHER WORLD	HK	KHL
2:30 PM–4:18 PM	DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS SHORTS	NL, BE, LU, US, GB, KH, NO	KHL
2:45 PM–4:22 PM	FWENDS	AU	KHL
3:00 PM	TBD	-	KHL
3:30 PM–4:50 PM	THE GOLDEN SPURTLE	GB	KHL
4:00 PM–5:46 PM	THE ROSE: COME BACK TO ME	US, KR	KHL
4:30 PM–6:19 PM	SLANTED	US	KHL
4:45 PM–6:59 PM	RANGGA & CINTA	ID	KHL
5:00 PM–6:51 PM	THIRD ACT	US	KHL
5:30 PM–8:15 PM	MAGELLAN	PT, ES, FR, PH, TW	KHL
6:00 PM–8:59 PM	KOKUHO	JP	KHL
6:15 PM–8:04PM	VIETNAMESE JOURNEYS	US, CA	KHL
6:30 PM–9:49 PM	TANGATA PAI (GOOD PEOPLE) – PART 2	NZ	KHL
7:00 PM–9:25 PM	SONS OF THE NEON NIGHT	CN, HK	KHL
7:30 PM–9:34 PM	IS THIS THING ON?	US	KHL
8:00 PM–9:55 PM	LONE SAMURAI	ID, JP	KHL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

10:00 AM	PASIFIKA AWARD WINNER – TBD-		KHL
11:00 AM–1:04 PM	IS THIS THING ON?	US	KHL
11:30 AM–2:29 PM	KOKUHO	JP	KHL
11:30 AM–1:20 PM	THE PRESIDENT'S CAKE	IQ	KHL
12:00 PM–1:48 PM	EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS	JP, CN, TW, PL, GB, PH, US	KHL
12:15 PM–1:16 PM	MĀHŪ SHORTS	HI, NZ, US	KHL
12:30 PM–2:06 PM	THIRD ACT	US	KHL
1:30 PM–2:24 PM	VIETNAMESE JOURNEYS	US, CA	KHL
2:00 PM–3:50 PM	THE WAY WE ARE	HK	KHL
2:30 PM–4:50 PM	QUEZON	PH	KHL
2:30 PM–4:38 PM	DOMINICAN SHORTS	DO	KHL
3:00 PM–4:48 PM	TOKYO TAXI	JP	KHL

3:30 PM–5:45 PM	CLIMBING FOR LIFE	JP	KHL
3:30 PM–6:15 PM	THE SECRET AGENT	BR, FR, NL, DE	KHL
3:45 PM–5:29 PM	GLIMMERS SHORTS	US, NZ, ID, TW, GB	KHL
4:45 PM–6:36 PM	24 FLAVOURS	HK, CN	KHL
5:00 PM–7:25 PM	KY NAM INN	VN	KHL
5:15 PM–7:15 PM	SIRĀT	FR, ES	KHL
6:00 PM–7:36 PM	RAISED BY WAVES	US	KHL
6:15 PM–8:18 PM	RENOIR	JP, FR, SG, PH, ID, QA	KHL
6:30 PM–8:27 PM	PUT YOUR SOUL ON YOUR HAND AND WALK	FR, PS	KHL
6:45 PM–9:00 PM	A USEFUL GHOST	TH, FR, SG, DE	KHL
7:00 PM–8:56 PM	ANOTHER WORLD	HK	KHL
7:45 PM–9:35 PM	THE EYES OF GHANA	US	KHL

KAPOLEI SHOWCASE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

6:00 PM–8:20 PM	QUEZON	PH	KAP
6:15 PM–8:03 PM	TOKYO TAXI	JP	KAP
6:30 PM–7:23 PM	MĀLAMA MĀKUA + SHORTS	US, HI	KAP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

6:00 PM–9:16 PM	HERO'S ISLAND	JP	KAP
6:15 PM–8:07 PM	MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS	US, HI	KAP
6:30 PM–8:01 PM	THE ROSE: COME BACK TO ME	US, KR	KAP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

6:00 PM–8:02 PM	ERASERHEADS: COMBO ON THE RUN	PH, US	KAP
6:15 PM–8:01 PM	BEFORE THE MOON FALLS	US	KAP
6:30 PM–8:35 PM	KAEDE	JP	KAP

KAUA'I SHOWCASE  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

2:00 PM–3:30 PM	FOOD DELIVERY: FRESH FROM THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA	PH	KCC
4:00 PM–5:43 PM	KULEANA	GB, US	KCC
6:00 PM–7:40 PM	HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE SHORTS	US, HI	KCC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

2:00 PM–3:52 PM	MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS	US, HI	KCC
4:00 PM–5:30 PM	DIAMOND DIPLOMACY	US	KCC
6:00 PM–7:24 PM	FILAM FRAMES - SHORT FILMS FROM THE DIASPORA	US, PH	KCC

BIG ISLAND (WAIMEA) SHOWCASE  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

12:00 PM–1:20 PM	REMATHAU: PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN	US	KAH
2:30 PM–4:22 PM	MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS	US, HI	KAH
5:00 PM–6:21 PM	RAISED BY WAVES	US, HI	KAH
7:30 PM–9:07 PM	LAHAINA RISING	US, HI	KAH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

12:00 PM–1:43 PM	KULEANA	GB, US	KAH
2:30 PM–3:50 PM	THE GOLDEN SPURTLE	GB	KAH
5:00 PM–6:35 PM	EPIC SWIM MAUI	US, HI	KAH

MAUI SHOWCASE  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

1:00 PM–2:02 PM	THE PRICE OF PARADISE	US, HI	MACC
3:00 PM–4:35 PM	EPIC SWIM MAUI	US, HI	MACC
6:00 PM–7:37 PM	LAHAINA RISING	US, HI	MACC

SAUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

1:00 PM–2:45 PM	HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE SHORTS	US, HI	MACC
3:00 PM–4:43 PM	KULEANA	GB, US	MACC
6:00 PM–7:21 PM	RAISED BY WAVES	US, HI	MACC

BIG ISLAND (HILO) SHOWCASE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

5:00 PM–6:34 PM	A PARADISE LOST	US, HI	PAL
7:30 PM–9:05 PM	THE EYES OF GHANA	US, HI	PAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

12:00 PM–1:40 PM	25 CATS FROM QATAR	US, QA	PAL
2:30 PM–4:46 PM	PIKE RIVER	NZ	PAL
5:00 PM–6:43 PM	KULEANA	GB, US	PAL
7:30 PM–9:10 PM	LONE SAMURAI	ID, JP	PAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

12:00 PM–1:52 PM	MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS	US, HI	PAL
2:30 PM–4:16 PM	BEFORE THE MOON FALLS	US	PAL
5:00 PM–6:32 PM	LESBIAN SPACE PRINCESS	AU	PAL
7:30 PM–9:07 PM	LAHAINA RISING	US, HI	PAL

MOLOKA'I SHOWCASE  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

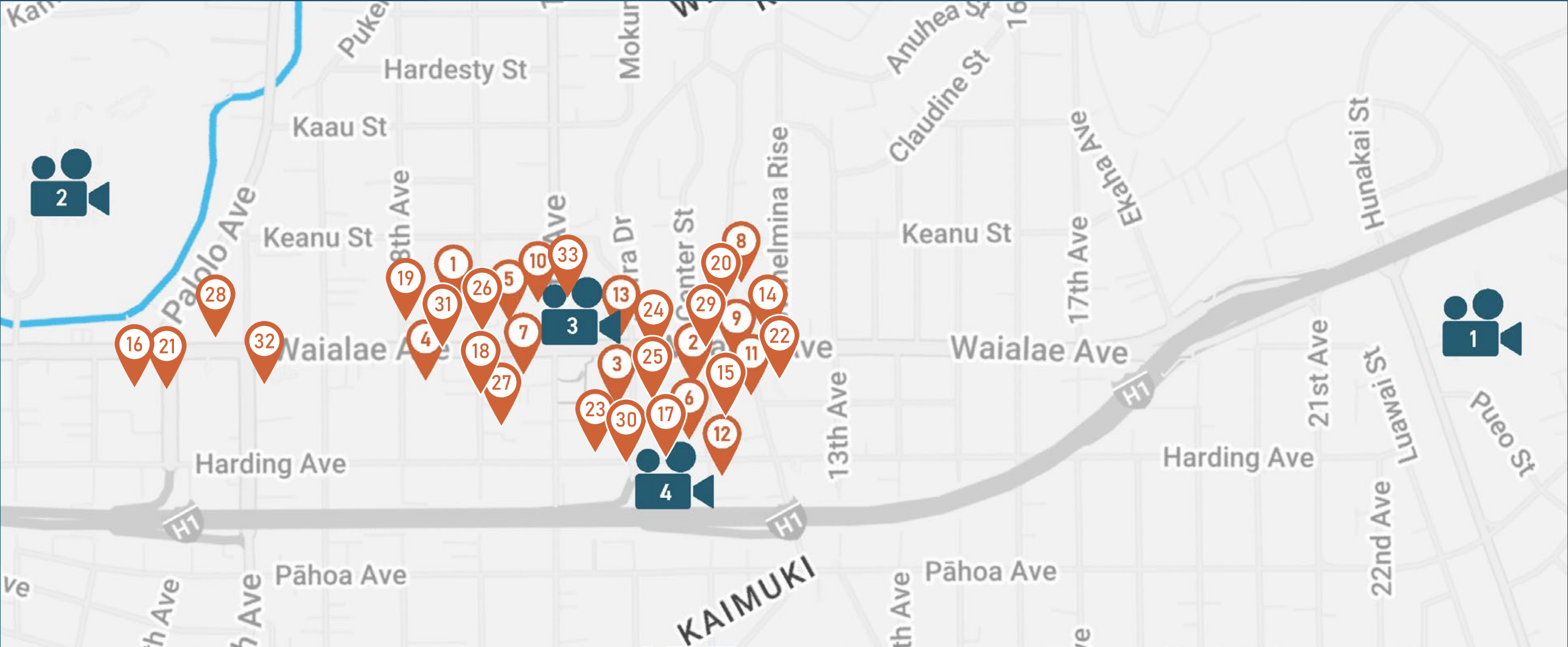
2:30 PM–4:07 PM	LAHAINA RISING	US, HI	MGO
5:00 PM–6:02 PM	THE PRICE OF PARADISE	US, HI	MGO
7:30 PM–9:00 PM	MARAMA	NZ	MGO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

12:00 PM–1:35 PM	EPIC SWIM MAUI	US, HI	MGO
2:30 PM–4:22 PM	MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS	US, HI	MGO



# HIFF45 KAIMUKI MAP



## KEEP IT KAIMUKI COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. SMALL KINE GIFT                    | 18. BRICK FIRE TAVERN                      |
| 2. HOUSE OF INTENTION BY ALOHA ELIXIR | 19. CHILLEST                               |
| 3. DAILY WHISK MATCHA                 | 20. EVERY DAY BETTER BY GREEN MEADOWS, LLC |
| 4. KAIMUKI VETERINARY URGENT CARE     | 21. HAWAII STATE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION      |
| 5. ISLAND-BOY                         | 22. HONOLULU PIERCING COMPANY              |
| 6. YOGA ROOM HAWAII                   | 23. KAIMUKI SHOKUDO                        |
| 7. PLANTOEM                           | 24. LARRY'S NAPA AUTO PARTS                |
| 8. ATELIER 1223 AT MONTSUKI           | 25. MOKE'S BREAD & BREAKFAST               |
| 9. ART FLOW STUDIO                    | 26. MUD HEN WATER / TOWN                   |
| 10. KEEP IT SIMPLE HONOLULU LLC       | 27. ONDA PASTA & PROVISIONS                |
| 11. IYENGAR YOGA SILENT DANCE CENTER  | 28. SERVCO SUBARU                          |
| 12. HAWAII DANCE BOMB                 | 29. TALK                                   |
| 13. BEAN ABOUT TOWN                   | 30. TEN TOMORROW                           |
| 14. PIG & THE LADY                    | 31. THE PUBLIC PET                         |
| 15. BEAD IT                           | 32. ZIPPY'S                                |
| 16. BEAUTIGODDESS STUDIO              | 33. VERMILLI INC                           |
| 17. BOARDED UP BY CHUBBIES BURGERS    |  |

## HIFF45 VENUES

1. CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KAHALA
2. CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
3. HIFF HQ
4. DA SHOP: BOOKS + CURIOSITIES

## OTHER PARTNERS (VIRTUAL OR NEARBY)

1. LIVE LONG AND PLANT



## KEEP IT KAIMUKI SATURDAY

On the Saturday following Black Friday, which is nationally known as Small Business Saturday, Keep it Kaimuki puts on their own spectacular event called "Keep it Kaimuki Saturday." It is a free, family-friendly event consisting of entertainment, activities, and trolley rides up and down Waialae. The event goal is to energize the Kaimuki neighborhood and create valuable opportunities and foot traffic for our local small business community. Join us for this year's event on Saturday, November 29th!



# MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



## MAJOR SPONSORS



## LUMINARY SPONSORS



## PREMIERE SPONSORS



## INNOVATOR SPONSORS



## SUPPORTERS



# MADE IN HAWAI’I FILM AWARD NOMINEES



HIFF will present the eighth annual MADE IN HAWAI’I FILM AWARD this year to continue our focus on the dynamic and flourishing local independent film scene that strives onward here in the Hawaiian Islands. Select fiction, non-fiction and short films that are made by locally-based filmmakers or involve locally-based stories are spread out throughout the 2025 film program to stand alongside works from around the world. HIFF’s decision to include this competition was an easy one, as the Festival has an illustrious history of providing a forum for Hawai’i-made films for its 45 year history. As the media landscape changes, along with the democratization of ‘filmmaking’ itself via digital technology, the rise of local cinema artists has drastically increased. At the same time, creative

content produced by indigenous people around the world, including Native Hawaiians, is on the rise. With this in mind, the intent of the MADE IN HAWAI’I FILM AWARD is to provide accolades to films that our esteemed jury feel offer significant representation of stories that authentically reflect the unique, yet universal experiences of ourselves.

Recipients of HIFF’s Best Short Film Award and HIFF’s Best Made in Hawai’i Short Film Award are eligible for consideration in the Animated Short Film/Live Action Short Film category of the Academy Awards®

## MADE IN HAWAI’I FILM AWARD NOMINEES

### A PARADISE LOST

DIRECTOR: LAURIE SUMIYE

### LAHAINA RISING

DIRECTOR: MATTY SCHWEITZER

### REMATHAU: PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN

DIRECTOR: DANIEL H. LIN

### BEFORE THE MOON FALLS

DIRECTOR: KIMBERLEE BASSFORD

### NĀ WĀHINE BUDA KIAKAHI: THE LEGACY OF HAWAIIAN BUDDHIST WOMEN

DIRECTOR: ELENI AVENDAÑO

### REELING

DIRECTOR: YANA ALLIATA

### INDIGENOUS NA’AU

DIRECTOR: KU’ULEI KA’ILI

### THE PRICE OF PARADISE

DIRECTOR: ANABELLA FUNK

## NOMINATED SHORTS

### THE ARRANGEMENTS

DIRECTOR: SONNY GANADEN

### HUI O WA’A KAULUA

DIRECTOR: MATT YAMASHITA

### NOHO’ANA FARM

DIRECTOR: DE ANDRE MAKAKOA TAKAHASHI

### BACK TO THE LOKO

DIRECTOR: RICKY-THOMAS SERIKAWA

### KAPO MA’I LELE

DIRECTOR: HINALEIMOANA WONG-KALU, LAURA MARGULIES

### SALVADOR

DIRECTOR: HENRY IAN CUSICK

### BIRDS OF PARADISE

DIRECTOR: VERONICA RUTLEDGE

### MĀHŪ — A TRANS-PACIFIC LOVE LETTER

DIRECTOR: LISETTE MARIE FLANARY

### SLACK TIDE

DIRECTOR: CODY KAHAKU, KURT HOFFMANN

### BREAKING THE TIDE

DIRECTOR: KATRIN YORK

### MĀLAMA MĀKUA

DIRECTOR: MIKEY INOUE

### WHAT WE CARRY

DIRECTOR: LINDSAY WATSON

### DASHER

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER BOCCHIERI

### MEMORY AS MISSIONARY POSITION

DIRECTOR: BRIGITTE LEILANI AXELRODE

### HO’OMAU

DIRECTOR: HANA MCEVILLY

# FEATURE FILM AWARD NOMINEES



The prestigious HIFF KAU KA HÖKŪ (Shooting Star) Award presented by Hawaiian Airlines is the Festivals international award presented to the best emerging filmmaker (first or second feature film) at the Festival. Both fiction and non-fiction feature films are nominated and adjudicated by an esteemed international jury.

## HIFF KAU KA HÖKŪ AWARD NOMINEES

### A PARADISE LOST

DIRECTOR: LAURIE SUMIYE

### KY NAM INN

DIRECTOR: LEON LE

### NIKA AND MADISON

DIRECTOR: EVA THOMAS

### BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY

DIRECTOR: SHIH-HAN TSAO

### LEFT-HANDED GIRL

DIRECTOR: SHIH-CHING TSOU

### ROSEMEAD

DIRECTOR: ERIC LIN

### BEFORE THE MOON FALLS

DIRECTOR: KIMBERLEE BASSFORD

### LUCKY LU

DIRECTOR: LLOYD LEE CHOI

### FWENDS

DIRECTOR: SOPHIE SOMERVILLE

### MAG MAG

DIRECTOR: YURIYAN RETRIEVER



Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) will present a Pasifika Award for Best Feature Film. Select fiction and non-fiction feature films with a Pacific Islander perspective will be judged by the inaugural Pasifika Award Jury comprised of film professionals of Pacific Islander descent.

## PASIFIKA AWARD NOMINEES

### A PARADISE LOST

DIRECTOR: LAURIE SUMIYE

### INDIGENOUS NA’AU

DIRECTOR: KU’ULEI KA’ILI

### MĀRAMA

DIRECTOR: TARATOA STAPPARD

### BEFORE THE MOON FALLS

DIRECTOR: KIMBERLEE BASSFORD

### KŌKĀ

DIRECTOR: KATH AKUHATA-BROWN

### REMATHAU: PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN

DIRECTOR: DANIEL H. LIN



# BEST SHORT FILM AWARD NOMINEES



Short films are usually the initial steps for an emerging filmmaker. They help establish tone, style and a filmmaker’s creative vision to form the foundation of a budding career. These works can also be proof of concepts or progenitors to a feature film, but they must stand alone as their own succinct and unique work. Short films come in many forms, genres and lengths and it is always a welcome challenge by the HIFF programmers to sift through thousands of entries per year to curate a half dozen feature length programs. The winner of the Best Short

Film Award will also receive a cash award made possible by Fields Psychiatric Consultants. HIFF is an Academy Awards® accredited festival where the winner of the Best Short Film and Best Made in Hawai’i Short Film categories are eligible to Shorts Film competition for the concurrent season, provided that the films meet all the requirements set forth in our official rules for that season which can be found at [www.oscars.org/rules](http://www.oscars.org/rules).

## NOMINATED FILMS

### A VERY STRAIGHT NECK

DIRECTOR: NEO SORA

### AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LIBRARY

DIRECTORS: SYRA MCCARTHY, KYLE CASEY CHU

### BARLEBAS

DIRECTOR: MALU JANSSEN

### CORRECT ME IF I’M WRONG

DIRECTOR: HAO ZHOU

### DANDELION

DIRECTOR: FIONA OBERTINCA

### DEARS IN THE HEADLIGHTS

DIRECTOR: JULIA JANSCH

### THE FISHBOWL GIRL

DIRECTOR: HUNG YI WU

### HOMEWORK

DIRECTOR: JAMIE DI SPIRITO

### INVISIBLE DRAGONS

DIRECTOR: VICTORIA BOULT

### MAMA MICRA

DIRECTOR: REBECCA BLÖCHER

### MYSELF WHEN I AM REAL

DIRECTOR: ANGELINE GRAGASIN

### ON HEALING LAND, BIRDS PERCH

DIRECTOR: NAJA PHAM LOCKWOOD

### PICKING CREW

DIRECTOR: TANU GAGO

### QOTZUÑI

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL SALAMA,  
GASTÓN ZILBERMAN

### SALLIE’S ASHES

DIRECTOR: BRENNAN ROBIDEAUX

### SILVER NEEDLE

DIRECTOR: J WANG

### SONGS OF THE HIGHLANDS

DIRECTOR: SARAH LOIS DORAI

### STRANGER, BROTHER

DIRECTOR: ANNELISE HICKEY

### THE SINGERS

DIRECTOR: SAM DAVIS

### TO DANCE AGAIN

DIRECTOR: M.G. EVANGELISTA

### WE WERE THE SCENERY

DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER ROBERT RADCLIFF

### ZAG, TALL TREES HAVE DEEP ROOTS

DIRECTOR: CLARA MARIA WETZEL

# 2025 HONOREES



### PARK CHAN-WOOK

HIFF45 HALEKULANI VISION IN FILM AWARD

Born in Seoul, Park Chan-wook studied philosophy at Sogang University before beginning his career as a film critic and later transitioning to writing and directing. He debuted with THE MOON IS... THE SUN’S DREAM (1992) and went on to achieve international acclaim with JOINT SECURITY AREA (2000) and his groundbreaking “Vengeance Trilogy”: SYMPATHY FOR MR. VENGEANCE (2002), OLDBOY (2003), and SYMPATHY FOR LADY VENGEANCE (2005). His eclectic filmography includes I’M A CYBORG, BUT THAT’S OK (2006), THIRST (2009), STOKER (2013), THE HANDMAIDEN (2016), AND DECISION TO LEAVE (2022), which premiered in Official Selection at Cannes. His latest work, NO OTHER CHOICE (2025), continues to cement his reputation as one of world cinema’s most daring and influential auteurs.



### KENJI TANIGAKI

HIFF45 HALEKULANI MAVERICK AWARD

Kenji Tanigaki is a Japanese director, action director, and fight choreographer. From a young age, he was captivated by action cinema, and was particularly influenced by Hong Kong films. After training at the Kurata Action Club in Japan, he moved to Hong Kong to pursue his career. He became the only Japanese member of the Hong Kong Stuntman Association. Tanigaki has lived in Hong Kong for close to three decades and is fluent in Cantonese and proficient in Mandarin. His action choreography and stunt work has been seen in iconic Hong Kong martial arts action films like SPL, FLASH POINT, RAGING FIRE, and TWILIGHT OF THE WARRIORS: WALLED IN. His work expanded in his native Japan and the US including the RUROUNI KENSHIN live action films and BLADE II. THE FURIOUS, a Hong Kong funded Pan Asian action film set in Thailand, world premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and is screening at HIFF45.



### YURIYAN RETRIEVER

HIFF45 HALEKULANI VANGUARD AWARD

Born in 1990 in Nara, Japan, Yuriyan Retriever is a celebrated Japanese comedian affiliated with Yoshimoto Kogyo, Japan’s largest entertainment company. Known for her English-language sketches, impersonations, and bold comedic style, she rose to national fame after winning the 2021 KTV R-1 Grand Prix, becoming Japan’s top solo comedian. Internationally recognized for her unforgettable performance on “America’s Got Talent” in 2019, she has since worked with global brands like Nike and KitKat, and expanded into acting, voice work, and rap music. Her directorial debut MAG MAG, will be screening at HIFF45, a meta-take on classic J-horror, which is the first film of the new Japanese production company K2 Pictures, made up of directors Hirokazu Koreeda (Vision in Film Honoree, 2019), Takashi Miike, Shunji Iwai and others.



### HIFF LEANNE K. FERRER TRAILBLAZER AWARD

PRESENTED BY PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS



HIFF and PIC are proud to honor the Kānaka Maoli and Pacific Islander creative team behind CHIEF OF WAR (Apple TV+) for their groundbreaking work in bringing an epic, big-budget series to the global stage. This empowering collective of above- and below-the-line leaders — including creator/showrunner Thomas Pa’a Sibbett, creator/director/producer/star Jason Momoa, and producer Brian Keaulana, alongside an extraordinary team of department heads and cultural advisors — has set a historic precedent. Together, they have fused cultural authenticity with sweeping cinematic storytelling, bringing Hawaiian history, language, and identity to the screen on a scale never before seen in film or television. Their achievement demonstrates that Indigenous stories and representation not only matter, but can thrive at the highest levels of production. In doing so, they are paving the way for future generations of Pacific Island filmmakers, ensuring that voices from Hawai’i and across Oceania are celebrated worldwide.





HIFILM INDUSTRY CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 24–26, 2025 | CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

The inaugural HIFILM Industry Conference is a first-of-its-kind gathering in the middle of the Pacific: bringing together storytellers, producers, executives, and industry leaders from Hawaiʻi and around the world. This three-day event, held at Chaminade University in Kaimukī near HIFF Headquarters, is designed to inspire, connect, and celebrate the voices shaping the future of film and television.

Presented by the Hawaiʻi International Film Festival (HIFF) — Hawaiʻi’s largest and longest-running film festival, now celebrating its 45th year — the conference will open with a Networking Reception featuring live music, elevated pūpū by Chef Keaka Lee of Kapa Hale, and a keynote conversation with Glenn Gainor, trailblazing producer and former Head of Physical Production at Amazon Studios, now founder of Hollywood Ventures Group.

The conference continues with panels, workshops, and networking opportunities, culminating in a keynote with Ben Proudfoot, two-time Academy Award®-winning filmmaker, on the art and impact of short-form storytelling.

More than a conference, this is a landmark gathering rooted in Hawaiʻi and connected to the world — a space to share ideas, build community, and imagine new possibilities for global storytelling.

CONFERENCE PASS | \$125

Your HIFILM Industry Conference Pass grants you full access to all three days, including panels, workshops, networking events, and special gatherings with industry leaders. Enjoy complimentary food and beverages throughout the conference, beginning with the Opening Night Reception.

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SUPPORTERS



DAY 1: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2025  
4:00PM–7:00PM

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

Featuring elevated bites & beverages courtesy of Kapa Hale Chef, Keaka Lee.

OPENING REMARKS:  
NORMAN CHEN, CEO OF TAAF

We are honored to welcome Norman Chen, CEO of The Asian American Foundation (TAAF), to deliver the conference’s opening remarks.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE KEYNOTE: GLENN GAINOR

An in-depth dialogue with a trailblazing producer (former head of Amazon Movies, Physical Production), who just launched Hollywood Ventures Group, designed to meet the current moment in global filmmaking and cultivate international creative partnerships in shaping the future of entertainment. Presented in partnership with the Honolulu Film Office.

DAY 2: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2025  
10:00AM–4:00PM

PANEL: BEYOND THE BUBBLE:  
NAVIGATING INDIE CINEMA’S  
UNCERTAIN PATH

A candid roundtable on indie filmmaking’s uncertain future. Panelists: Mynette Louie, Diane Quon, and Eugene Yi. Presented by TAAF.

PANEL: CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS:  
THE POWER OF INTERNATIONAL  
CO-PRODUCTIONS

Explore how co-production treaties qualify films as national productions in multiple countries, unlocking incentives, tax breaks, and wider distribution. Hear insights from Janice Chua (Third World Content) and FDCP officials on global collaboration.

LUNCH + COFFEE TALK

Informal Roundtable with Producers about Co-Productions.

DIRECTOR-IN-RESIDENCE KEYNOTE:  
BEN PROUDFOOT

Join Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ben Proudfoot for an in-depth conversation on the art and impact of short-form storytelling, branded content, and the principles of his production company, Breakwater Studios.

PANEL: FROM HAWAI’I TO  
HOLLYWOOD: A FIRESIDE CHAT  
WITH KALIKO KAUAHI

NBCUniversal invites you to a special fireside conversation with actor Kaliko Kauahi, beloved for her standout performances in NBC’s hit comedy series ST. DENIS MEDICAL and SUPERSTORE. Presented by NBCUniversal.

PANEL: DIRECTING THE JOURNEY:  
MARIE JAMORA ON BREAKING  
INTO TV

Filmmaker Marie Jamora shares her inspiring path from the Philippines to becoming a sought-after TV director in Hollywood.

INDUSTRY MIXER: FILMMAKER  
MEET & GREET

Connect over drinks and snacks with fellow creatives and decision-makers.

DAY 3: SUNDAY OCTOBER 26TH, 2025  
10:00AM–4:00PM

PANEL: NARRATIVE SOVEREIGNTY  
IN TELEVISION: THE MAKING OF  
TANGATA PAI

Join the creative team of TANGATA PAI as they discuss decolonizing the TV landscape, reclaiming Indigenous narratives, and crafting globally resonant, locally grounded storytelling.

PANEL: AI AND INDIE FILM:  
LEGAL, CREATIVE,  
AND PRODUCTION REALITIES

Join industry experts to navigate the promises and pitfalls of an ever-changing landscape.

MINI-PANEL: HOCCHI COHORT  
PRESENTATION

PANEL: THE MANAGER’S PLAYBOOK:  
AN ONSTAGE CONVERSATION WITH  
RANGE MEDIA PARTNERS

Literary managers from Range Media Partners unpack how representation and career strategy are evolving in this shifting landscape.

PANEL: FROM SEED TO SCREEN:  
CRAFTING CHIEF OF WAR FOR  
APPLE TV+

Join co-creator and writer Thomas Pa’a Sibbett for an inside look at the creative journey of CHIEF OF WAR.

LUNCH + COFFEE TALK

PANEL: FROM PROTOCOL  
TO PRODUCTION: CULTURAL  
CONSULTATION IN CHIEF OF WAR

This panel unpacks the rigorous process behind CHIEF OF WAR, tracing how cultural protocol, Native Hawaiian practitioners, and historical advisors shaped its path from idea to screen.

CLOSING NIGHT HAPPY HOUR  
RECEPTION

Mix and mingle with conference attendees, speakers, and local creatives as we officially end this year’s HIFILM Conference.

For schedule updates and passes, visit:  
[hiff.org/hifilm-conference/](http://hiff.org/hifilm-conference/)



OPENING NIGHT FILM



RENTAL FAMILY

HAWAII PREMIERE  
OPENING NIGHT FILM  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 109M  
DIRECTOR: HIKARI  
16-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 23-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

A lonely, down and out American actor (Academy Award winner Brendan Fraser) living in Tokyo starts working for a Japanese “rental family” company to play various stand-in roles in other people’s lives. Along the way, he discovers unexpected joys within his built-in family. RENTAL FAMILY is the latest feature film from director HIKARI (TOKYO VICE, BEEF), who has won multiple awards at HIFF, including for her USC thesis short film TSUYAKO (HIFF 2011) and her first narrative feature 37 SECONDS (HIFF 2021). The Festival is honored to open this year with her latest feature from Searchlight Pictures.



CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION



NO OTHER CHOICE

HAWAII PREMIERE  
CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION  
SOUTH KOREA 2025 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 139M  
DIRECTOR: PARK CHAN-WOOK  
19-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 12:30PM | KHL

In NO OTHER CHOICE, acclaimed Korean auteur Park Chan-wook (OLDBOY, DECISION TO LEAVE) delivers a wickedly satirical thriller that slices into the brutal realities of modern work culture and the quiet desperation for material security. Superstar Lee Byung-hun (HIFF 2005 Honoree) gives a riveting, slyly humorous performance as Man-soo, a devoted husband and father who, after decades at a paper company, suddenly finds himself cast aside. As his jobless months stretch on, anxiety curdles into ruthless resolve, and Man-soo resorts to increasingly outrageous—and shockingly violent—schemes to win favor with a new employer.

Adapted from Donald E. Westlake’s novel “The Ax” and transposed to our precarious present, Park orchestrates the descent with his signature blend of extravagance, menace, and pitch-black comedy. The result is a dark fable as enthralling as it is unsettling, culminating in a brilliantly bitter finale that lingers like a scar.



24 FLAVOURS

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2024 | MANDARIN, CANTONESE W/ENGLISH  
SUBTITLES | 106M  
DIRECTOR: ELAINE HUANG  
23-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 26-OCT 4:45PM | KHL

When April returns home from abroad, she’s forced to confront the long-buried fractures of her family, especially with Tang — her father who left behind his first wife and daughter to build a new life. Sylvia Chang plays a matriarch caught between past regrets and present responsibilities as April seeks reconciliation, identity, and closure. 24 FLAVORS is a quiet, emotionally rich portrait of how family histories mix bitterness, longing, and affection — and how we must taste them all to move forward.



AINU PURI

US PREMIERE  
INDIGENOUS LENS  
JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 82M  
DIRECTOR: TAKESHI FUKUNAGA  
19-OCT 6:30PM | KHL • 22-OCT 12:00PM | KHL

Shige, an Indigenous Ainu person from Shiranuka, Hokkaido, goes Marek fishing with his 10-year-old son Motoki. After praying to the gods dwelling in all things, he skillfully catches a large salmon, which he then prepares for that evening’s meal. Shige is cultivating his own ways to maintain his Ainu identity and culture for the next generations as he faces continued resistance and Indigenous repression from the Japanese government. AINU PURI explores one family’s endeavor to live as Ainu in today’s Japan.



ARCO

HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
FRANCE 2025 | ENGLISH | 89M  
DIRECTOR: UGO BIENVENU  
19-OCT 1:30PM | KHL • 25-OCT 11:00AM | KHL

In 2075, a 10-year-old girl, Iris, sees a mysterious boy wearing a rainbow jumpsuit falling from the sky. It’s Arco. He comes from a distant, idyllic future where time travel is possible. Iris takes him in and will do whatever it takes to help him return home. Natalie Portman leads the voice cast and produces this French animated magical sci-fi film rooted in the styles of Miyazaki and Shinkai.



25 CATS FROM QATAR

HAWAII PREMIERE  
DOCUMENTARIES  
UNITED STATES, QATAR 2025 | ENGLISH, URDU W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 95M  
DIRECTOR: MYE HOANG  
25-OCT 12:00PM | KHL • 15-NOV 12:00PM | PAL

The nation of Qatar has a street cat population equal to the entire human population of the country — and it’s growing fast. Disease is rampant, and local adoption is rare. 25 CATS FROM QATAR follows one mission — led by a network of multinational underground animal rescuers in Doha and a Milwaukee flight attendant/cat cafe owner — to transport out 25 lucky felines and find homes for them abroad, all the while searching for a long-term solution to the crisis.



ANOTHER WORLD

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2025 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 111M  
DIRECTOR: TOMMY NG KAI CHUNG  
25-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 7:00PM | KHL

Between death and rebirth lies ANOTHER WORLD, a fantastical realm where souls await reincarnation. Gudo, a spirit guide, encounters Yuri, a young girl overwhelmed by rage, and must help her before she transforms into a monster. Adapted from Saijo Naka’s novel “Sennenki – Thousand-Year Journey of an Oni,” this fantastical animated feature is a spectacular showcase that unspools awe-inspiring visuals, created by the incredible young talent coming out of Hong Kong.



ARMY ON THE TREE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON OKINAWA  
JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 128M  
DIRECTOR: KAZUHIRO TAIRA  
18-OCT 10:45AM | KHL • 23-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

In 1945, as the Pacific War nears its end, Japanese officer Kazuo Yamashita and Okinawan recruit Seijun Agena escape a brutal battle on Ie Island. Taking refuge high in a sprawling banyan tree, they hide from encroaching U.S. forces as fallen comrades gather below. Cut off from the outside world, the two men endure an isolated “lonely war” for two years—clinging to hope for reinforcements that may never arrive.







**BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY** 臺灣書院 大都會 HAWAIIAN AIRLINES  
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN  
TAIWAN ROC 2025 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M  
DIRECTOR: TSAO SHIH-HAN  
21-OCT 6:15PM | KHL • 24-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

The directorial debut of promising filmmaker Shih-Han Tsao, *BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY* tells a coming-of-age story of Chou, a teenager who struggles in school and at home with his poor grades and strict father. Set in 1996 when Taiwan faces an imminent cross-strait war, the film also explores the island’s social changes and economic growth.



**BOSS** KBFD  
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA  
SOUTH KOREA 2025 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 99M  
DIRECTOR: HEE-CHAN RA  
22-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 23-OCT 5:00PM | KHL

*BOSS* is a riotous action-comedy where aging gangsters compete to avoid becoming their group’s next leader. Once feared street toughs, they now dream of quiet lives—like opening a Korean-Chinese food franchise—until a corrupt rival threatens a takeover. Starring Jo Woo-jin, Jung Kyung-ho, Park Ji-hwan, and Lee Gyu-hyung, the film spoofs classics like *FRIEND*. With explosive action and sharp humor, delivering family-friendly thrills and a meta twist on the Korean gangster genre in the spirit of *EXTREME JOB* and, yes, even *SHALL WE DANCE?*



**CLIMBING FOR LIFE**  
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN  
JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE, NEPALI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 130M  
DIRECTOR: JUNJI SAKAMOTO  
17-OCT 6:30PM | KHL • 26-OCT 3:30PM | KHL

*CLIMBING FOR LIFE*, from acclaimed director Junji Sakamoto, dramatizes the inspiring journey of legendary mountaineer Junko Tabei, the first woman to summit Mount Everest and complete the Seven Summits. Released on the 50th anniversary of her historic climb, the film stars beloved actress Sayuri Yoshinaga as Tabei, with Koichi Sato, Yuki Amami, and Non (Rena Nönen) in key roles, capturing a life of courage and perseverance that forever changed the world of high-altitude exploration.



**BEFORE THE MOON FALLS** PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS \*\*\* HAWAIIAN AIRLINES  
US PREMIERE  
PACIFIC SHOWCASE, WELLNESS CINEMA  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 101M  
DIRECTOR: KIMBERLEE BASSFORD  
19-OCT 4:00PM | KHL • 30-OCT 6:15PM | KAP • 16-NOV 2:30PM | PAL

In May 2024, Samoa was rocked by the shocking news that acclaimed novelist and poet Sia Figiel had killed her close friend. For eight years, Hawai’i-based filmmaker Kimberlee Bassford (*PATSY MINK: AHEAD OF THE MAJORITY*) had been documenting Sia’s life and career when the tragedy unfolded. This powerful film shifts from portrait to reckoning, exploring the complexities of untreated mental illness, the stigma surrounding it, and its devastating ripple effects on families and communities.



**CHRISTY** BMW of Honolulu  
HAWAI’I PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 135M  
DIRECTOR: DAVID MICHÖD  
22-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 3:30PM | KHL

Sydney Sweeney delivers a tour-de-force performance as trailblazing boxer Christy Martin in *CHRISTY*, a fierce story of survival and self-discovery. From her early days in West Virginia “Toughwoman” contests to breaking barriers in professional boxing, Christy fights her way to the top of a male-dominated sport. But outside the ring, she faces a volatile marriage to her coach Jim Martin (Ben Foster), marked by abuse and control. Sweeney embodies Martin’s grit and vulnerability in this riveting true-life drama of self-actualization in the face of terrifying adversity.



**DIAMOND DIPLOMACY** HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE  
HAWAI’I PREMIERE  
HAWAI’I PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 85M  
DIRECTOR: YURIKO GAMO ROMER  
25-OCT 1:00PM | KHL • 2-NOV 4:00PM | KCC

Spanning 150 years of history, this story explores how the United States and Japan forged connection through a shared love of baseball. Anchored by the journeys of Masanori “Mashi” Murakami and Warren Cromartie, it revisits milestones from the game’s 1872 arrival in Japan to Babe Ruth’s 1934 Goodwill Tour and Lefty O’Doul’s 1949 postwar mission. Through rare archival footage, home movies, and cultural artifacts, the film reveals how baseball became a lasting form of diplomacy and exchange.



**EPIC SWIM MAUI** HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE, MADE IN HAWAI’I  
HAWAI’I (UNITED STATES) 2025 | ENGLISH | 90M  
DIRECTOR: STEFAN SCHAEFER  
8-NOV 3:00PM | MACC • 9-NOV 5:00PM | KAH • 16-NOV 12:00PM | MGO

In summer 2024, elite swimmers from six continents and Hawai’i joined forces for a historic circumnavigation of Maui to raise awareness for ocean health under the UN Ocean Decade. Guided by legendary waterman Archie Kalepa, the relay was paired with groundbreaking science, including Maui’s first PFAS and microplastics study. Featuring stories from Maui’s 12 moku and honoring Duke Kahanamoku through his grand-nephew’s participation, the film celebrates endurance, community, and a shared commitment to protecting our oceans.



**THE EYES OF GHANA** CB HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT  
HAWAI’I PREMIERE  
DOCUMENTARIES, SPECIAL SCREENING  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 90M  
DIRECTOR: BEN PROUDFOOT  
26-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 14-NOV 7:30PM | PAL

Guided by two-time Oscar winning director Ben Proudfoot and executive producers President Barack and Michelle Obama, this film captures a sacred passing of the torch. Chris Hesse, Ghana’s legendary cameraman, now in his twilight years, stands as both witness and architect of a nation’s cinematic memory. At his side, filmmaker Anita Afonu receives his vision, carrying forward not just a craft, but a legacy woven into the spirit of Ghana itself — a testament to cinema’s timeless power to preserve, transform, and endure.



**THE FURIOUS** HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH HAWAII NATIONAL BANK  
HAWAI’I PREMIERE  
HIFF EXTREME  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2025 | ENGLISH | 113M  
DIRECTOR: KENJI TANIGAKI  
18-OCT 5:15PM | KHL • 22-OCT 7:15PM | KHL

*THE FURIOUS*, directed by veteran fight choreographer, and HIFF45 Maverick Award honoree, Kenji Tanigaki (*SPL*, *RUROUNI KENSHIN*) and produced by Bill Kong (*CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON*), is a WWE Royal Rumble, bone-crunching spectacle of the best in Pan-Asian action cinema! Xie Miao stars alongside Joe Taslim, Jija Yanin, Yayan Ruhian, Joey Iwanaga, and Brian Le in a familiar story of a father who takes justice into his own hands to rescue his kidnapped daughter that is reminiscent of *TAKEN* meets *THE RAID* meets *DOUBLE DRAGON*. It is both old school and innovative.



**ERASERHEADS: COMBO ON THE RUN** FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES  
US PREMIERE  
SPECIAL SCREENING, SPOTLIGHT ON THE PHILIPPINES  
PHILIPPINES, UNITED STATES 2025 | TAGALOG, ENGLISH | 102M  
DIRECTOR: MARIA DIANE VENTURA  
30-OCT 6:00PM | KAP

In a time of political upheaval and uncertainty, the legendary Filipino rock band Eraserheads reunites, offering unexpected solace to a nation in crisis while confronting their own need for healing. Once disbanded, the group finds themselves both mirrors and mediators of a society in turmoil. Through candid interviews, electrifying performances, and urgent social context, their journey becomes more than a reunion—it is a powerful testament to the universal ability of music to unite, console, and inspire.



**FOOD DELIVERY: FRESH FROM THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA** FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES HAWAIIAN AIRLINES  
US PREMIERE  
EAT. DRINK. FILM., SPOTLIGHT ON THE PHILIPPINES  
PHILIPPINES 2025 | TAGALOG W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 85M  
DIRECTOR: BABY RUTH VILLARAMA  
18-OCT 2:15PM | KHL • 23-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 2:00PM | KCC

A gripping documentary that follows Filipino fishermen, the Philippine Coast Guard, and Navy personnel as they defend the West Philippine Sea. Centered on Arnel Satam, a fisherman pursued by the China Coast Guard near Scarborough Shoal, the film reveals the real-life dangers of living at the frontline of geopolitical conflict. With rare access to Coast Guard missions and intimate stories from the sea, *FOOD DELIVERY* highlights quiet heroism, solidarity, and sacrifice. Visually arresting and deeply human, the film offers a timely, urgent portrait of courage and community amidst rising global tensions.



**FWENDS** HAWAIIAN AIRLINES BMW of Honolulu  
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
AUSTRALIA 2025 | ENGLISH, FRENCH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M  
DIRECTOR: SOPHIE SOMERVILLE  
18-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 25-OCT 2:45PM | KHL

*FWENDS* is an ambling, tender portrait of friendship, loss, and rediscovery set in modern Sydney. Junior lawyer Em (Emmanuelle Mattana) and restless traveler Jessie (Melissa Gan) reunite for a whirlwind weekend of city wanderings and late-night confessions. Co-written with director Sophie Somerville, their spiky, naturalistic repartee—enhanced by Mike Tilbrook’s playful piano score and Rizky Pratama’s immersive sound—echoes the free-spirited influences of Richard Linklater, Jim Jarmusch, and *Broad City*, celebrating messy, fleeting connections that give life meaning.





**THE GOLDEN SPURTLE**  
HAWAII PREMIERE  
EAT. DRINK. FILM., PANORAMA  
UNITED KINGDOM 2025 | ENGLISH | 75M  
DIRECTOR: CONSTANTINE COSTI  
22-OCT 4:30PM | KHL • 25-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 9-NOV 2:30PM | KAH

Welcome to the Oatmeal World Cup – and if that sounds gray and boring, think again! Each year, the sleepy village of Carrbridge comes alive as locals and international challengers gather for the World Porridge Making Championships. With nothing more than oats, salt, and water, competitors stir up pride, tradition, and a dash of mischief in pursuit of the coveted Golden Spurtle. A warm and genuinely funny Scottish film about finding the greatest meaning in the smallest things.



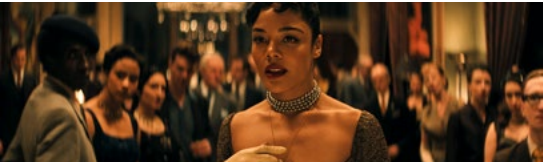
**HERO'S ISLAND**  
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON OKINAWA  
JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 191M  
DIRECTOR: KEISHI OTOMO  
18-OCT 10:15AM | KHL • 29-OCT 6:00PM | KAP

Set in 1952 Okinawa under U.S. occupation, HERO'S ISLAND follows childhood friends Gusuku, Yamako, and Rei—former rebels who once raided American bases under the leadership of the charismatic On, who vanished after a fateful heist. Years later, a violent incident and a U.S. hunt for the mysterious “prize” he stole draws them back together. Directed by Keishi Otomo and based on Junjo Shindo's Naoki Prize-winning novel, this sweeping epic stars Satoshi Tsumabuki, Suzu Hirose, Masataka Kubota, and Eita Nagayama.



**IS THIS THING ON?**  
HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 119M  
DIRECTOR: BRADLEY COOPER  
25-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 26-OCT 11:00AM | KHL

As their marriage quietly unravels, Alex (Will Arnett) faces middle age and an impending divorce, seeking new purpose in the New York comedy scene while Tess (Laura Dern) confronts the sacrifices she made for their family—forcing them to navigate co-parenting, identity, and whether love can take a new form. IS THIS THING ON? is directed by Bradley Cooper (A STAR IS BORN, MAESTRO), who also turns in a supporting role.



**HEDDA**  
HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
UNITED KINGDOM 2024 | ENGLISH | 107M  
DIRECTOR: NIA DACOSTA  
18-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 23-OCT 12:00PM | KHL

Transplanted to mid-century England, CANDYMAN and the upcoming 28 YEARS LATER: THE BONE TEMPLE director Nia DaCosta's adaptation is a bold reimagining of Henrik Ibsen's play. Hedda (Tessa Thompson, in a magnetic performance in a fresh, feminist game of power) is a woman trapped in a loveless marriage, as she navigates repressed desires and a past love while manipulating those around her, leading to manipulation, betrayal, and ultimately, tragedy.



**INDIGENOUS NA'AU**  
WORLD PREMIERE  
HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE  
HAWAII (UNITED STATES) 2025 | ENGLISH, 'ŌLELO HAWAII W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 51M  
DIRECTOR: KU'ULEI KAILI  
21-OCT 4:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 6:00PM | KCC • 9-NOV 1:00PM | MACC  
Through the metaphor of the wa'a (canoe), we draw upon the wisdom of our kupuna, who have intimate and generational ties to Ko'olau, O'ahu, to learn lessons about relationships to self, community, and place.



**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**  
HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
IRAN, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG 2025 | PERSIAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 103M  
DIRECTOR: JAFAR PANAH  
18-OCT 11:45AM | KHL • 25-OCT 12:00PM | KHL

What begins as a minor accident sets in motion a series of escalating consequences. Perhaps the most bluntly political film by Jafar Panahi yet, IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT is a defiant rebuke of authoritarianism that still delivers the entertainment value of a gripping thriller. Winner of the Cannes Palme d'Or.

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THE JOURNEY TO GYEONG-JU

WORLD PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA  
SOUTH KOREA 2025 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M  
DIRECTOR: KIM MI-JO  
18-OCT 2:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 3:45PM | KHL

When the man responsible for their youngest daughter’s death is released from prison, a grieving mother, Ok-sil, and her three daughters set out on a tense road trip to Gyeongju. What begins as a family journey soon unravels into a volatile quest for vengeance. With grief, anger, and dark humor colliding, director Kim Mi-jo crafts a gripping tale of resilience and retribution, led by powerhouse performances from Lee Jung-eun, Gong Hyo-jin, and Park So-dam.



KINOBU: FOOD, TRADITION & IDENTITY

WORLD PREMIERE  
EAT. DRINK. FILM.  
UNITED STATES, JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 83M  
DIRECTOR: CHIKARA MOTOMURA  
18-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 19-OCT 7:00PM | KHL

Director Chikara Motomura invites viewers into a Michelin-starred Kyoto restaurant where tradition, artistry, and innovation converge. Led by third-generation chef Takuji Takahashi—also a Noh theater practitioner and sommelier—the film explores how Japanese cuisine reflects seasonal beauty, aesthetic harmony, and cultural heritage. Through immersive visuals and intimate storytelling, the documentary reveals how Takahashi balances centuries-old culinary traditions with modern creativity, crafting dishes that are both delicate and daring in a tranquil, artfully curated setting.



KOKUHO

US PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN  
JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 174M  
DIRECTOR: SANG-IL LEE  
25-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 11:30AM | KHL

One of Japan's biggest box-office successes of the year, KOKUHO is a sweeping epic spanning five decades starting from 1964 Nagasaki. The story follows Kikuo (Ryo Yoshizawa), the son of a slain yakuza boss, taken in by a revered kabuki master (Ken Watanabe) and raised alongside his heir, Shunsuke (Ryusei Yokohama). Their brotherhood-turned-rivalry drives a saga of ambition, sacrifice, and devotion, culminating in the emergence of a living “national treasure.” Visually stunning and emotionally resonant, KOKUHO is unforgettable.



KAEDE

WORLD PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN  
JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 120M  
DIRECTOR: ISAO YUKISADA  
20-OCT 4:30PM | KHL • 30-OCT 6:30PM | KAP

KAEDE, a 2025 live-action feature from acclaimed director Isao Yukisada (CRYING OUT LOVE IN THE CENTER OF THE WORLD), is inspired by the beloved 1998 song by the Japanese rock band, Spitz. Set against New Zealand's breathtaking landscapes, the film follows Aoi and Liam, two strangers bound by the shared ache of losing loved ones. Through silence, memory, and the natural world, they discover resilience and renewal. Exploring themes of restraint, rebirth, and farewell, KAEDE reflects on the quiet strength found in moving forward.



KŌKĀ

US PREMIERE  
PACIFIC SHOWCASE  
NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA 2025 | ENGLISH, MAORI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 107M  
DIRECTOR: KATH AKUHATA-BROWN  
19-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 25-OCT 10:30AM | KHL

KŌKĀ is a powerful relationship drama following Māori elder Hamo and local delinquent Jo, who form an unlikely bond on a road trip in a Ford Falcon. Together they confront past traumas and each face their demons, their shared path becomes a journey of healing, community, and reconciliation. Part THELMA & LOUISE, part WHAT DREAMS MAY COME, Kath Akuhata-Brown's directorial debut is a lyrical, spiritual road movie that tests the boundaries of cinematic language, while embracing Pasifika storytelling.



KULEANA

WORLD PREMIERE  
HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH SHOWCASE  
UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 98M  
DIRECTOR: GEORGIA SCOTT  
23-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 4:00PM | KCC • 9-NOV 12:00PM | KAH • 9-NOV 3:00PM | MACC • 15-NOV 5:00PM | PAL

Plastic pollution threatens to overwhelm our oceans, with projections that by 2050 it could outweigh all marine life. Directed by Georgia Scott and narrated by Woody Harrelson, KULEANA uses Hawai'i's fragile beauty as a backdrop to explore this global crisis. Former MLB player Chris Dickerson and athletes like Kolten Wong, Kai Lenny, Kimi Werner, and Mike Coots join scientists and NGOs to reveal both the wonder of Hawai'i and the urgent call to protect it.



KY NAM INN

US PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
VIETNAM 2025 | VIETNAMESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 140M  
DIRECTOR: LEON LE  
19-OCT 2:15PM | KHL • 26-OCT 5:00PM | KHL

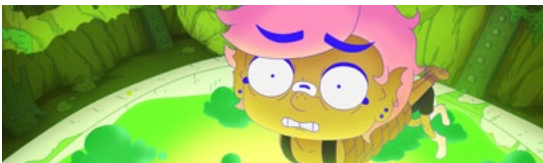
Set in 1985 post-war Vietnam, Khang moves to Saigon after securing a position to translate “The Little Prince.” Due to his family connections, Khang's life under the new regime is secure. But everything changes when he meets Ky Nam, a reserved older widow from the defeated South who carries the weight of unspoken grief. Against a backdrop of Vietnamese cuisine, music, and everyday ritual, Ky Nam and Khang wrestle with conflicting feelings of desire and duty in their new world.



LAHAINA RISING

WORLD PREMIERE  
MADE IN HAWAI'I  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 92M  
DIRECTOR: MATTY SCHWEITZER  
22-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 23-OCT 12:15PM | KHL • 8-NOV 6:00PM | MACC • 8-NOV 7:30PM | KAH • 15-NOV 2:30PM | MGO • 16-NOV 7:30PM | PAL

Produced and directed by Maui residents with deep Lāhainā roots, LAHAINA RISING is the definitive documentary delving into the life-altering events of August 8th, 2023, when the historic town was devastated by the largest wildfire in American history. The fire obliterated the entire town, displacing over 13,000 residents who continue to face ongoing hardships. This film not only sheds light on the injustices faced by Lāhainā natives in the aftermath of the fire, but systemic issues posed to the people of Hawai'i for generations. Through devastation and destruction, a community comes together and rises from its ashes.



LESBIAN SPACE PRINCESS

HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
AUSTRALIA 2025 | ENGLISH | 87M  
DIRECTOR: EMMA HOUGH HOBBS, LEELA VARGHESE  
20-OCT 5:15PM | KHL • 16-NOV 5:00PM | PAL

Introverted lesbian space princess Saira embarks on a mission to rescue her ex from evil incel aliens, enlisting the help of an enby popstar and a cantankerous boomer spaceship. Brimming with colors as bright as its gay in-jokes, and shades of offbeat animated romps like ADVENTURE TIME and SCOTT PILGRIM, LESBIAN SPACE PRINCESS is a frenetic sci-fi-comedy musical that isn't afraid to 'lez' it all out.



LA GRAZIA

HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
ITALY 2025 | ITALIAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 131M  
DIRECTOR: PAOLO SORRENTINO  
21-OCT 1:00PM | KHL • 22-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

LA GRAZIA reunites director Paolo Sorrentino with actor Toni Servillo (THE GREAT BEAUTY). Servillo stars as Italian President Mariano De Santis, a leader nearing the end of his term. Nicknamed “Cemento armato” for his unyielding will, he now faces solitude, grief, and the burden of legacy. As he contemplates pardons and a decisive final bill, questions of power, morality, and humanity converge. Elegantly staged across Rome and Turin, Sorrentino delivers a poignant meditation on leadership, love, and the elusive grace of farewell.



LEFT-HANDED GIRL

HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN, NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
TAIWAN ROC 2025 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 109M  
DIRECTOR: SHIH-CHING TSOU  
22-OCT 6:30PM | KHL

After several years living in the countryside, a single mother and her two daughters return to Taipei to open a stall at a bustling night market. Each of them navigates this new urban environment in her own way while trying to preserve the fragile unity of their family. When it is discovered that the youngest daughter—l-Jing—is left-handed, her traditional grandfather condemns her “devil hand,” triggering the revelation of long-buried generational secrets. The directorial debut of Shih-Ching Tsou (a constant collaborator of co-writer, editor, and Oscar winner Sean Baker), LEFT-HANDED GIRL captures the crackling energy of Taipei with deft humor and emotional honesty.



LIVING THE LAND

HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA  
CHINA 2025 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 132M  
DIRECTOR: HUO MENG  
17-OCT 12:00PM | KHL • 18-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

In 1991, as China undergoes sweeping socio-economic changes that drive many to leave their rural villages in pursuit of work in the cities, 10-year-old Chuang, the third child of his family, must remain in the village due to family plans. Against the backdrop of modernization, as the advent of technology reshapes their traditional way of life, cycles of births, deaths, marriages, and funerals reveal the enduring weight of tradition and the pressures of balancing familial responsibilities with a rapidly changing world.







LONE SAMURAI

HAWAII PREMIERE  
HIFF EXTREME  
INDONESIA, JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 95M  
DIRECTOR: JOSH C. WALLER  
25-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 15-NOV 7:30PM | PAL

A violent and reckless samurai is shipwrecked on a remote island left without an avenue for his rage. After undertaking a spiritual journey to appease his aggressive thoughts, he finds himself abducted by external demons taking the form of cannibals, putting his sense of reality and deadly talents to the test. A blend of classic chanbara with some acid-trip BONE TOMAHAWK tinges, the film is both old school and existential with a stellar performance by Shogen as the eponymous LONE SAMURAI.



MAG MAG

HAWAII PREMIERE  
HIFF EXTREME, SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN  
JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M  
DIRECTOR: YURIYAN RETRIEVER  
18-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 23-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

MAG MAG reinvents Japanese horror with a wickedly comic twist. Directed by comedian and America’s Got Talent alum Yuriyan Retriever, the film blends romance, revenge, and supernatural terror. After Sanae’s lover is killed by the Mag Mag ghost, she vows vengeance—only to uncover a shocking betrayal at the heart of her grief. Part horror, part love story, this delirious genre mash-up transforms heartbreak into a darkly funny, unforgettable spectacle from an exciting new voice in Japanese global entertainment.



MĀLAMA MĀKUA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE  
MADE IN HAWAII  
HAWAII (UNITED STATES) 2025 | ENGLISH | 48M  
DIRECTOR: MIKEY INOUE  
18-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 28-OCT 6:30PM | KAP

Set in Hawai‘i’s Mākua Valley, MĀLAMA MĀKUA reveals a sacred land where Native Hawaiian creation stories root deeply in earth and sky. Once abundant with life, it was seized by the U.S. Army after Pearl Harbor and scarred by decades of military bombings. Today, Mākua stands as a symbol of resilience, fueling grassroots movements for its return to Native stewardship—an urgent call for peace, environmental justice, and the restoration of a place whose spirit endures.



LUCKY LU

HAWAII PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
UNITED STATES, CANADA 2025 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 103M  
DIRECTOR: LLOYD LEE CHOI  
19-OCT 4:15PM | KHL • 20-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

LUCKY LU unfolds within the frantic streets of New York’s Chinatown as Lu, a devoted immigrant delivery rider, prepares to reunite with his wife and daughter after years of separation. But when his e-bike is stolen hours before their arrival, Lu plunges into a desperate two-day odyssey to salvage his fragile life, exploring sacrifice, survival, and immigrant resilience.



MAGELLAN

HAWAII PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON THE PHILIPPINES, PANORAMA  
PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE, PHILIPPINES, TAIWAN ROC 2025 | PORTUGUESE, SPANISH, TAGALOG, FRENCH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 160M  
DIRECTOR: LAV DIAZ  
24-OCT 4:15PM | KHL • 25-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

Lav Diaz (NORTE, THE END OF HISTORY; EVOLUTION OF A FILIPINO FAMILY) delivers a monumental reimagining of the Age of Discovery, stripping myth from history to expose colonial ambition and human frailty. Gael García Bernal vanishes into the role of Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese explorer who led a Spanish-funded voyage to Southeast Asia in the 16th century. Visually breathtaking and politically charged, the film reframes conquest as a stark meditation on violence, obsession, and the wounds of empire.



MĀRAMA

HAWAII PREMIERE  
PACIFIC SHOWCASE  
NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA 2025 | MAORI, ENGLISH | 85M  
DIRECTOR: TARATOA STAPPARD  
22-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 23-OCT 6:30PM | KHL • 15-NOV 7:30PM | MGO

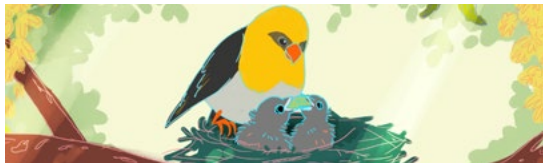
Set in 1859 North Yorkshire, MĀRAMA follows a young Māori woman determined to reclaim her identity in a foreign and hostile world. Blending gothic horror with cultural reclamation, the film explores the collision of heritage, trauma, and the supernatural. Directed by Taratoa Stappard and starring Ariāna Osborne, Toby Stephens, and Umi Myers, MĀRAMA forges a bold new vision of “Māori Gothic Horror,” delivering a darkly beautiful, bloody, and unforgettable tale rooted in Aotearoa’s cultural heartbeat.



NĀ WĀHINE BUDA KIAKAHI: THE LEGACY OF HAWAIIAN BUDDHIST WOMEN

WORLD PREMIERE  
MADE IN HAWAII  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, ‘ŌLELO HAWAII W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 42M  
DIRECTOR: ELENÍ AVENDANO  
18-OCT 1:30PM | KHL • 22-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

The legacy of Hawaiian women Buddhists is chronicled in this insightful documentary, beginning with the life of Mary Mikahala Robinson Foster, lady in waiting to Queen Lili‘uokalani. While many have visited Foster Botanical Gardens in Honolulu, little has been known of her work to perpetuate the practice of Buddhism, even beyond Hawai‘i, where she is revered in India and Sri Lanka for her contributions. Narrated by Puakea Nogelmeier and featuring Nola Nāhulu, Puanani Burgess, Norma Wong and Manu Aluli Meyer who bring contemporary practice of Buddhism into Hawaiian leadership.



A PARADISE LOST

WORLD PREMIERE  
MADE IN HAWAII  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, ‘ŌLELO HAWAII W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 89M  
DIRECTOR: LAURIE SUMIYE  
19-OCT 1:00PM | KHL • 21-OCT 1:30PM | KHL • 14-NOV 5:00PM | PAL

Laurie Sumiye’s film is an enchanting, yet harrowing tale of the yellow finch of Palila v. Hawai‘i, a landmark case where nature took humanity to court to stave off extinction. A PARADISE LOST unfolds through the POV of the animated Palila called Anuenue who stood as the client in 1979 court trials. The legal battle leveraged the Endangered Species Act to protect māmane forests where 2,500 Palila competed with introduced sheep & goats. He explains how they won in court, but are still in jeopardy; in 2024, only 300 Palila remain. Today, a Native Hawaiian conservationist struggles to save them amidst escalating threats of climate change, wildfires, introduced predators, diseases, and governmental neglect.



THE PRESIDENT’S CAKE

HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
IRAQ 2025 | ARABIC W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 105M  
DIRECTOR: HASAN HADI  
17-OCT 3:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 11:30AM | KHL

Winner of multiple awards at Cannes, THE PRESIDENT’S CAKE is a haunting fable set in 1990s Iraq under Saddam Hussein. When young Lamia is tasked with bringing a cake for her school’s compulsory celebration of the dictator’s birthday, she and her frail grandmother embark on a desperate quest for ingredients. Joined by a friend and her pet rooster, Lamia encounters cruelty, betrayal, and the ever-present shadow of tyranny in this neorealist tale of innocence crushed by authoritarian rule.



NIKA AND MADISON

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE  
INDIGENOUS LENS  
CANADA 2025 | ENGLISH | 87M  
DIRECTOR: EVA THOMAS  
17-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 25-OCT 1:15PM | KHL

In Eva Thomas’ urgent debut NIKA & MADISON, a violent clash with a police officer forces two estranged Indigenous cousins to flee, fearing they won’t be believed. As they navigate the fallout, the film becomes an intimate portrait of female friendship and cultural identity, revealing the fierce sacrifices loved ones make to protect one another—no matter the cost. Thoughtful and gripping, it’s a powerful exploration of loyalty, resilience, and the bonds that endure under pressure.



PIKE RIVER

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA 2025 | ENGLISH | 131M  
DIRECTOR: ROB SARKIES  
20-OCT 6:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 15-NOV 2:30PM | PAL

PIKE RIVER, starring Melanie Lynskey and Sonya Rockhouse, is a powerful dramatization of one of New Zealand’s worst industrial disasters. The film tells the true story of the 2010 Pike River Mine explosion, which killed 29 men. The devastating event serves as the catalyst for an unflinching fight for justice. As official investigations stall and company leaders evade accountability, the two women form an unbreakable bond and lead a tireless campaign to expose the truth and challenge institutional neglect.



THE PRICE OF PARADISE

WORLD PREMIERE  
MADE IN HAWAII  
HAWAII (UNITED STATES) 2024 | ENGLISH | 57M  
DIRECTOR: ANABELLA FUNK  
21-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 24-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 8-NOV 1:00PM | MACC • 15-NOV 5:00PM | MGO

At the age of 55, a woman discovered the truth about her identity and the existence of her birth family. Lindamae was born on the Island of Moloka‘i on the peninsula of Kalaupapa, where people suspected of having Hansen’s Disease were forcibly isolated. She was among the children of Kalaupapa taken away from their mothers at birth and placed for adoption. Lindamae and her newly discovered family set out on a journey to uncover the truth behind their forced separation. Their quest sheds light on a little-known chapter of Hawaiian history— that reflects the exploitation of the islands and the erasure of cultural identity.



# WE KNOW THE EARLY MORNINGS



Jenn Wright  
↳ GATE KI

Quinn Miyashiro  
↳ GATE KI



Junichiro Tsuchiya  
↳ MAGURO BROS

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FILM PROGRAM



## A PRIVATE LIFE

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

FRANCE 2025 | FRENCH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 107M

DIRECTOR: REBECCA ZLOTOWSKI

19-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 23-OCT 6:15PM | KHL

Jodie Foster delivers her first French-language performance as Dr. Lilian Steiner, an American psychoanalyst in Paris whose life unravels after a patient's sudden death. Suspecting the supposed suicide was murder, Lilian embarks on a risky investigation that collides with her own familial and professional turmoil. A PRIVATE LIFE is a playful yet sinister mystery that features a stellar French ensemble including Daniel Auteuil, Vincent Lacoste, Virginie Efira, and Mathieu Amalric.



## PUT YOUR SOUL ON YOUR HAND AND WALK

HAWAII PREMIERE

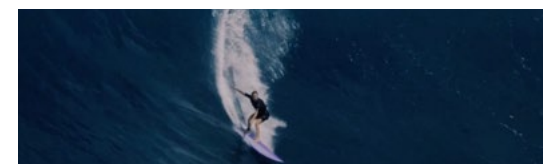
DOCUMENTARIES

FRANCE, STATE OF PALESTINE 2025 | ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARABIC W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M

DIRECTOR: SEPIDEH FARSI

17-OCT 12:30PM | KHL • 26-OCT 6:30PM | KHL

In a year-long exchange with Iranian filmmaker Sepideh Farsi, 25-year-old Palestinian photojournalist Fatma Hassona shares life under siege in Gaza—speaking of loss, dreams, and her love for cinema and literature. Just one day after the film's Cannes Film Festival announcement, Fatma and most of her family were killed by Israeli forces. Her mother survived. This intimate work is both testimony and elegy, preserving the voice of a young woman whose spirit refused to yield.



## RAISED BY WAVES

WORLD PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 76M

DIRECTOR: ALICE GU

26-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 8-NOV 5:00PM | KAH • 9-NOV 6:00PM | MACC

From award-winning filmmaker Alice Gu (THE DONUT KING), RAISED BY WAVES follows teenage surfing prodigies Justin (15), Eric (15), and "Baby" Steve Roberson (14) as they prepare to conquer Maui's legendary JAWS. Blending breathtaking ocean footage with intimate family moments, Gu captures a powerful coming-of-age story of courage, cultural heritage, and the enduring bonds between generations, celebrating the Robersons' legacy and the spirit that drives Hawaii's next generation of big-wave riders.



## PROJECT Y

US PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2025 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 111M

DIRECTOR: LEE HWAN

17-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 19-OCT 12:30PM | KHL

Set in a crime-ridden city obsessed with wealth, the film follows Mi-sun (Han So-hee) and Do-kyung (Jun Jong-seo from BURNING), inseparable friends saving to open a flower shop and escape their dangerous nightlife. Betrayal shatters their dream, pushing them into the criminal underworld where a hidden stash of gold tempts them toward a daring, perilous scheme. Balancing vulnerability with ferocity, Han and Jun deliver electrifying performances in this gripping tale of adventure, revenge, and sisterly devotion. PROJECT Y is a female-driven thriller with a potent mix of action, suspense, and emotional depth.



## QUEZON

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINES 2025 | FILIPINO, ENGLISH | 135M

DIRECTOR: JERROLD TAROG

26-OCT 2:30PM | KHL • 28-OCT 6:00PM | KAP

QUEZON is the third chapter in the successful "Bayaniverse" trilogy (HENERAL LUNA, GOYO), bringing to life the rise of Manuel L. Quezon, the lawyer and soldier who became President of the Philippine Commonwealth. Jericho Rosales makes his highly anticipated return to cinema in the title role, joined by Mon Confiado as Emilio Aguinaldo and Benjamin Alves as the younger Quezon. Iain Glen (GAME OF THRONES) portrays U.S. Governor-General Leonard Wood, whose fraught relationship with Quezon shaped the nation's struggle for independence. Epic in scope yet intimate in focus, the film dramatizes a pivotal moment in Philippine history, blending political intrigue, personal sacrifice, and the fight for nationhood.



## RANGGA & CINTA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

PANORAMA

INDONESIA 2025 | INDONESIAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 119M

DIRECTOR: RIRI RIZA

24-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 25-OCT 4:45PM | KHL

In this beloved Indonesian romance—reimagined as a 2025 musical—Cinta, a popular high school poet, is unexpectedly upstaged by the quiet, brooding Rangga. What begins as rivalry soon blossoms into a secret, soulful romance bound by poetry. But tensions with friends, jealous rivals, and Rangga's mysterious past threaten to tear them apart. Bittersweet and heartfelt, RANGGA & CINTA captures the intensity of young love, the pain of parting, and the enduring power of words.







## Locally grown Locally loved

Watch **Hawai'i's favorite lifestyle show**, and find out where to shop, dine, and explore!

Follow our @hinowdaily Instagram for the latest finds!



### REELING

HAWAI'I PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAI'I

HAWAI'I (UNITED STATES) 2024 | ENGLISH | 76M

DIRECTOR: YANA ALLIATA

17-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 20-OCT 12:00PM | KHL

After a life altering accident, Ryan struggles to fit in with old friends and family at a birthday luau on his family's homestead. As the pig slowly roasts in an imu pit and the partygoers cut loose, the celebration boils over when Ryan uncovers the missing memory of when his life took a tragic turn. Executive produced by Werner Herzog, Hawai'i born director Yana Alliata's first feature's idyllic North Shore bungalow setting soon feels claustrophobic, as she expertly cranks the tension to a series of microaggressions, building a simmering pressure cooker that's about to burst.

FilmHawaii

NICHOLS  
FAMILY FILM FUND

WHITE  
SANDS  
CULTURE



### RENOIR

HAWAI'I PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN, FRANCE, SINGAPORE, PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, QATAR 2025 |

ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES

DIRECTOR: CHIE HAYAKAWA

24-OCT 4:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 6:15PM | KHL

RENOIR, the second feature from acclaimed Japanese director Chie Hayakawa, is a tender, dreamlike meditation on childhood and grief. Following her award-winning debut PLAN 75—which won the Grand Prize at the 2023 Hawai'i International Film Festival—Hayakawa returns with a deeply personal and impressionistic story set in Tokyo, Summer 1987. Eleven-year-old Fuki (Yui Suzuki) retreats into her vivid inner world as her father, Keiji (Lily Franky), battles terminal cancer and her mother, Utako (Hikari Ichida), juggles caregiving with the demands of daily life. To cope with the looming presence of death and emotional isolation, Fuki becomes fascinated by telepathy, using imagination as a shield and a means of connection.

Hawai'i  
KON  
KAWA



### THE ROSE: COME BACK TO ME

HAWAI'I PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

UNITED STATES, SOUTH KOREA 2025 | ENGLISH, KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 86M

DIRECTOR: EUGENE YI

25-OCT 4:00PM | KHL • 29-OCT 6:30PM | KAP

THE ROSE: COME BACK TO ME is a heartfelt journey with South Korea's beloved indie-rock band, celebrating the music and friendships that captured the hearts of fans worldwide. Kim Woosung, Park Dojoon, Lee Hajoon, and Lee Jaehyeon reflect on their struggles, their time apart, and the joy of reuniting to create new music. From street busking in Seoul to sold-out international stages, this intimate documentary is a love letter to resilience, artistry, and the unbreakable bond between The Rose and their fans.

KBFD



### REMATHAU: PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN

WORLD PREMIERE

INDIGENOUS LENS

UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 75M

DIRECTOR: DANIEL H LIN

18-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 21-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 8-NOV 12:00PM | KAH

Nicole Yamase is the first Micronesian and Indigenous person to dive to the deepest part of the ocean, Challenger Deep, in the Marianas Trench. This groundbreaking achievement becomes the catalyst to expand this story to chronicle the Micronesian legacy to Pacific Islander navigation, spanning oceans, islands, and multiple generations into the deepest dive of all—a journey through identity, representation, and responsibility.



PACIFIC ISLANDERS  
MOVIE EDUCATION FUND



### RESURRECTION

HAWAI'I PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

CHINA, FRANCE 2025 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 156M

DIRECTOR: BI GAN

18-OCT 12:00PM | KHL • 21-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

In a future where dreams have vanished from human life, only one creature still drifts through the fading visions of the dreamworld. Invisible to all but a rare few, these illusions go unnoticed—until a woman with the gift to see them appears. Choosing to step into the creature's dreams, she embarks on a mysterious journey to uncover the hidden truth within, where reality and fantasy intertwine in haunting and unexpected ways. The latest from Chinese filmmaker Bi Gan who continues to test the limits of his cinematic sandbox.



### ROSEMEAD

HAWAI'I PREMIERE

WELLNESS CINEMA

UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M

DIRECTOR: ERIC LIN

21-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 7:30PM | KHL

An ailing woman is stricken by the discovery of her teenage son's violent obsessions and must go to great lengths to protect him, and possibly others, in this portrait of a Chinese American family. Starring Lucy Liu in a "transformative, revelatory" performance, ROSEMEAD confronts the intersections of mental health, cultural silence, and the burdens of immigrant motherhood in America. Unflinching and deeply compassionate, the film explores the quiet tragedies hidden in plain sight, offering a powerful meditation on love, fear, and the cost of survival in a fractured world. Based on true events.



HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES





THE SECRET AGENT

HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
BRAZIL, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, GERMANY 2025 | PORTUGUESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 160M  
DIRECTOR: KLEBER MENDONÇA FILHO  
22-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 3:30PM | KHL

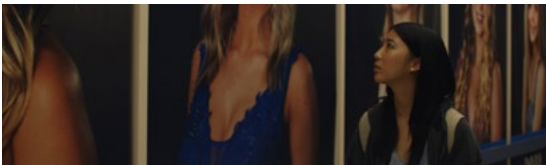
Brazil, 1977. Fleeing danger, technology expert Marcelo arrives in Recife during carnival, hoping to reunite with his son—only to find the city rife with unrest. In THE SECRET AGENT, Kleber Mendonça Filho crafts a sun-drenched political noir, blending historical intrigue, Brazilian folklore, and cinematic flourishes like split screens and diopter shots. Anchored by Wagner Moura’s magnetic performance, this slow-burn thriller immerses viewers in a tense, visually rich portrait of a nation in turmoil and a man caught in its currents.



SHAKTI

HAWAII PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
NEPAL, UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, NEPALI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 95M  
DIRECTOR: NANI SAHRA WALKER  
18-OCT 4:45PM | KHL • 23-OCT 4:30PM | KHL

In Kathmandu, a mischievous nine-year-old’s sudden mysterious illness drives her single mother to seek help from a shaman, uncovering buried trauma that binds them both. The story of SHAKTI is inspired by Nepal’s outdated laws that fail to protect Dalit women and girls from rampant sexual violence. Through the lens of a mother-daughter bond, it explores shattered innocence, resilience, and the pursuit of justice in a society divided between tradition and modernity, offering a powerful testament to healing and hope.



SLANTED

HAWAII PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M  
DIRECTOR: AMY WANG  
18-OCT 4:30PM | KHL • 25-OCT 4:30PM | KHL

The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Joan Huang is determined to be popular at her American high school, no matter the cost. Determined to be crowned Prom Queen, Joan confronts what she is willing to sacrifice to fit in. As she navigates the pressures of race, cultural erasure, and internalized bias, Joan undergoes a drastic procedure to become white with the hopes of being accepted.



SENTIMENTAL VALUE

HAWAII PREMIERE  
WELLNESS CINEMA  
NORWAY, FRANCE, DENMARK, GERMANY 2025 | ENG, NORWEGIAN W/ENG SUBTITLES | 134M  
DIRECTOR: JOACHIM TRIER  
17-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 23-OCT 2:00PM | KHL

In Joachim Trier’s follow-up to THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD, Renate Reinsve stars as Nora, a celebrated actress facing a personal crisis after her mother’s death. Her bond with her therapist sister Agnes (Inga lbsdatter Lilleaas) is shaken by the return of their estranged father Gustav (Stellan Skarsgård), a once-renowned director who arrives with a script written for her. When Nora refuses and he casts an American star (Elle Fanning) instead, both reconciliation and her sense of self hang in the balance. Winner of the Grand Prix at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, Trier’s latest is a piercing study of family, identity, and the wounds art can open or heal.



SIRÂT

HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
FRANCE, SPAIN 2025 | SPANISH, FRENCH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 115M  
DIRECTOR: OLIVER LAXE  
23-OCT 4:45PM | KHL • 26-OCT 5:15PM | KHL

In the mountains of southern Morocco, a father and son search for Mar — their missing daughter and sister — last seen at a rave months ago. Among pounding beats and dust, they follow a group of ravers to one final party deep in the desert. As the journey pushes them into scorching, unforgiving terrain, hope collides with survival in SIRÂT — a visceral, unapologetic cinematic experience of man versus nature’s cruelty, in the vein of Sorcerer and Mad Max, best approached with as little information as possible.



SNOW LEOPARD SISTERS

HAWAII PREMIERE  
INDIGENOUS LENS  
UNITED KINGDOM 2024 | ENGLISH, NEPALI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 96M  
DIRECTOR: SONAM CHOEKYI LAMA, BEN AYERS, ANDREW LYNCH  
19-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 11:30AM | KHL

An unlikely friendship between two Indigenous women, set against a dramatic decline in the snow leopard population. When local conservationist Tshiring Lhamu Lama learns about a snow leopard killing a family’s entire goat herd, she returns home to convince the family not to kill the animal in retaliation. The family’s young daughter, Tenzin Bhuti Gurung, accepts an offer to apprentice with Tshiring to escape an arranged marriage, and the pair travel together across the spectacular Himalayan landscape in search of the mysterious snow leopard. Can they find their own voice amidst centuries-old patriarchy, and save snow leopards despite a conservation industry failing to deliver change?



SONS OF THE NEON NIGHT

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2025 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 125M  
DIRECTOR: JUNO MAK  
25-OCT 7:00PM | KHL

A decade in the making, Juno Mak’s SONS OF THE NEON NIGHT is a sprawling Hong Kong crime epic drenched in neon and moral ambiguity. When a psychiatrist becomes entangled with troubled youths, his path collides with triads, drug lords, and corrupt powers lurking in the shadows. Featuring an all-star cast including Tony Leung Ka-fai, Louis Koo, Takeshi Kaneshiro, and Lau Ching-wan, this operatic noir explores loneliness, morality, and survival in a city on the brink of collapse.



STEP OUT

WORLD PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON OKINAWA  
JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 96M  
DIRECTOR: KAZUHIRO TAIRA, YUKIHIKO TSUTSUMI  
19-OCT 11:15AM | KHL • 20-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

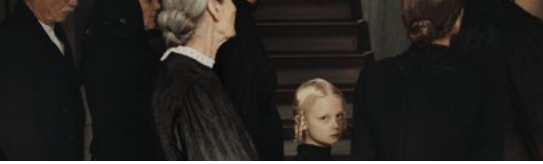
In Okinawa, teenager Teruya Yō lives with his cheerful single mother Akane and younger sister Mai. After falling for a dance student named Lisa, Yō discovers a passion for dancing, supported by his mother’s encouragement. When a music producer uncle reveals his father has died, Yō confronts buried emotions and auditions for a chance to leave. Does he decide to pursue his dancing dreams in the Big Smoke of Tokyo, or will he decide to stay to be with family and friends in his island home? The latest film from Kazuhiro Taira (MIRACLE CITY KOZA, HIFF 2022).



TANGATA PAI (GOOD PEOPLE) - PART 2

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE  
SPECIAL SCREENING, PACIFIC SHOWCASE  
NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA 2025 | ENGLISH, MAORI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 179M  
DIRECTOR: KIEL MCNAUGHTON  
25-OCT 6:30PM | KHL

Amid a land occupation in Aotearoa, five lives collide – an activist musician, a conflicted cop, a grieving nurse, a struggling father, and a torn politician – each fighting for justice, family, and identity. As tensions rise and a terrorist attack shatters their world, they must confront the cost of being good people in a country still reckoning with its past.



SOUND OF FALLING

HAWAII PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
GERMANY 2025 | GERMAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 149M  
DIRECTOR: MASCHA SCHILINSKI  
20-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 24-OCT 7:00PM | KHL

Over the course of a century, as four girls from different time periods experience their youth on a German farm, their lives become intertwined until time seems to dissolve, crafting a hauntingly lyrical portrait of girlhood across time. As time blurs and generations echo one another, the film becomes a meditation on memory, identity, and the quiet, enduring presence of place. Directed by Mascha Schilinski, SOUND OF FALLING won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival.



TANGATA PAI (GOOD PEOPLE) - PART 1

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE  
SPECIAL SCREENING, PACIFIC SHOWCASE  
NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA 2025 | ENGLISH, MAORI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 179M  
DIRECTOR: KIEL MCNAUGHTON  
24-OCT 6:30PM | KHL

Amid a land occupation in Aotearoa, five lives collide – an activist musician, a conflicted cop, a grieving nurse, a struggling father, and a torn politician – each fighting for justice, family, and identity. As tensions rise and a terrorist attack shatters their world, they must confront the cost of being good people in a country still reckoning with its past.



THIRD ACT

HAWAII PREMIERE  
WELLNESS CINEMA  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 91M  
DIRECTOR: TADASHI NAKAMURA  
25-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 12:30PM | KHL

Generations of artists call Robert “Bob” Nakamura “the godfather of Asian American media,” but filmmaker Tadashi Nakamura calls him Dad. What begins as a documentary about his father’s career takes a turn with a Parkinson’s Disease diagnosis, and evolves into an exploration on art, activism, grief, and fatherhood. THIRD ACT is a document of Bob’s incredible legacy, and also a passing of the baton as Tad becomes the new steward of the “family business” — amplifying community voices rooted in identity, activism and cultural pride.







**TOKYO TAXI**  
WORLD PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN  
JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 103M  
DIRECTOR: YOJI YAMADA  
23-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 26-OCT 3:00PM | KHL • 28-OCT 6:15PM | KAP  
In TOKYO TAXI, 94-year-old director Yoji Yamada (TWILIGHT SAMURAI, TORA-SAN) brings his signature warmth and humanity to a story of fleeting connections in the heart of the city. SMAP’s Takuya Kimura plays Masato, a weary taxi driver whose late-night fare—an elderly woman revisiting the landmarks of her past, played by Chieko Baisho (PLAN 75)—turns into an unexpected journey of memory, reflection, and renewal. Gentle and deeply moving, the film is a meditation on how strangers can change one another’s lives in a single night.



**THE WAVES WILL CARRY US**  
WORLD PREMIERE  
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN  
TAIWAN ROC 2025 | MANDARIN, MALAY, CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 99M  
DIRECTOR: LAU KEK-HUAT  
18-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 11:00AM | KHL  
When Ah Yao returns to Malaysia for his father’s funeral, he expects mourning, not chaos. Religious authorities interrupt, claiming his father secretly converted to Islam and must be buried in a Muslim cemetery. Determined to honor their traditions, Ah Yao and his siblings embark on a darkly comic quest to reclaim the body, confronting family secrets and cultural tensions along the way. The film is the latest narrative feature from acclaimed Malaysia-born, Taiwan-based filmmaker Kek-huat Lau.



**A USEFUL GHOST**  
US PREMIERE  
PANORAMA  
THAILAND, FRANCE, SINGAPORE, GERMANY 2025 | ENGLISH, THAI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 130M  
DIRECTOR: RATCHAPOOM BOONBUNCHACHOKE  
19-OCT 11:30AM | KHL • 26-OCT 6:45PM | KHL  
March is mourning his wife Nat (Thai superstar Davika Hoorne) who has recently passed away due to dust pollution. He discovers her spirit has returned by possessing the vacuum cleaner. Being disturbed by a ghost that appeared after a worker’s death shut down their factory, his family reject the unconventional human-ghost relationship. Trying to convince them of their love, Nat offers to cleanse the factory. To become a useful ghost, she must first get rid of the useless ones.



**THE WAY WE ARE**  
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG, SPECIAL SCREENING  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2008 | CANTONESE W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 90M  
DIRECTOR: ANN HUI  
26-OCT 2:00PM | KHL  
Set in Tin Shui Wai, THE WAY WE ARE is a tender portrait of everyday life in Hong Kong. A widowed supermarket worker and her teenage son find resilience through work, family, and small acts of kindness. Anchored by Nina Paw’s luminous, Best Actress–winning performance, Ann Hui’s film also won Best Director and Best Picture, earning widespread acclaim. With gentle realism and compassion, it reveals dignity within ordinary struggles and remains a landmark of contemporary Hong Kong cinema. Nina Paw will be in attendance for this film to participate in an extended Q&A.



**'ULU 'ULU PRESENTS:  
SPOTLIGHT ON GEORGE TAHARA**  
Celebrate pioneering Hawai’i filmmaker George Tahara, whose lens captured the islands’ latter-20th-century story through film—all vivid snapshots of history. Featuring his acclaimed Hawaiian Legends and other shorts, an after-film discussion will follow to discuss his enduring cultural impact.

19-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

**KOLEA THE MOON CHILD (1975)**  
DIRECTOR: GEORGE TAHARA

**MAUNALAHA HAWAIIAN SETTLEMENT IN  
FOREST RESERVE (1943)**  
DIRECTOR: GEORGE TAHARA

**SON OF LONO (1972)**  
DIRECTOR: GEORGE TAHARA

**THE STORY OF HONOLULU  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER (1970)**  
DIRECTOR: GEORGE TAHARA



**DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS SHORTS**  
This exceptional shorts program is all about the duality of life and death and how endings can actually mark the beginning of something new.

18-OCT 7:15PM | KHL  
25-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

**BARLEBAS**  
DIRECTOR: MALU JANSSEN

**LINDA, LINDA!**  
DIRECTOR: KIYAN AGADJANI

**LONG’S LONG LOST & MINI MART**  
DIRECTOR: JULIAN DOAN

**THE LAST DANCE**  
DIRECTOR: HAYDEN MCLEAN

**THE SENTRY**  
DIRECTOR: JAKE WACHTEL

**XOLO**  
DIRECTOR: MATTHEW SERRANO



**ON THE OTHER ISLAND:  
NEW FILMS AND NEW VISIONS FROM  
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
Brincando el Charco (Jumping Across the Pond) is a new film program at the Centro Cultural de España Santo Domingo. This curated program creates a poetic space for debate, connecting national cinema with other traditions, exploring alternatives to industrial production. With HOCCI after-film discussion.

26-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

**ARIEL**  
DIRECTOR: MIGUEL BATISTA

**CAMINO DE VUELTA**  
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER VÁSQUEZ

**CAMPANARIO**  
DIRECTOR: SAMUEL CARABALLO

**CUMPLEAÑOS EN SAN CARLOS**  
DIRECTOR: JAIME GUERRA

**DEPEYIZÉ**  
DIRECTOR: PAMELA BENCOSME

**DIABLO**  
DIRECTOR: RICARDO ARIEL TORIBIO

**LA ADMINISTRACIÓN DE RUBIO**  
DIRECTOR: CAMILA ENCARNACIÓN

**SIN TÍTULO**  
DIRECTOR: SOFIA, JAMATTE







ENDLESS NIGHTS SHORTS

Settle into the spooky season with these unsettling oddities! Full of screams, laughs and gasps.

17-OCT 8:15PM | KHL  
24-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

DIEU EST TIMIDE (GOD IS SHY)  
DIRECTOR: JOCELYN CHARLES

FISHMONGER  
DIRECTOR: NEIL FERRON

MAGAI-GAMI  
DIRECTOR: NORIHIRO NIWATSUKINO

TAGA  
DIRECTOR: JILL MARIE SACHS

THE LITTLES  
DIRECTOR: ANDREW DUPLESSIE

WANNA DIE WANNA KILL  
DIRECTOR: JAEHEE JEONG

WHITCH  
DIRECTOR: HOKU UCHIYAMA



ENVIRONMENTAL+ : CURRENTS

Three unique and engaging mid-length films, all with environmental ties. From a colonizing water plant choking a beloved lake, to a recently populated island and the challenges facing its new endemic peoples, to a group of grandmothers banding together to fight against coal ash pollution in their town. These three striking stories are not to be missed!

19-OCT 5:00PM | KHL  
24-OCT 5:00PM | KHL

BLOOMING  
DIRECTOR: MARINA RUSSO VILLANI, VICTOR MISSUD

SALLIE'S ASHES  
DIRECTOR: BRENNAN ROBIDEAUX

SI LA ISLA QUIERE (ISLAND WILLING)  
DIRECTOR: CECE KING



ENVIRONMENTAL SHORTS

An array of engaging environmental shorts from around the world. Covering a range of climate-related issues including controlled burning, reef regeneration and the various impacts of climate change. These stories naturally feature Indigenous communities who are often more directly impacted by these issues, placing them at the forefront of the fight for a clean, sustainable and safe environmental future.

19-OCT 11:00AM | KHL  
20-OCT 2:00PM | KHL

HEAT ME  
DIRECTOR: KELLY SARRI

INTERTIDAL  
DIRECTOR: PAUL B. KIM

ISHAK  
DIRECTOR: MAALIAH PAPILLION

NGARRIDURNDENG KURED  
DIRECTOR: DEAN YIBARBUK, EMMA MASTERS

QOTZUŊI  
DIRECTOR: GASTON ZILBERMAN, MICHAEL SALAMA

THE OPENING ADDRESS  
DIRECTOR: KONWANAHKTOTHA ALVERA SARGENT & JESS LOWE CHAVERRI

ZAG, TALL TREES HAVE DEEP ROOTS  
DIRECTOR: CLARA WETZEL



EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

Experimental films that push the boundaries of traditional filmmaking. Whether it be non-linear storytelling, abstract animation, or stories with non-traditional visual language, these films take on unique forms and demonstrate how there are many different ways of telling a story.

20-OCT 5:30PM | KHL  
26-OCT 12:00PM | KHL

A VERY STRAIGHT NECK  
DIRECTOR: NEO SORA

FORCE TIMES DISPLACEMENT  
DIRECTOR: ANGEL WU

I WAS THERE  
DIRECTOR: KAMILA KUC

THE MOTHER'S VOICE  
DIRECTOR: KAGAW OMIN (NITAYA LAN)

THROUGH THE WINDOW  
DIRECTOR: DANIEL STOPA

WATER SPORTS  
DIRECTOR: WHAMMY ALCAZAREN

YO, YOYO  
DIRECTOR: WEN JIANG



FILAM FRAMES - SHORT FILMS FROM THE DIASPORA

A vibrant showcase of Filipino American short films—both narrative and documentary—exploring family bonds, intergenerational connections, and the pursuit of identity and fleeting fame across the FiAm experience.

21-OCT 6:00PM | KHL  
22-OCT 3:30PM | KHL  
2-NOV 6:00PM | KCC

ALONG COMES LARRY, THE LARRY RAMOS STORY  
DIRECTOR: RICK QUAN

EAST DID MEET WEST  
DIRECTOR: AIKO LOZAR

MAYBE IT'S JUST THE RAIN  
DIRECTOR: REINA BONTA

MYSELF WHEN I AM REAL  
DIRECTOR: ANGELINE GRAGASIN



GLIMMERS SHORTS

Films that offer singular insights into internal worlds - glimmers of hope, glimmers of resilience, glimmers of life.

19-OCT 8:00PM | KHL  
26-OCT 3:45PM | KHL

GLORIA  
DIRECTOR: KIM BLANCK

LET'S SETTLE THIS!  
DIRECTOR: JACK WOON

LITTLE REBELS CINEMA CLUB  
DIRECTOR: KHOZY RIZAL

ROCKED BY THE WIND  
DIRECTOR: HSIAO-SHAN HUANG

SOMEWHERE TO BE  
DIRECTOR: CHRISTY CHAN

SORRY I MISSED YOUR CALL  
DIRECTOR: HAE JI CHO

SWIM SISTAS  
DIRECTOR: CATHERINE JOY WHITE

THE SINGERS  
DIRECTOR: SAM DAVIS







HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH  
SHOWCASE SHORTS

Presented by Hawai'i Pacific Health, this shorts program aligns with HPH's mission to build a healthier Hawai'i, celebrating the importance of 'ohana and community.

21-OCT 4:30PM | KHL  
1-NOV 6:00PM | KCC  
9-NOV 1:00PM | MACC

INDIGENOUS NĀ'AU  
DIRECTOR: KU'ULEI KAILI

NOHO'ANA FARM  
DIRECTOR: DE ANDRE MAKAKOA TAKAHASHI

TWISTED BRAID  
DIRECTOR: RICKY-THOMAS SERIKAWA

HUI O WĀA KAULUA  
DIRECTOR: MATT YAMASHITA

INDIGENOUS SHORTS

A selection of stories that center various Indigenous populations around the globe, showcasing different ways of life and the unifying fight for land sovereignty and cultural preservation.

18-OCT 12:30PM | KHL  
22-OCT 12:30PM | KHL

AKABABURU: EXPRESSION OF ASTONISHMENT  
DIRECTOR: IRATI DOJURA LANDA YAGARÍ

BRAIDS  
DIRECTOR: ELISE BEERS

RE-IMAGINING OUR FUTURES: BIRTHING  
DIRECTOR: KIMBERLEY BENJAMIN

REDBIRD  
DIRECTOR: EMMA BARROW

SONGS OF THE HIGHLANDS  
DIRECTOR: SARAH LOIS DORAI

THIN PLACES  
DIRECTOR: BRIT HENSEL

TIGER  
DIRECTOR: LOREN WATERS

TWO OLD WOMEN  
DIRECTOR: PRINCESS DAAZHRAII JOHNSON

KEIKI SHORTS

A return to kid's animation mornings! Fun animated films for children from around the world. Recommended for keiki under 12 years old. This program is also part of our Youth Education (YES) program.

18-OCT 10:30AM | KHL

CHRISTOPHER & THE BUG  
DIRECTOR: VANESSA ESTEVES, KEVIN MICALLEF

FOREVERGREEN  
DIRECTOR: NATHAN ENGELHARDT, JEREMY SPEARS

MY NEIGHBOR  
DIRECTOR: DOMINIC CAROLA

POW!  
DIRECTOR: JOEY CLIFT

SNOW BEAR  
DIRECTOR: AARON BLAISE

TANKHA  
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER MORUO, MARKEL MARTYNOV

WEDNESDAYS WITH GRAMPS  
DIRECTOR: CHRIS & JUSTIN COPELAND

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES.

MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS

A dynamic collection of shorts made in Hawai'i, featuring voices from kama'āina and continent-based storytellers, offering diverse perspectives on the islands' culture, landscapes, and the many ways that life in the 808 shapes identity and community.

20-OCT 7:30PM | KHL  
21-OCT 3:30PM | KHL  
29-OCT 6:15PM | KAP  
2-NOV 2:00PM | KCC  
8-NOV 2:30PM | KAH  
16-NOV 12:00PM | PAL  
16-NOV 2:30PM | MGO

THE ARRANGEMENTS  
DIRECTOR: SONNY GANADEN

BIRDS OF PARADISE  
DIRECTOR: VERONICA RUTLEDGE

BREAKING THE TIDE  
DIRECTOR: KATRIN YORK

DASHER  
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER BOCCHIERI

SLACK TIDE  
DIRECTOR: CODY KAHAKU, KURT HOFFMANN

WHAT WE CARRY  
DIRECTOR: LINDSAY WATSON

FilmHawai'i. NICHOLS  
filmoffice.hawaii.gov FAMILY FILM FUND

MĀHŪ: A TRANS-PACIFIC LOVE  
LETTER + SHORTS

Honor the rich spectrum of the Māhū experience

17-OCT 6:00PM | KHL  
26-OCT 12:15PM | KHL

MĀHŪ: A TRANS-PACIFIC LOVE LETTER  
DIRECTOR: LISETTE MARIE FLANARY

ATA PŪAO  
DIRECTOR: ALLIE HOWELL

KAPO MA'I LELE (KAPO AND HER FLYING  
LADY PARTS)  
DIRECTOR: HINALEIMOANA WONG-KALU, LAURA MARGULIES

FilmHawai'i. NICHOLS  
filmoffice.hawaii.gov FAMILY FILM FUND

MĀLAMA MĀKUA + SHORTS

Defying imperialism while embracing Native traditions to shape the future

18-OCT 6:00PM | KHL  
28-OCT 6:30PM | KAP

MĀLAMA MĀKUA  
DIRECTOR: MIKEY INOUE

BACK TO THE LOKO  
DIRECTOR: RICKY-THOMAS SERIKAWA

HO'OMAU  
DIRECTOR: HANA MCEVILLY

MEMORY AS MISSIONARY POSITION  
DIRECTOR: BRIGITTE LEILANI AXELRODE

FilmHawai'i. NICHOLS  
filmoffice.hawaii.gov FAMILY FILM FUND





# SHORTS PROGRAMS

## METAMORPHOSIS SHORTS

Seven films from seven different countries! This diverse shorts program is all about transformations, both physical and metaphorical.

18-OCT 4:00PM | KHL  
25-OCT 11:30AM | KHL

11:11  
DIRECTOR: MAHNOOR EUCEPH

EVER AFTER  
DIRECTOR: HELEN HIDEKO

FACELESS CITY  
DIRECTOR: RIKO MURAKAMI

FLAT  
DIRECTOR: SURI PARMAR

MOTI  
DIRECTOR: YASH SARAF

MURMURATION  
DIRECTOR: JANNEKE SWINKELS, TIM FRIJSINGER

THE POISON CAT  
DIRECTOR: TIAN GUAN

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES.

## O MOTHER WHERE ART THOU SHORTS

A special program all about mothers and motherhood. Varied stories that explore the decision whether to become a mother, and the multifaceted identities that come with motherhood. Sometimes joyful, sometimes sobering, motherhood is complicated.

19-OCT 2:00PM | KHL  
22-OCT 5:45PM | KHL

DEAR MAE  
DIRECTOR: JOSIAH MENDOZA, MONA PATTERSON, ZOIE FRANKLIN

GIVING MOM THE TALK  
DIRECTOR: VIDHYA IYER

HOMEWORK  
DIRECTOR: JAMIE DISPIRITO

MAMA MICRA  
DIRECTOR: REBECCA BLÖCHER

MILK BABY  
DIRECTOR: KRISTEN GERWECK DIAZ

MY WONDERFUL LIFE  
DIRECTOR: CALLEEN KOH

OVARY-ACTING  
DIRECTOR: IDA MELUM

YA HANOUNI  
DIRECTOR: LYNA TADOUNT, SOFIAN CHOUAIB

HAWAIIAN  
AIRLINES.

## PACIFIC ISLANDER SHOWCASE SHORTS

The premiere showcase of new Pasifika short films, presenting Sundance selections, international premieres from across the Diaspora.

17-OCT 7:45PM | KHL  
24-OCT 7:15PM | KHL

CHERRIES  
DIRECTOR: JAIMEE POIPOI

CHIMERA  
DIRECTOR: DANIEL CANTU

GRACE  
DIRECTOR: JANA PARK

IN CONVERSATION WITH DAN TAULAPAPA MCMULLIN  
DIRECTOR: ANGELIQUE KALANI AXELRODE

INVISIBLE DRAGONS  
DIRECTOR: VICTORIA BOULT

KŪI  
DIRECTOR: KAHU KAIHA

PICKING CREW  
DIRECTOR: TANU GAGO

STRANGER, BROTHER  
DIRECTOR: ANNELISE HICKEY



## our Pasifika filmmaking legacy

1991

PIC is established.

1993

PIC funds first 11 films.

1999

PIC launches the Media Fund.

2004

Premiere of PIC-funded *The Land Has Eyes*, Rotuma's first feature film. Directed by Vilsoni Hereniko.

2014

PBS series *Family Ingredients* wins Emmy. A Co-production of PIC & Rock Salt Media.

2005

PIC presents *Whale Rider* for its PBS premiere.

2020

PIC-funded *Every Day in Kaimuki* becomes first feature-length film by a Native Hawaiian to premiere at Sundance. Directed by Alikea Tengan.

2020

PIC-funded *Kapaemahu* is the first Native Hawaiian animated short to make Oscars shortlist. Directed by Joe Wilson, Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu & Dean Hamer.

2010

PIC becomes sponsor of HIFF's Pacific Showcase.

2012

*Pacific Heartbeat* premieres on PBS.

1981

The Hawai'i International Film Festival (HIFF) is established.

2016

PIC-funded *In Football We Trust* wins Emmy. Directed by Tony Vainuku & Erika Cohn.

2017

Taika Waititi is first recipient of the PIC-sponsored HIFF Trailblazer Award, now named the Leanne K. Ferrer Trailblazer Award.

2017

PIC launches the Digital Shorts Fund.

2024

PIC launches the Leanne K. Ferrer Fellowship, named in honor of the late former ED of PIC.

2020

*Pacific Pulse* premieres on YouTube.



Learn more and support Pacific Islander storytelling.  
www.piccom.org | @picpacific



# SHORTS PROGRAMS



## QUEER SHORTS

A special LGBTQIA+ shorts program that explores expanding identities and the tender journey of staying true to yourself.

20-OCT 8:00PM | KHL  
23-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LIBRARY  
DIRECTOR: SYRA MCCARTHY

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG / 如你所愿  
DIRECTOR: HAO ZHOU

DANDELION  
DIRECTOR: FIONA OBERLINCA

DRAGFOX  
DIRECTOR: LISA OTT

GRANDMA NAI WHO PLAYED FAVORITES  
DIRECTOR: CHHEANGKEA

SWEET TALKIN' GUY  
DIRECTOR: DYLAN WARDWELL, SPENCER WARDWELL

THE FISHBOWL GIRL  
DIRECTOR: HUNG YI WU



## UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE

A showcase of outstanding original shorts created by student filmmakers from post-secondary schools across Hawai'i, featuring works from Hawai'i Community College, Kapi'olani Community College, Leeward Community College, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and University of Hawai'i West O'ahu.

21-OCT 6:30PM | KHL

A LINE TO DRAW  
DIRECTOR: RIVER RAINBOW O'MAHONEY HAGG

CLEAN.EXE  
DIRECTOR: LUCAS STEVENS

E LEI NŌ AU I KO ALOHA  
DIRECTOR: ANDREA LONG

LAST DANCE  
DIRECTOR: EMMY OKINAKA

REMINISCENCE  
DIRECTOR: RYAN-DAVE RIVERA

SHRIMPTON: SHRIMPPLY THE BEST  
DIRECTOR: KATRINA CERIA, KAZUO SALVADOR, DILLON VALENZUELA

TAO PO  
DIRECTOR: DARREN SISCAR

THE REMOVER  
DIRECTOR: HUNTER DARU

THE RUNNING MAN.  
DIRECTOR: GRAYSON "GK" KOSTRON

TWO SIDES OF PARADISE  
DIRECTOR: SARA BREKKE, HANNAH PARKUS

WINNER  
DIRECTOR: TIFFANY LIU



## VIETNAMESE JOURNEYS – MARKING FIFTY YEARS OF MEMORY, MIGRATION, AND RESILIENCE

Two powerful Vietnamese American documentaries reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, exploring memory, resilience, mass media and the enduring echoes of war.

25-OCT 6:15PM | KHL  
26-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

ON HEALING LAND, BIRDS PERCH  
(ĐẤT LÀNH CHIM ĐẬU)  
DIRECTOR: NAJA PHAM LOCKWOOD

WE WERE THE SCENERY  
DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER RADCLIFF



## WEBS WE WEAVE SHORTS

An eclectic collection of nine films that explore the complex relationships between people, how we are all interconnected, and the artificial constructs society places between us.

22-OCT 6:45PM | KHL  
24-OCT 2:00PM | KHL

COLORS OF THE SKY'S END  
DIRECTOR: CATHERINE T. NGUYEN

FLAVOR OF THE MONTH  
DIRECTOR: NATHAN XIA

FRIENDS  
DIRECTOR: ZIHAO YU

GEORGE  
DIRECTOR: AARON CRAIG, ALEX CRAIG

LITTLE SHREW (SNOWFLAKE)  
DIRECTOR: KATE BUSH

NEWBIES  
DIRECTOR: KIMIKO MATSUDA-LAWRENCE, MEGAN TRUFANT TILLMAN

SHE IS GUILTY  
DIRECTOR: YU ZIHAO

THAT SPLIT-UP PLACE  
DIRECTOR: INÉS PINTOR SIERRA, PABLO SANTIDRIÁN

THE TRUCK  
DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH RAO



## WELLNESS SHORTS

Nine powerful stories centered around mental health. From trauma responses to coping mechanisms, taking care of your mental health in this changing world has never been more important. This program is presented by Fields Psychiatric Consultants

17-OCT 5:30PM | KHL  
18-OCT 11:30AM | KHL

2392 MILES  
DIRECTOR: KAI HO

ĀYÍ  
DIRECTOR: JIAYI LI

DEARS IN THE HEADLIGHTS  
DIRECTOR: JULIA JANSCH

LIVESTREAMS WITH GRANDMAPUZZLES  
DIRECTOR: EMILY SHESKIN

SHORELINE  
DIRECTOR: PAUL OVERSTROM

SILVER NEEDLE  
DIRECTOR: J WANG

THEY CALL ME THE TATTOO WITCH  
DIRECTOR: LINDSAY NYMAN

TINY TREE CONCERT  
DIRECTOR: DAVID NEPTUNE

TO DANCE AGAIN  
DIRECTOR: MG EVANGELISTA



## SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

SALVADOR  
DIRECTOR: HENRY IAN CUSICK

PLAYS WITH: REELING  
18-OCT 7:00PM | KHL  
20-OCT 12:00PM | KHL



PRESENTED BY THE VILCEK FOUNDATION

New American Perspectives shines a spotlight on immigrant artists and filmmakers. Supported by the Vilcek Foundation in partnership with Hawai'i International Film Festival (HIFF), this program honors the powerful impact of diversity on film and cinema in the United States. The program centers immigrant artists' voices and experiences through talks and events available to festival attendees and the public.

This year's New American Perspectives programs include an artist master class, film screenings, Q&As with immigrant filmmakers, and a panel discussion with our filmmakers.

2025 FILMS & EVENTS



NAP FEATURE EVENT  
LEFT-HANDED GIRL WITH SHIH-CHING TSOU

HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
TAIWAN ROC 2025 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 109M  
DIRECTOR: SHIH-CHING TSOU  
22-OCT 6:30PM | KHL

After several years living in the countryside, a single mother and her two daughters return to Taipei to open a stall at a bustling night market. Each of them navigates this new urban environment in her own way while trying to preserve the fragile unity of their family. When it is discovered that the youngest daughter—I-Jing—is left-handed, her traditional grandfather condemns her “devil hand,” triggering the revelation of long-buried generational secrets. The directorial debut of Shih-Ching Tsou (a constant collaborator of co-writer, editor, and Oscar winner Sean Baker), LEFT-HANDED GIRL captures the crackling energy of Taipei with deft humor and emotional honesty.



KY NAM INN  
US PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
VIETNAM 2025 | VIETNAMESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 140M  
DIRECTOR: LEON LE  
19-OCT 2:15PM | KHL • 26-OCT 5:00PM | KHL



LUCKY LU  
HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
UNITED STATES, CANADA 2025 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 103M  
DIRECTOR: LLOYD LEE CHOI  
19-OCT 4:15PM | KHL • 20-OCT 1:00PM | KHL



SHAKTI  
HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
NEPAL, UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, NEPALI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 95M  
DIRECTOR: NANI SAHRA WALKER  
18-OCT 4:45PM | KHL • 23-OCT 4:30PM | KHL



SLANTED  
HAWAI'I PREMIERE  
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES  
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M  
DIRECTOR: AMY WANG  
18-OCT 4:30PM | KHL • 25-OCT 4:30PM | KHL



Established in 2000, the Vilcek Foundation celebrates immigrant contributions to culture and society in the United States, and bolsters appreciation for the arts and sciences more broadly. The Vilcek Foundation is proud to partner with HIFF in support of the artists who are a part of the New American Perspectives program. Creative and entrepreneurial artists of these creative, enliven cinema and bring forth new, inspiring narratives.

2025 NEW AMERICAN FILMMAKERS



NAP FEATURE FILMMAKER: SHIH-CHING TSOU (B. TAIWAN)

Shih-Ching Tsou moved to the United States from Taiwan in 1998 to earn her master's degree in media studies at the New School, in New York. Since then, Shih-Ching co-created TAKE OUT with Sean Baker in addition to producing films TANGERINE, THE FLORIDA PROJECT, and RED ROCKET, which was presented at Hawai'i International Film Festival in 2021. Her solo directorial debut LEFT-HANDED GIRL premiered at Cannes Critics' Week 2025.



AMY WANG

A Chinese-Australian writer, producer and director, Amy Wang's debut film SLANTED was awarded the 2025 Narrative Feature Grand Jury Prize at SXSW. A graduate of AFI, Amy's short UNNATURAL was earned gold at the Young Director Awards at Cannes Lions 2018, and her feature script WENDI made the Black List. Amy has been a writer for numerous notable features including CRAZY RICH ASIANS 2 for Warner Bros, THE BROTHERS SUN and the limited series FROM SCRATCH for Netflix.



LEON LE

From Vietnam, Leon Le is a multidisciplinary artist whose career spans Broadway, international tours, and film. With a foundation in dance, singing, and acting, Leon transitioned into filmmaking to explore themes of race and sexuality through Asian perspectives. After Leon's short film DAWN aired in 2012, Leon wrote and directed TALKING TO MY MOTHER (2015), which screened at over 100 festivals worldwide. His feature debut, SONG LANG (2018), received widespread critical acclaim and won more than 50 international awards. Leon's latest feature, KY NAM INN, continues his examination of identity and Vietnamese culture.



LLOYD LEE CHOI

Lloyd Lee Choi is a Korean-Canadian writer and director based in Brooklyn. His debut feature, LUCKY LU, recently premiered at Cannes Directors' Fortnight and TIFF. The film is based on his 2022 short SAME OLD, which premiered at Cannes and NYFF and won honors at TIFF and Raindance. His recent short CLOSING DYNASTY won the Crystal Bear at Berlinale, Audience Award at SXSW, Grand Jury Prize at AFI Fest, and additional honors at Palm Springs and the Hawai'i International Film Festival. Lloyd has also received Sundance NHK, TIFF/CBC Screenwriters, and TIFF/CJ ENM K-Story Awards for his writing.



NANI SAHRA WALKER

Nani Sahra Walker is an Academy Award-winning executive producer and independent writer, director, and producer whose work focuses on amplifying underrepresented stories. A native of Kathmandu now based in Los Angeles, she executive produced the acclaimed shorts KYLIE (Sundance 2023), MERMAN (Tribeca 2023), and THE LAST REPAIR SHOP (Telluride 2023), winner of the 2024 Oscar for Best Documentary Short. Her feature OTHER NATURE (2012) screened at BFI Flare, Frameline, Outfest, and festivals worldwide. She teaches at UC Berkeley's documentary program and mentors filmmakers at American Film Showcase, and the USC School of Cinematic Arts. SHAKTI (2025) is her narrative directorial debut.

HIFF45 NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES PANEL

19 OCT 12:00PM | KHL

New American Perspectives (NAP) presented by the Vilcek Foundation shines a spotlight on immigrant and foreign-born artists, celebrating the powerful impact that diversity has on contemporary cinema and media in the United States. The program centers the voices of immigrant artists through film screenings, filmmaker Q&As and masterclasses. Attend this moderated conversation with HIFF45's NAP cohort -- Shih-Ching Tsou (b. Taiwan), Amy Wang (b. China), Leon Le (b. Vietnam), Lloyd Lee Choi (b. Canada), and Nani Sahra Walker (b. Nepal). The filmmakers and artists will discuss their careers, and their experiences as cultural workers adding to the creative lexicon of the United States.

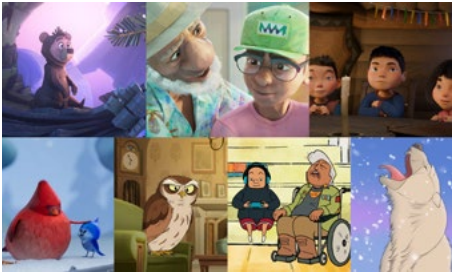


HIFF is committed to offering enriching experiences that inspire and educate Hawaii’s students through the world of cinema through filmmaking workshops, classroom presentations with award-winning filmmakers, screenings, and HIFF’s annual ‘Ōpio Fest that shines a spotlight on students’ short films. Thanks to our generous sponsors our programs are free to K-12 schools across Hawai‘i.



YOUTH EDUCATION SCREENINGS

Youth Educational Screenings (YES) are exclusively for K-12 schools, presenting premiere films during the Festival season in theaters across Hawai‘i and online. HIFF provides a digital YES Discussion Guide that offers starter questions that can be used in class discussions, and hosts a short live Q&A with students and the film’s director/cast/crew. This year’s films include:



KEIKI SHORTS PROGRAM

- WHICH INCLUDES:
- FOREVERGREEN | DIRECTED BY NATHAN ENGELHARDT, JEREMY SPEARS
  - POW! | DIRECTED BY JOEY CLIFT
  - TANKHA | DIRECTED BY ALEXANDER MORUO, MARKEL MARTYNOV
  - MY NEIGHBOR | DIRECTED BY DOMINIC CAROLA
  - CHRISTOPHER & THE BUG | DIRECTED BY VANESSA ESTEVES, KEVIN MICALLEF
  - WEDNESDAYS WITH GRAMPS | DIRECTED BY CHRIS COPELAND, JUSTIN COPELAND
  - SNOW BEAR | DIRECTED BY AARON BLAISE



A PARADISE LOST  
DIRECTOR: LAURIE SUMIYE



RANGGA & CINTA  
DIRECTOR: RIRI RIZA



REMATHAU:  
PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN  
DIRECTOR: DAN H. LIN



‘A‘Ā (AN ISLAND’S TWINKLE)  
DIRECTOR: CHRIS MIYASHIRO

NEXT GEN FILMMAKING FELLOWSHIP

Introducing the Next Gen Filmmaking Fellowship, an exciting evolution of HIFF’s Student Advisory Committee! This program brings together a group of college students, many of whom are alumni of HIFF’s Education Programs, united by their shared passion for film and storytelling. Throughout the academic year, the Fellows will have an opportunity to connect with industry professionals, serve as the official jury for HIFF’s University Showcase, and develop their own original film projects.

Congratulations to the inaugural class of Next Gen Filmmaking Fellows: Asaeli Hikila, Brooke Beltran, Janya Khurana, Jenna Lee, Leviticus Kaopuiki, Lucie Reese, Naia Hoggan Salote Vaha‘i, Sarah Ward, Stacie Bae, and Tiffany Liu!

GUEST FILMMAKER PROGRAM



Throughout the fall semester, HIFF Education arranges local and visiting filmmakers to guest speak in classrooms at schools across Hawai‘i. Educators can request a free session at their school or organization for students to engage with an industry professional.

Mahalo to these filmmakers for sharing their time and expertise!  
Alexander Bocchieri, Amy Wang, Anne Misawa, Ben Proudfoot, Bryson Chun, Chris Sanderl, Daniel Lin, Elizabeth Rian, Gerard Elmore, Hana Mcevilly, Jana Park, Katrin York, Ku‘ulei Ka‘ili, Laurie Sumiye, Lindsay Watson, Ricky-Thomas Serikawa, Sonny Ganaden, Ta‘imua Hanneman

‘ŌPIOFEST

THE FUTURE OF FILM

HIFF ‘Ōpio Fest returns for its third edition April 2026, featuring guests, panels, premiere screenings, and student showcases. Know a student filmmaker? We’re accepting student film submissions until January 16, 2026. For more info, visit: [www.filmfreeway.com/hiffopiofest](http://www.filmfreeway.com/hiffopiofest)





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# SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

FILM PROGRAM



## HONG KONG FILMMAKER IN PROFILE: NINA PAW 鮑起靜



Nina Paw Hee-Ching (b. July 20, 1949) is one of Hong Kong's most distinguished actresses, acclaimed for her rich and nuanced portrayals of mothers. Born into a cinematic family — daughter of the late actor Paw Fong and sister to Oscar-winning cinematographer Peter Pau — she began acting in 1968 and rose to fame with *WHITE HAIREDEVIL LADY* (1980). She later became a household name at Asia Television (ATV), starring in dramas like *FATHERLAND* and hosting *AFTERNOON TEA*.

Her career reached a pinnacle with Ann Hui's *THE WAY WE ARE* (2008), which earned her Best Actress at both the Hong Kong Film Awards and the Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards. Since then, Paw has continued to impress in films including *RIGOR MORTIS* (2013), *I'M LIVING IT* (2020) and *MY PRINCE EDWARD* (2020). Paw also ventured into Korean cinema alongside Tang Wei in *SCI-FI WONDERLAND* (2024). With upcoming works *MY FIRST OF MAY* (2025) and *SONS OF THE NEON NIGHT* (2025), she remains a vibrant force in Asian and Hong Kong cinema.

## SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG SCREENINGS

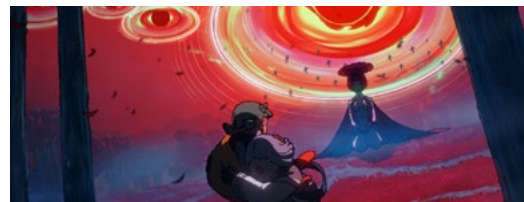


### 24 FLAVOURS

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2024 | MANDARIN,  
CANTONESE W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 106M

DIRECTOR: ELAINE HUANG

23-OCT 7:30PM KHL  
26-OCT 4:45PM | KHL



### ANOTHER WORLD

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2025 | CANTONESE W/  
ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 111M

DIRECTOR: TOMMY NG KAI CHUNG

25-OCT 2:00PM | KHL  
26-OCT 7:00PM | KHL



### SONS OF THE NEON NIGHT

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2025 | CANTONESE W/  
ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 125M

DIRECTOR: JUNO MAK

25-OCT 7:00PM | KHL



### THE WAY WE ARE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION  
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2008 | CANTONESE  
W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 90M

DIRECTOR: ANN HUI

26-OCT 2:00PM | KHL





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Proudly presented by  文化局 MINISTRY OF CULTURE  臺灣書院 TAIWAN ACADEMY



## SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN



### SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN: NEW VOICES, ENDURING VISIONS

HIFF is proud to showcase its 2025 Spotlight on Taiwan, celebrating the island's rich cinematic tradition and vibrant new voices.

Highlighting the program is *THE LEFT-HANDED GIRL*, the solo directorial debut of Shih-Ching Tsou, returning to her native Taiwan after producing acclaimed films with Oscar winner Sean Baker (*ANORA*). For Shih-Ching, it's coming full circle, as HIFF presented her co-directorial effort *TAKE OUT*, along with Sean, twenty-one years ago. They both attended as very young filmmakers. Aside from world premiering in Cannes, *THE LEFT-HANDED GIRL* was recently announced to represent Taiwan as the country's official entry to the Academy Awards for Best International Feature.

HIFF also presents the U.S. premieres of *BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY* by rising director Shih-han Tsao, and *THE WAVES WILL CARRY US*, a poignant new narrative by veteran documentarian and Malay filmmaker Lau Kek Huat, now based in Taiwan.

The spotlight further features exceptional short films: *THE FISHBOWL GIRL* (Hung Yi Wu), *FORCE TIMES DISPLACEMENT* (Angel Wu), *THE MOTHER'S VOICE* (Kagaw Omin), and *ROCKED BY THE WIND* (Hsiao-Shan Huang). These works reflect Taiwan's dynamic new generation of storytellers, providing a glimpse of who will carry the mantle of the rich Taiwanese cinematic traditions of the likes of Edward Yang or Ang Lee.

### FEATURES



#### LEFT-HANDED GIRL

HAWAII PREMIERE  
TAIWAN ROC 2025 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 109M

DIRECTOR: SHIH-CHING TSOU  
22-OCT 6:30PM | KHL



#### BEFORE THE BRIGHT DAY

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
TAIWAN ROC 2025 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M

DIRECTOR: TSAO SHIH-HAN  
21-OCT 6:15PM | KHL • 24-OCT 1:00PM | KHL



#### THE WAVES WILL CARRY US

WORLD PREMIERE  
TAIWAN ROC 2025 | MANDARIN, MALAY, CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 99M

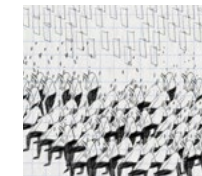
DIRECTOR: LAU KEK-HUAT  
18-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 11:00AM | KHL

### SHORTS



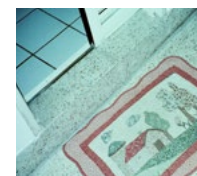
#### THE FISHBOWL GIRL

DIRECTOR: HUNG YI WU  
QUEER SHORTS  
20 OCT 8:00PM KHL  
23 OCT 1:00PM | KHL



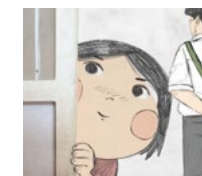
#### FORCE TIMES DISPLACEMENT

DIRECTOR: ANGEL WU  
EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS  
20 OCT 5:30PM | KHL  
26 OCT 12:00PM | KHL



#### THE MOTHER'S VOICE

DIRECTOR: KAGAW OMIN  
EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS  
20 OCT 5:30PM | KHL  
26 OCT 12:00PM | KHL



#### ROCKED BY THE WIND

DIRECTOR: HSIAO-SHAN HUANG  
GLIMMERS SHORTS  
19 OCT 8:00PM | KHL  
26 OCT 3:45PM | KHL



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BE KIND

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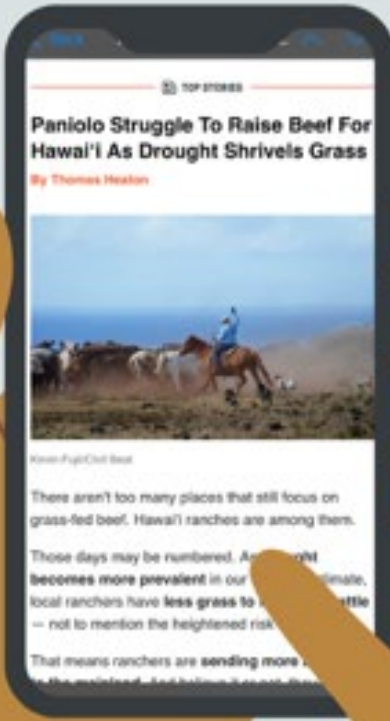
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