

SUPPORTING FILM AND FILMMAKERS
44
SINCE 1981

HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI

Honolulu

OCT 2-13

West O'ahu

OCT 15-17

Maui

OCT 19-20

Lāna'i

OCT 21-23

Kaua'i

NOV 1-3

Big Island (Waimea)

NOV 2-3

Moloka'i

NOV 7-8

Big Island (Hilo)

NOV 7-10

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Anna Page | Director of Programming
Aaron Hansen | Director of Operations
Jen May Pastores | Education Director
Joshua Nye | Festival Manager
Melina Kiyomi Coumas | Programming Manager
Ross Matlin | Partnerships Manager
Alana Eagle | Marketing & Membership Manager
Jana Park | HIFILM Industry Manager

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FESTIVAL INTERNS

Carley Matsumura, Hunter Procter, Kaila Scharff, Lily Hock, Ryder Petersen, and Kaitlyn Kim

HIFF44: THE KEY VISUAL



HAT PRODUCTIONS

CAST

Amy Hill
Brook Lee
Ciara Lacy
Jordan Kandell
Justyn Ah-Chong
Kamuella Chandler
Kapili Yutaka
Sean Oketani
Leviticus Kaopuiki

SPECIAL THANKS

Halekulani Hotel
Hawai'i Film Office
Hawaii Media Inc.
'Ulu'ulu: The Henry Ku'uialoha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai'i

CREW

Azure Chung | Director
Marcus Goh | Producer
Hunter Daru | Director of Photography/Editor
Logyn Okuda | Composer
Toni Arzaga | 2nd AD
Josiah Castillo | Gaffer
Kawika Asuncion | Production Designer
Kelly Norn | Production Assistant

This is an ad.

We're a team of creatives specializing in doing creative things, so if you need something creative, give us a ring or send us an email.

Mahalo to HIFF for being great creative partners for the past six years.

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HIFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

Aloha e kākou,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 44th annual Hawai'i International Film Festival presented by Halekulani. This year, we celebrate with intention and excitement the rich tapestry of our cultural heritage and the boundless potential of innovation in creativity that we are proud to exhibit with HIFF44's theme, "Creating New Traditions."

The Hawai'i International Film Festival has long been a beacon of cinematic excellence in the Pacific - connecting international filmmakers, talent, and the global industry to Hawai'i and the Pacific Rim. Our festival is not just a celebration of the art of film; it is a platform for those who dare to use the craft of storytelling to create better futures, push the boundaries of narrative sovereignty and cultural identity, and explore how we can solve the biggest issues of today. HIFF is honored to continue to serve our community as the only statewide film festival in the U.S. and as the only Academy Award®-qualifying film festival with a focus on NHPI content.

This year, HIFF44 brings you a record-breaking 40 world premieres showcasing the best in new cinema from around the globe. Our lineup includes 92 feature films, 114 shorts, and the largest Made-in-Hawai'i program in history, reflecting the vibrant diversity of our Pacific community and highlighting the "Kānaka Maoli New Wave," a movement that embodies the spirit of our festival, blending tradition with contemporary expression to build a better future. A highlight of 2024 is the launch of HIFF's new Prestige TV Series that explores the blurring lines between cinema and television. This section of the festival features significant milestones in the modern TV landscape, including a screening of the pilot episode of SHÖGUN accompanied by a conversation with series showrunners Justin Marks and Rachel Kondo, and an advance screening of the pilot episode of INTERIOR CHINATOWN, based on the National Book Award-winning novel with a discussion featuring the showrunner, Charles Yu, and actor, Jimmy O. Yang. These programs highlight the evolution of television as a storytelling medium and the festival's commitment to showcasing premier content on the big screen.



BECKIE STOCCHETTI
Executive Director



JEFF BELL
HIFF Board President

We are excited to honor influential icons in the film industry, including Stanley Nelson, Roger Deakins, Temuera Morrison, Sandra Ng and more. Their contributions to the art of storytelling are an inspiration to us all. We are enormously excited to bring together five incredible juries comprised of top-tier industry talent from five different countries. HIFF44 is delighted to reveal an improved and expanded HIFILM Industry program with incredible guests, panels, masterclasses, career development initiatives, networking events, and more. We also build momentum and opportunities as part of the HIFFxACM Accelerator program offering UH ACM students statewide free access to films, panels, year-round HIFILM programs, and exclusive HIFF44 events. HIFF is proud to be the leader for Hawai'i's creative industries.

HIFF44 is a testament to the power of film to entertain, enlighten, and inspire. It is a place where culture and innovation intertwine, where the old and the new converge to create something truly unique. It is also a celebration of the people who make it possible. I extend my deepest gratitude to our community partners, sponsors, board members, volunteers, crew, HIFF members, and benefactors. Your support is the lifeblood of this organization and enables us to continue building bridges across the global media industry, showcasing the best of Hawai'i, and creating opportunities for our local industry and cinema lovers.

HIFF44 will be a journey through the heart of storytelling, a celebration of the human spirit, and a testament to the enduring power of film. We invite you to join us as we create new traditions, celebrate the art of cinema, and connect the world to Hawai'i through the universal language of film.

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

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 to cinema history. The Vision In Film has only been given six times in HIFF's forty-two year history. Past recipients include 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



MADE IN HAWAII' 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 a half dozen feature length programs. 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.

KAU KA HÖKÜ AWARD PRESENTED BY HAWAIIAN AIRLINES



The KAU KA HÖKÜ (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.

DEEP BLUE ENVIRONMENTAL SHORT AWARD PRESENTED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S WATER POWER TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE



With HIFF's commitment to shine a light on cinema about the climate crisis, the Festival is honored to partner with the US Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office to present the Deep Blue Shorts Award, highlighting a film with a subject matter about emerging technology in water power. Winning films are awarded with a cash prize pool of \$5,000.

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.

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 Awkwafina, Randall Park, Steven Yeun, and Don Lee.

HALEKULANI NEW VANGUARD AWARD

HIFF's Halekulani New Vanguard Award is the Festival's "rising star" award, honoring a young 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 New 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 were Lana Condor, Rachel Brosnahan, and Sakura Ando.

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.

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/

FESTIVAL DATES

HONOLULU

October 2-13, 2024

WEST O'AHU

October 15-17, 2024

MAUI

October 19-20, 2024

LĀNA'I

October 21-22, 2024

KAUAI

November 1-3, 2024

BIG ISLAND (WAIMEA)

November 2-3, 2024

MOLOKA'I

November 7-8, 2024

BIG ISLAND (HILO)

November 7-10, 2024

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.

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Online

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

PHONE HOURS

+1 808-447-0577

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: \$15

SENIOR/STUDENT/MILITARY: \$13

I ♥ HIFF MEMBERS: \$3 Discount

DAY OF SHOW: \$17

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

FALL FESTIVAL BADGES

ALL-ACCESS PASS: \$500 (\$400 for I ♥ HIFF Members)

- Access to ALL Screenings

PLATINUM PASS: \$900 (\$800 for I ♥ HIFF Members)

- Reserved Seating at ALL Screenings

HIFILM INDUSTRY PASS: \$100 (\$70 for HIFF Industry Members)

- Access to All HIFILM Panels and 5 HIFF44 Screening Admissions

FESTIVAL ACCREDITATION

For further information please email guestservices@hiff.org

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

PRESS: Members of the press and approved content creators.

HIFILM FILM INDUSTRY: This badge is for those working in the local or visiting film industry.

ACM: Students and faculty members of the University of Hawai'i that is supported by the Academy for Creative Media System.

EDU: Open to all schools, educators and students.



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

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 44TH ANNUAL HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI

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.

HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY

Great stories begin here



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 INDUSTRY

\$30 / Per Year

Discounted Industry Fall Festival Pass access to HIFILM member events.

HIFF SUPPORTER

\$50 / Per Year

Industry benefits + early access to tickets + discounts on tickets and merchandise.

HIFF SELECTS

\$150 / Per Year

Supporter benefits + monthly HIFF Selects premiere screenings + two tickets to the Fall Festival.

*MOST POPULAR

HIFF PLATINUM

\$1500 / Per Year

One Platinum Badge at HIFF Fall Festival and Spring Festival, good for VIP access to ALL screenings

HIFF PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

\$2,500-\$100,000+

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 CREATING NEW TRADITIONS AND SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CINEMA IN HAWAI'I.

Purchase your I ♥ HIFF membership anytime at www.hiff.org/membership or call the HIFF Box Office at (808)-447-0577 for assistance.



SUPPORT HIFF AND BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

The best films transport you to another world. So does the best travel. We invite you to fly with us on your next unforgettable journey.

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SIR ROGER DEAKINS



ASIAN PACIFIC FILMMAKERS EXPERIENCE



HIFF'S NEW HEADQUARTERS IN KAIMUKI

All passholders must register for HIFILM events in advance. Purchase a pass or individual tickets: HIFF.org

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT HIFF.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

HIFILM EVENTS

SAG-AFTRA HIFF OPEN HOUSE

(SAG-AFTRA MEMBERS ONLY)
MON 9/30 3:00-5:00 PM



WĀHINE IN FILM MIXER

\$30/TICKET:
HAWAIIWOMENINFILMMAKING.ORG
WAI WAI
MON 9/30 5:30 - 7:30 PM



ALOHA GOT SOUL + HIFILM MIXER

HI BRAU ROOM
SAT 10/5 9:00 PM - 12:00 AM



SIR ROGER DEAKINS BOOK SIGNING

DA SHOP KAIMUKI
SAT 10/5 2:00 - 3:30 PM



SIR ROGER DEAKINS MODERATED TALK

(PRIVATE EVENT! INVITE-ONLY)
SUN 10/6 HIFF HQ



NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES (NAP) PANEL

KAHALA
SUN 10/6 2:00 - 3:00 PM



BEYOND RESILIENCE "A PART OF / APART FROM" PANEL

ENTREPRENEURS SANDBOX
SUN 10/6 3:30 - 4:30 PM



PIC + FIRELIGHT + RECIPROCITY RECEPTION

ENTREPRENEURS SANDBOX
SUN 10/6 5:30 - 8:30 PM



ASIAN PACIFIC FILMMAKERS EXPERIENCE (APFE) PANEL & RECEPTION

KAPA HALE
MON 10/7 5:00 - 7:00 PM



HOCCI SCREENING & WORKSHOP: EVERY FRAME A PAINTING

KAHALA
Tue 10/8 5:00 PM



BRIAN NEWMAN: ARE BRANDS THE FUTURE OF FILM FUNDING MASTERCLASS

@ HIFF HQ *FREE TO PASSHOLDERS/MUST RSVP
\$20/GENERAL \$15/MEMBERS
SUN 10/13 12:30 - 1:30 PM

FROM MERMAIDS TO MOANA: AN ANIMATED EVENT (PANEL)

KAHALA *FREE TO PASSHOLDERS/MUST RSVP
\$20/GENERAL \$15/MEMBERS
SUN 10/13 10:30 AM

RESCUE HI-SURF: AN EVENING WITH CAST & CREW

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KAPOLEI
*FREE TO THE PUBLIC
TUE 10/15 7:30 PM

MOLOKA'I FILMMAKER TALK-STORY

KAUNAKAKAI *FREE TO THE PUBLIC
THU 11/7 4:30 - 6:00 PM

HILO SAG-AFTRA + FILMMAKER MIXER

PALACE *FREE TO THE PUBLIC
SUN 11/10 6:00 - 7:00 PM



HIFILM IS FOR EVERYONE - AND IS NOW YEAR-ROUND!

From film fans to seasoned cast and crew, all are welcome to join HIFILM, our new Industry Program with the mission of providing educational, networking, and career development opportunities across Hawai'i for API, NHPI, and Pasifika communities in spaces of independent film, branded content, unique film crew positions and film criticism and content creation. Our goal is to develop Hawai'i beyond its established film and tv industry optics of being "Hollywood's tropical backlot" and into an authentic creative force.

\$30/ANNUAL HIFILM MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- FREE or Discounted Access to Register for year-round HIFILM Industry Events (Screenings, Mixers, Panels/Masterclasses, Moderated Talks with Industry Professionals, Filmmaker Labs, and more)
- Discount for HIFF44 Fall Festival Industry Passes
- Admission to Select HIFF44 Fall Festival Events
- Invitation to join the HIFILM Industry Directory

This year we welcome an Industry Manager to our team who will focus on expanding our HIFILM Programs with even more opportunities to build community while learning from and networking with international and local industry professionals via panels, masterclasses, mentorships, filmmaker labs, special events, and more - not only at HIFF44 - but all year long.



HIFILM INDUSTRY MANAGER JANA PARK & HIFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BECKIE STOCHETTI



MOANA PANEL FEATURING JOHN MUSKER, OSNAT SHURER, RON CLEMENTS (HOSTED BY JORDAN KANDELL)



HIFILM EVENT @ UH WEST O'AHU

FEATURED HIFILM PROGRAMS



HOCCI AT HIFF44

The HIFF ONLINE CREATORS & CRITICS IMMERSIVE (HOCCI) program supports sustainable film criticism in Hawai'i through mentorship and paid career opportunities. The mission of HOCCI is to broaden diversity in film criticism across the Pacific region and use influencer branding strategies to spark career opportunities in Hawai'i, not be hampered by oceans, state borders and distance, because geography is no longer a barrier. Officially launched in 2022 with ten young mentees, HOCCI is a reimagining of the former Roger Ebert Young Critics Initiative.

MAKAWALU

In 2021, HIFF launched MAKAWALU, HIFF's first production project that brought eight Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) directors together to take part in a mid-career filmmaker development program that culminates in the development and production of one feature length film. MAKAWALU, in modern 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) terminology, references "different perspectives of a situation."



IN-PERSON SCREENING SCHEDULE

VENUES

KHL – Consolidated Theatres
Kahala Mall
4311 Waialae Ave #3080
Honolulu, HI 96816

DA SHOP – Da Shop:
books + curiosities
3565 Harding Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

SBX – Entrepreneurs
Sandbox
643 Ilalo St
Honolulu, HI 96813

WRD – Consolidated Theatres
Ward with TITAN LUXE
Ward Entertainment Center
1044 Auahi St
Honolulu, HI 96814

KAP – Consolidated Theatres
890 Kamokila Blvd #107
Kapolei, HI 96707

UHWO – University of
Hawaii West O'ahu
91-1001 Farrington Hwy
Kapolei, HI 96707

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3RD

6:30 PM–8:33 PM **LOVE IN THE BIG CITY** KR KHL

7:00 PM–9:09PM **TINĀ** NZ KHL

9:15 PM–11:14 PM **V/H/S/BEYOND** US KHL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

5:15 PM–6:57 PM **MARIMARI** NZ, PNG KHL

5:45 PM–7:20 PM **GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN** JP KHL

6:00 PM–7:27 PM **STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS** US, HI KHL

6:00 PM–7:54 PM **HUNTER BROTHERS** TW KHL

7:15 PM–9:03 PM **CHAIN REACTIONS** US KHL

8:00 PM–9:29 PM **ASHIMA** US KHL

8:15 PM–9:58 PM **ESCAPE FROM THE 21ST CENTURY** CN KHL

8:45 PM–10:07 PM **MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS: MANIFESTING MANA** US, HI KHL

9:30 PM–10:58 PM **THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE** US KHL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

1:00 PM–2:12 PM **RECIPROCITY PROJECT SHORTS: ELEMENTAL FIRE - GLOBAL INDIGENOUS STORIES OF RETURN** US, TW, SL, KE KHL

1:00 PM–2:05 PM **'ULU'ULU PRESENTS: HAWAII PONO'I 1970** US, HI KHL

1:15 PM–3:05 PM **FRIENDLY FIRE** PH KHL

1:30 PM–3:05 PM **GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN** JP KHL

2:00 PM–3:30 PM **ROGER DEAKINS BYWAYS BOOK EVENT** US DA SHOP

2:00 PM–3:15 PM **PERSEVERE + WATER BODIES + ALETHA** US, HI KHL

3:15 PM–5:16 PM **UNSTOPPABLE** US KHL

3:30 PM–5:22 PM **BLACK BOX DIARIES** JP KHL

3:45 PM–5:50 PM **HOMEGROWN: A PART OF/APART FROM** US, HI, PR, GU, AS, UM KHL

3:45 PM–5:16 PM **BONA** PH KHL

4:00 PM–5:25 PM **CONFETTI** JP KHL

4:30 PM–7:19 PM **BLADE RUNNER 2049 WITH SIR ROGER DEAKINS** US KHL

5:45 PM–7:24 PM **MEMOIR OF A SNAIL** AU KHL

6:00 PM–7:41 PM **OUT FOR BLOOD SHORTS PROGRAM** US, BE, HK KHL

6:15 PM–7:57 PM **THE LAST OF THE SEA WOMEN** KR KHL

6:30 PM–8:04 PM **PROMISED LAND** JP KHL

8:00 PM–9:13 PM **MYTHS AND MAIDENS** NZ KHL

8:15 PM–9:52 PM **THE MOTHERLOAD** US, VN, CA KHL

8:30 PM–10:28 PM **YIN YANG MASTER ZERO** JP KHL

8:30 PM–10:20 PM **AN UNFINISHED FILM** CN KHL

8:45 PM–10:37 PM **THE ROOM NEXT DOOR** US, SP KHL

9:00 PM–10:55 PM **DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY** TW KHL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

11:00 AM–12:01 PM **RECIPROCITY PROJECT SHORTS: ELEMENTAL WATER - GLOBAL INDIGENOUS STORIES OF RETURN** US, FJ, FI KHL

1:00 PM–2:54 PM **HUNTER BROTHERS** TW KHL

1:00 PM–2:28 PM **WE WERE DANGEROUS** NZ KHL

1:45 PM–3:10 PM **CONFETTI** JP KHL

2:00 PM–3:00 PM **NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES IN FILMMAKING** US KHL

2:15 PM–4:27 PM **SUPERBOYS OF MALEGAON** IN KHL

2:15 PM–5:08 PM **THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG** IR, FR, DE KHL

2:30 PM–4:08 PM **THE CIGARETTE SURFBOARD** US KHL

3:30 PM – 4:30PM **BEYOND RESILIENCE: FIRELIGHT MEDIA PANEL DISCUSSION** US SBX

3:30 PM–5:28 PM **WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN** TW KHL

3:45 PM–5:25 PM **GHOST CAT ANZU** JP KHL

4:00 PM–6:14 PM **VIET AND NAM** VN KHL

5:15 PM–7:18 PM **LOVE IN THE BIG CITY** KR KHL

5:30 PM–6:50 PM **START MOTION SHORTS PROGRAM** TW, CA, JP, UK, US, DE, CN KHL

5:30 PM–8:30 PM **PIC + FIRELIGHT MEDIA + RECIPROCITY PROJECT RECEPTION** US, HI, FJ, FI, PR, GU, AS, UM SBX

5:45 PM–7:46 PM **BLACK DOG** CN KHL

6:00 PM–7:47 PM **BALOTA** PH KHL

6:15 PM–8:06 PM **THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF IBELIN** NO KHL

6:30 PM–8:40 PM **YINTAH** CA KHL

7:00 PM–9:00 PM **AND SO IT BEGINS** PH KHL

8:00 PM–10:16 PM **A SAMURAI IN TIME** JP KHL

8:15 PM–9:58 PM **ESCAPE FROM THE 21ST CENTURY** CN KHL

8:30 PM–10:54 PM **ONE MILLION DOLLA** US, HI KHL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

3:00 PM–4:50 PM **FRIENDLY FIRE** PH KHL

3:15 PM–4:57 PM **MARIMARI** NZ, PNG KHL

3:30 PM–4:57 PM **STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS** US, HI KHL

5:30 PM–6:43 PM **MYTHS AND MAIDENS** NZ KHL

6:00 PM–7:25 PM **SHAKA, A STORY OF ALOHA** US, HI KHL

VENUES

MACC – Maui Arts & Cultural Center
1 Cameron Way
Kahului, HI 96732

LAN – Hale Keaka
465 7th St
Lāna'i City, HI 96763

KCC – Kaula'i Community College
Performing Arts Center
3-1901 Kaunualii Hwy
Lihū'e, HI 96766

KAH – Kahilu Theatre
67-1186 Lindsey Rd
Waimea, HI 96743

KES – Kaunakakai
Elementary School
30 Ailoa St
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

PAL – The Palace Theater & Box Office
38 Haiti Street
Hilo, HI 96720

7:00 PM–8:55 PM **COPING FOR THE BEST SHORTS PROGRAM** US, CZ, SG KHL

7:30 PM–9:07 PM **THE MOTHERLOAD** US, VN, CA KHL

8:00 PM–10:03 PM **GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS** IN KHL

8:15 PM–10:07 PM **BLACK BOX DIARIES** JP KHL

8:30 PM–9:54 PM **MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS: NARRATIVE PLENITUDE** US, HI KHL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

2:30 PM–4:40 PM **YINTAH** CA KHL

3:00 PM–5:16 PM **A SAMURAI IN TIME** JP KHL

3:15 PM–5:05 PM **AN UNFINISHED FILM** CN KHL

5:00 PM–6:30 PM **EVERY FRAME A PAINTING HOCCHI MASTERCLASS** US KHL

5:30 PM–7:28 PM **WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN** TW KHL

5:45 PM–7:19 PM **PROMISED LAND** JP KHL

6:00 PM–7:30 PM **MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS: HO'OMAU** US, HI KHL

6:15 PM–7:44 PM **ASHIMA** US KHL

8:00 PM–10:12 PM **SUPERBOYS OF MALEGAON** IN KHL

8:15 PM–10:15 PM **AND SO IT BEGINS** PH KHL

8:30 PM–10:21 PM **UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE** US, HI KHL

8:30 PM–10:25 PM **DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY** TW KHL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

1:00 PM–2:25 PM **SHAKA, A STORY OF ALOHA** US, HI KHL

2:30 PM–4:25 PM **COPING FOR THE BEST SHORTS PROGRAM** US, CZ, SG KHL

3:00 PM–4:38 PM **THE CIGARETTE SURFBOARD** US KHL

3:15 PM–4:39 PM **MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS: NARRATIVE PLENITUDE** US, HI KHL

5:00 PM–7:03 PM **GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS** IN KHL

5:30 PM–6:48 PM **PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: DANCE DANCE (R)EVOLUTION** FJ, NZ, US, HI KHL

5:30 PM–7:28 PM **YIN YANG MASTER ZERO** JP KHL

5:45 PM–7:46 PM **BLACK DOG** CN KHL

6:00 PM–7:44 PM **ZURAWSKI V. TEXAS** US KHL

6:00 PM–7:34 PM **UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE** CA KHL

7:30 PM–9:33 PM **ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT** IN, FR, NL, LU KHL

7:30 PM–9:27 PM **MOLOKA'I BOUND** US, HI WRD

7:45 PM–9:41 PM **CAUGHT BY THE TIDES** CN KHL

8:00 PM–9:45 PM **DIRTY MONEY** KR KHL

8:15 PM–10:13 PM **HAPPYEND** JP KHL

8:15 PM–10:10 PM **THE FALLING SKY** BR KHL

8:30 PM–10:19 PM **STRANGE FUTURES SHORTS PROGRAM** US, NL, PH KHL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

3:00 PM–4:30 PM **MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS: HO'OMAU** US, HI KHL

3:15 PM–4:49 PM **UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE** CA KHL

3:30 PM–4:58 PM **WE WERE DANGEROUS** NZ KHL

5:00 PM–6:30 PM **CHINATOWN CHA-CHA** CN KHL

5:15 PM–7:10 PM **ENVIRONMENTAL SHORTS PROGRAM** NZ, SW, CA, ID, US, BR, UK KHL

5:30 PM–7:08 PM **ALL SHALL BE WELL** HK KHL

6:00 PM–7:13 PM **KANIELA: THE DANNY KALEIKINI STORY** US, HI KHL

6:15 PM–7:55 PM **NO OTHER LAND** PS, NO KHL

7:45 PM–9:57 PM **THE LAST DANCE** HK KHL

8:00 PM–9:15 PM **SHŌGUN - AN EVENING WITH SHOWRUNNERS JUSTIN MARKS & RACHEL KONDO** US KHL

8:00 PM–9:54 PM **HOMEGROWN** US KHL

8:15 PM–10:02 PM **CHAPERONE** US, HI KHL

8:30 PM–10:46 PM **THE PARADISE OF THORNS** TH KHL

8:30 PM–10:52 PM **DESERT OF NAMIBIA** JP KHL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

2:30 PM–3:48 PM **PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: DANCE DANCE (R) EVOLUTION** FJ, NZ, US, HI KHL

3:00 PM–4:38 PM **ALL SHALL BE WELL** HK KHL

3:15 PM–4:59 PM **ZURAWSKI V. TEXAS** US KHL

3:30 PM–5:00 PM **CHINATOWN CHA-CHA** CN KHL

5:15 PM–7:37 PM **DESERT OF NAMIBIA** JP KHL

5:30 PM–7:13 PM **BREAKING CYCLES SHORTS PROGRAM** US, JP, CN, SG KHL

5:30 PM–7:14 PM **VOICE** AU KHL

5:45 PM–7:30 PM **DIRTY MONEY** KR KHL

6:00 PM–7:32 PM **PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: NARRATIVE SOVEREIGNTY** US, HI, NZ KHL

6:00 PM–8:20 PM **I'M STILL HERE** BR, FR KHL

8:00 PM–9:59 PM **LOVE LIES WITH SANDRA NG** HK KHL

8:00 PM–10:03 PM **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS SHORTS PROGRAM** US, SP, SW, NO, CA KHL

8:15 PM–10:30 PM **GETTING LOST** US KHL

8:30 PM–10:55 PM **KA WHAWAI TONU: STRUGGLE WITHOUT END** NZ KHL

8:45 PM–10:45 PM **THE GIRL WITH THE NEEDLE** DK KHL

9:00 PM–10:55 PM **SISTER MIDNIGHT** IN, UK KHL

MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS

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SUPPORTERS





HIFF will present the seventh 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 2024 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 44 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®

NOMINATED FEATURES

CHAPERONE

DIRECTOR: ZOË EISENBERG
See Page 26 for film details.

MOLOKA'I BOUND

DIRECTOR: ALIKA TENGAN
See Page 23 for film details.

SHAKA, THE STORY OF ALOHA

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER BOCCHIERI
See Page 36 for film details.

HEALING LAHAINA

DIRECTOR: LAUREL TAMAYO
See Page 44 for film details.

ONE MILLION DOLLA

DIRECTOR: STEFAN C. SCHAEFER
See Page 32 for film details.

STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS

DIRECTOR: JALENA KEANE-LEE
See Page 37 for film details.

KANIELA: THE DANIEL KALEIKINI STORY

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL LUM, PAWEL NUCKOWSKI
See Page 32 for film details.

PERSEVERE

DIRECTOR: ROY KIMURA
See Page 35 for film details.

TERRESTRIAL

DIRECTOR: ALEX FARNHAM
See Page 37 for film details.

NOMINATED SHORTS

DEAR ALOHA

DIRECTOR: CRIS ROMENTO
See Page 42 for film details.

I'M TRYING MY BEST RIGHT NOW

DIRECTOR: KURT HOFFMANN
See Page 44 for film details.

MANIFESTO [FOR CONCRETE POETRY]

DIRECTOR: RICHARD HAMASAKI, JODY STILLWATER, SEBASTIAN GALASSO
See Page 44 for film details.

TWO BREATHS

DIRECTOR: KATERYNA KURGANASKA
See Page 44 for film details.

WOVEN

DIRECTOR: VILSONI HERENIKO, ALEX CANTATORE
See Page 44 for film details.

DECODING ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

DIRECTOR: RUTH LICHTMAN, SHARON SHATTUCK
See Page 44 for film details.

KAI HALI'A (SEA OF MEMORY)

DIRECTOR: ANGELIQUE KALANI AXELRODE
See Page 44 for film details.

MĀNOA VALLEY

DIRECTOR: EMILY MAY JAMPEL
See Page 44 for film details.

RECLAIM

DIRECTOR: GEETA GANDBHIR
See Page 45 for film details.

FAIR

DIRECTOR: TAYLOR GRUVER
See Page 45 for film details.

KŪKINI

DIRECTOR: MITCHEL MERRICK
See Page 44 for film details.

OLI KĀHULI

DIRECTOR: MUHAMMAD ALI IJAZ
See Page 44 for film details.

VICTORIA

DIRECTOR: ARSENIO SALVANTE
See Page 45 for film details.

HULI

DIRECTOR: DANIEL CROIX
See Page 44 for film details.

LAST LIGHT

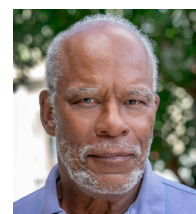
DIRECTOR: DEVAN FUJINAKA
See Page 44 for film details.

THE QUEEN'S FLOWERS

DIRECTOR: CIARA LEINA'ALA LACY
See Page 44 for film details.

WATERS OF PU'ULOA

DIRECTOR: TIARE RIBEAX
See Page 42 for film details.



STANLEY NELSON

HIFF44 HALEKULANI VISION IN FILM AWARD

Stanley Nelson is the foremost chronicler of the African American experience working in nonfiction film today. A MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, Nelson was awarded a Peabody for his body of work in 2016. In 2013, President Barack Obama

presented Nelson with the National Medal in the Humanities. Nelson founded Firelight Films, a production company and non-profit that produces documentary films, develops strategies, partnerships, and materials to reach and engage diverse audiences.



INTERIOR CHINATOWN

CHARLES YU, JIMMY O. YANG, RONNY CHIENG, & CHLOE BENNET

HIFF44 HALEKULANI MAVERICK AWARD

Relegated to the background, Willis (Jimmy O. Yang) goes through the motions of his on-screen job, waiting tables and dreaming about a whole world beyond

Chinatown. When he inadvertently becomes a witness to a crime, Willis begins to unravel a criminal web in Chinatown, his family's buried history, and what it feels like to be in the spotlight. Based on the National Book Award-winning novel, this series adaptation is executive produced by author Charles Yu and Taika Waititi (who directed the pilot episode) and co-stars Chloe Bennett and Ronny Chieng.

HIFF is honored to recognize the cast & crew of this groundbreaking project with the presentation of the Halekulani Maverick Award to INTERIOR CHINATOWN.



JUSTIN MARKS

HIFF44 HALEKULANI CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Justin Marks is an Oscar-nominated screenwriter and television Creator and Executive Producer. In feature films, Justin was most recently a writer on the worldwide box-office hit film TOP

GUN: MAVERICK for producers Jerry Bruckheimer, Tom Cruise, and Paramount. In television, Justin is the Co-Creator and Showrunner of the FX epic series SHŌGUN based on the novel by James Clavell.



TEMUERA MORRISON

HIFF44 LEANNE K. FERRER TRAILBLAZER AWARD

New Zealand born Temuera Morrison has long been an international cultural icon; not only as one of the nation's foremost actors but as a leading proponent of Māori culture and performance. His career breakthrough came in 1994, playing

Jake "The Muss" Heke in the groundbreaking movie ONCE WERE WARRIORS, and its follow-up WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKEN HEARTED? Some of Temuera's most iconic roles include Jango Fett and Boba Fett of the Star Wars Universe, Chief Tui in Disney's MOANA and upcoming MOANA 2, and Tom Curry in the Aquaman movies.



CHARLES YU

Charles Yu is creator and showrunner of INTERIOR CHINATOWN (Hulu/20th) based on his novel of the same title, which was a New York Times bestseller and won the National Book Award for Fiction. The book was named a best book of the year by numerous publications and

organizations, including The New Yorker, NPR, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Vanity Fair and Vulture. He has been nominated for three WGA awards and has written for Hulu, FX, AMC and HBO, as well feature film projects for Searchlight Pictures and Warner Bros. His writing has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Harper's, Time and Wired, among other places. He lives in southern California with his family.



RACHEL KONDO

HIFF44 HALEKULANI CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Rachel Kondo was born and raised on Maui. Her writing has appeared in Electric Literature, Ploughshares Solos and Indiana Review. In 2019, her story "Girl of Few Seasons" was included in The O.

Henry Prize Stories and selected as a juror favorite by Elizabeth Strout. She co-created the FX television production of SHŌGUN, adapted from the novel by James Clavell.

Savor the Story: Elevate Your Movie Night & Dine With Us!



GALA FILMS

OPENING NIGHT FILM

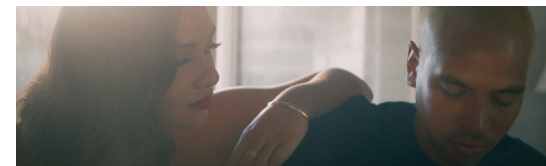


TINĀ

WORLD PREMIERE
 OPENING NIGHT FILM | PACIFIC SHOWCASE
 NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA 2024 | ENGLISH, SAMOAN
 W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 124M
 DIRECTOR: MIKI MAGAVISA
 3-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 9-NOV 5:00PM | PAL (HILO)

Samoan actor Anapela Polata'ivao is brilliant in this nuanced drama that's the directorial debut of Miki Magavisa. A well-respected gifted vocal coach in her community, Mareta finds herself at a crossroads, needing to find work three years after the tragic death of her daughter, a death that she's still processing. She goes out of her comfort zone to become a substitute teacher at an elite, all-white private school and forms a choir that begins her healing as a matriarch and caregiver.

CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION



MOLOKAI BOUND

HAWAII PREMIERE
 CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION | MADE IN HAWAII
 UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH, 'OLELO HAWAII
 W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M
 DIRECTOR: ALIKA TENGAN
 9-OCT 7:30PM | WRD • 20-OCT 6:00PM | MACC (MAUI) • 22-OCT 6:00PM
 | LAN (LANAI) 2-NOV 6:00PM | KCC (KAUAI) • 7-NOV 6:00PM | MOL
 (MOLOKAI) • 9-NOV 7:30PM | PAL (HILO)

After years of incarceration, a wayward Hawaiian man is paroled. Fully committed to reconnecting with his family, most important to him is rebuilding a relationship with his son. But acclimating to normal life in Hawaii is harder than it seems and the man tends to do all the wrong things for the right reasons. In trying to prove himself worthy of his family and native heritage, his is a story of reconciliation and redemption.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM



HAKKENDEN: FICTION AND REALITY

WORLD PREMIERE
 CLOSING NIGHT FILM | SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN
 JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 149M
 DIRECTOR: SORI FUMIHIKO
 13-OCT 7:30PM | KHL

During the late Edo period, legendary author Bakin spent an epic 28 years writing his masterpiece Nanso Hatomi Hakkenden, one of Japan's greatest works. HAKKENDEN ambitiously follows the master Bakin (Koji Yakusho) as he recounts his fantasy epic to his dear friend artist Hokusai. Divided between the master's life and the sprawling legend of the eight dogs, HAKKENDEN is part biopic, part fantastical tale of good vs evil.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION



INTERIOR CHINATOWN

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
 SPECIAL PRESENTATION | PANORAMA
 UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 60M
 DIRECTOR: TAIKA WAITITI
 13-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

Relegated to the background, Willis (Jimmy O. Yang) goes through the motions of his on-screen job, waiting tables and dreaming about a whole world beyond Chinatown. When he inadvertently becomes a witness to a crime, Willis begins to unravel a criminal web in Chinatown, his family's buried history, and what it feels like to be in the spotlight. Based on the National Book Award-winning novel, this series adaptation is executive produced by author Charles Yu and Taika Waititi (who directed the pilot episode) and co-stars Chloe Bennett and Ronny Chieng.

INTERIOR CHINATOWN: Cast in attendance.



A SAMURAI IN TIME

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN
JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 131M
DIRECTOR: JUNICHI YASUDA
6-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 8-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

During the Edo period in Kyoto, a samurai prepares to fight a ronin when a flash of lightning hits him. Waking up, he learns he's been transported through time to the present day, and the duel location is now a film set for a jidai-geki movie! Still in his samurai garb, he's mistaken for an extra and is immediately thrust into the world of film production.



ABOUT FAMILY

WORLD PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA
SOUTH KOREA 2024 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 109M
DIRECTOR: YANG WOO-SEOK
12-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 2:00PM | KHL

Middle-aged and surly, Mu-ok runs a tight ship at his traditional restaurant, famous for its mandoo. All he really wants are heirs, but alas his only son has left to become a Buddhist monk. Meanwhile, siblings Min-guk and Min-seon suddenly find themselves orphaned after their parents suffer a fatal accident. But when Min-guk and Min-seon discover their real father is Mu-ok's son, they show up at the restaurant setting off a chain of events that give Mu-ok newfound hope for the future.



AND SO IT BEGINS

HAWAII PREMIERE
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES | DOCUMENTARIES
PHILIPPINES 2024 | ENGLISH, FILIPINO W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 115M
DIRECTOR: RAMONA S. DIAZ
6-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 8-OCT 8:15PM | KHL

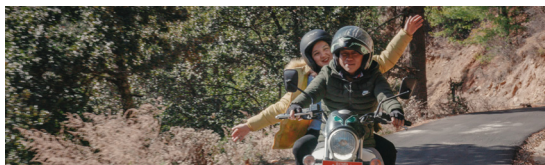
A follow-up to her award-winning documentary on the trials and tribulations of Philippine journalist Maria Ressa, director Ramona Diaz looks at the months leading up to the country's 2022 presidential election, as a tidal wave of marginalized citizens take to the streets in support of a change from the reign of Rodrigo Duterte to help the campaign for the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.



ASHIMA

HAWAII PREMIERE
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES | DOCUMENTARIES
UNITED STATES 2023 | ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 84M
DIRECTOR: KENJI TSUKAMOTO
4-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 8-OCT 6:15PM | KHL

An inspirational film that captures a moment in time when the lithe and self-aware Ashima Shiraishi, who at 13 was considered an elite rock climber in the sports world, attempts the most difficult boulder climb for man or woman in a remote area of South Africa during a summer break from school, only accompanied by a documentary crew and her demanding father and coach.



AGENT OF HAPPINESS

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES
BHUTAN, HUNGARY 2024 | DZONGKHA, NEPALI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 94M
DIRECTOR: ARUN BHATTARAI, DOROTTY ZURBÓ
12-OCT 3:45PM | KHL • 13-OCT 10:00AM | KHL

How is happiness measured? Can satisfaction with one's life be rated on a 1 to 10 scale? The Kingdom of Bhutan's famous--and highly exoticized--government policy measuring its nation's Gross National Happiness operates on the idea that the basic tenets of fulfillment can and should be quantified when calculating their nation's development. A 'Happiness Agent' embarks on a journey throughout the Himalayan mountains to survey the contentment of citizens from different households and lifestyles.



ALL SHALL BE WELL

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG
HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 93M
DIRECTOR: RAY YEUNG
10-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 11-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

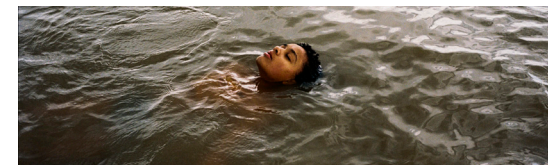
When the partner in a loving lesbian couple in their 60s suddenly dies, the survivor (Patra Au) initially receives comfort from friends and the dead woman's family. But since she has no legal claim to the apartment they shared for 30 years, soon there are disputes over estate claims as well as the funeral. She then finds comfort and help with her chosen LGBTQ family. This award-winning drama directed by Ray Yeung is a spiritual sequel to his award-winning film TWILIGHT'S KISS.



BALOTA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE
PHILIPPINES 2024 | TAGALOG W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 102M
DIRECTOR: KIP OEBANDA
6-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 12-OCT 8:45PM | KHL • 21-OCT 5:30PM | LAN (LANA'I)

During the 2007 elections, a former movie heartthrob and a land-grabbing tycoon are in a tight race for mayor. Emmy (Pinay superstar Marian Rivera), a strict yet popular teacher in a small town, is assigned to the Board of Election Inspectors for her local precinct. When violence breaks out, Emmy runs into the woods with the last copy of the election results and must use her wits to outsmart those who want to sabotage the election.



BIRD

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA
UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE 2024 | ENGLISH | 119M
DIRECTOR: ANDREA ARNOLD
12-OCT 6:15PM | KHL

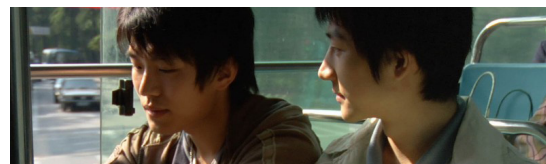
Twelve-year-old Bailey lives with her single dad Bug (a wild Barry Keoghan) and brother Hunter in a squat in North Kent. Bug doesn't have much time for his kid and Bailey, who is approaching puberty, seeks attention and adventure elsewhere. Director Andrea Arnold (FISH TANK, AMERICAN HONEY) returns and upends her gritty council-estate drama milieu, intertwining brutality and transcendence into a modern fairy tale that is very much her own.



ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON INDIA
FRANCE, INDIA, NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG 2024 | MALAYALAM, HINDI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118M
DIRECTOR: PAYAL KAPADIA
9-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 12-OCT 6:30PM | KHL

The winner of the runner-up Grand Prix award at this year's Cannes Film Festival, director Payal Kapadia's narrative debut is a sensitive and subdued portrait of the lives of two hospital workers finding their way through the urban sprawl that is Mumbai, and how they deal with complicated affairs of the heart. Lead actors Kani Kasruti and Divya Prabhal are excellent and expressive in their performances.



AN UNFINISHED FILM

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA
CHINA 2024 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 105M
DIRECTOR: LOU YE
5-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 8-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

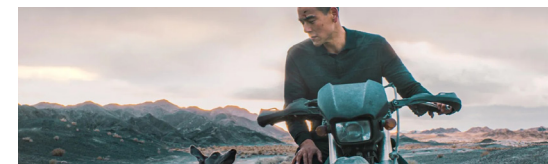
January 2020. A film crew reunites near Wuhan to resume the shooting of a film halted 10 years earlier, only to share the unexpected challenges as cities are placed under lockdown. SUZHOU RIVER's Lou Ye's inventive docufiction film is a haunting but ultimately life-affirming chronicle of the early days of COVID. It's also a part lockdown thriller that soon morphs into an ode to the resiliency of the Chinese people.



BLACK BOX DIARIES

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES
JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 107M
DIRECTOR: SHIORI ITO
5-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 7-OCT 8:15PM | KHL

Journalist Shiori Ito turns the camera on herself in chronicling the investigation into her own sexual assault by a well-connected man in Japan. Bravely documenting her fight for justice, she risks her life and livelihood by speaking out. Ito's quest--a grueling eight-year process--becomes a landmark case that exposes Japan's outdated judicial and societal systems, as well as the corruption of its legal system.

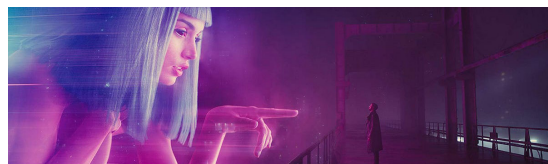


BLACK DOG

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA
CHINA 2024 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 116M
DIRECTOR: HU GUAN
6-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 9-OCT 5:45PM | KHL

Man befriends stray dog: That's the basic premise for this wide-scope film that was a hit at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Director Hu Guan and a charismatic Eddie Peng tell the story of a former convict who returns to his desolate desert hometown in Northwest China. Many have already left, leaving behind abandoned dogs that have to be herded. The pacing and framing of the film is flawless, rich in detail and visually arresting.





BLADE RUNNER 2049 WITH SIR ROGER DEAKINS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES



UNITED STATES 2017 | ENGLISH | 164M
DIRECTOR: DENIS VILLENEUVE
5-OCT 4:30PM | KHL

Young Blade Runner K's discovery of a long-buried secret leads him to track down former Blade Runner Rick Deckard, who's been missing for 30 years. Join HIFF for a Special Presentation of BLADE RUNNER 2049 with Academy Award winning cinematographer Roger Deakins and partner James Deakins in attendance for an extended post-screening discussion. Presented as part of the New American Perspectives program in partnership with the Vilcek Foundation.



BONA

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

PHILIPPINES 1980 | TAGALOG W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 86M
DIRECTOR: LINO BROCKA
5-OCT 3:45PM | KHL

A pioneer of Philippines cinema whose work was recognized early on by the festival, director Lino Brocka gave popular actor/entertainer Nora Aunor her most challenging role to date back in 1981, playing a starstruck girl who drops out of high school to live with and take care of a bit actor who treats her like his personal servant, but offers no complaint. HIFF will screen a newly restored 4K version for the big screen.



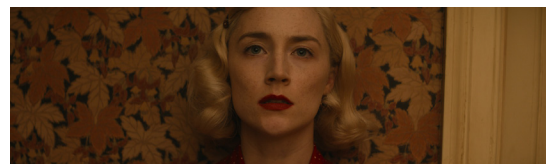
CHAIN REACTIONS

HAWAII PREMIERE
HIFF EXTREME



UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 103M
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRE O. PHILIPPE
4-OCT 7:15PM | KHL

Documentarian and "King of Cinephilia" Alexandre O. Philippe returns to HIFF with CHAIN REACTIONS, an exploration of the legacy of Tobe Hooper's classic THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE. He interviews five luminaries—Stephen King, Takashi Miike, Karyn Kusama, Patton Oswalt and Alexandra Heller-Nicholas—who give their unique, and at times, disparate takes on the subject. His film's release is apropos, coming out the 50th anniversary (HIFF44 is also screening the original film in a newly 4K restoration).



BLITZ

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA



UNITED KINGDOM 2024 | ENGLISH | 114M
DIRECTOR: STEVE MCQUEEN
13-OCT 5:15PM | KHL

The latest film from Academy Award-winning director Steve McQueen (12 YEARS A SLAVE) follows the epic journey of a nine-year-old boy in World War II London whose mother sends him to safety in the English countryside. The boy, defiant and determined to return home to his mom and his grandfather in East London, embarks on an adventure, only to find himself in immense peril, while a distraught mother searches for her missing son.



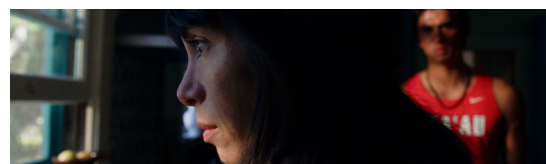
CAUGHT BY THE TIDES

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA



CHINA 2024 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 111M
DIRECTOR: JIA ZHANG-KE
9-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 12-OCT 10:45AM | KHL

One of the festival's more ambitious films, director Jia Zhang-ke uses footage shot more than 20 years ago with more recent film in this bold, impressionistic blend of fiction and documentary that tells the story of a country transitioning out of Communist rule under Chairman Mao up to a COVID-era time of economic and cultural uncertainty. Helping illustrate this is the intertwining story of a rocky romance between a young working-class woman and the club manager she works for.



CHAPERONE

HAWAII PREMIERE
MADE IN HAWAII



HAWAII, UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 102M
DIRECTOR: ZOË EISENBERG
10-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 10-NOV 7:00PM | PAL (HILO)

Alienated by friends and family for her lack of ambition, 29-year-old Misha finds a dangerous acceptance in a bright 18-year-old athlete who mistakes her for a fellow student. Shot entirely in Hilo, CHAPERONE, from filmmaker Zoë Eisenberg, recently had its world premiere at Slamdance, where it won the Grand Jury Breakouts Award.



CHINATOWN CHA-CHA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA | DOCUMENTARIES



CHINA 2024 | ENGLISH, CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 85M
DIRECTOR: LUKA YUANYUAN YANG
10-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 11-OCT 3:30PM | KHL

Former nightclub dancer Coby Yee who, at 92 years of age, decides to get back on stage again after joining the senior dance troupe Grant Avenue Follies. In their heyday, they were all part of the golden age of San Francisco Chinatown, expertly captured in Arthur Dong's seminal FORBIDDEN CITY, USA. In their advanced ages, they band together to go on tour for the last time, bridging once isolated Chinese communities in the US, Cuba and China.



CLOUD

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 123M
DIRECTOR: KIYOSHI KUROSAWA
12-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 4:30PM | KHL

Renowned director Kiyoshi Kurosawa returns to form with CLOUD. An homage to the classic thriller genre, CLOUD follows the ill-fated Yoshii, a seller of used goods, who finds himself on the receiving end of a series of escalating anonymous attacks. After several suspicious encounters, Yoshii retreats from Tokyo to a country house on a lake. But his problems are only beginning... A swarm is coming.



DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN



TAIWAN ROC 2024 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 110M
DIRECTOR: JOHN HSU
5-OCT 9:00PM | KHL • 8-OCT 8:30PM | KHL

Being dead isn't easy. Spirits must prove themselves worthy of becoming ghosts through a rigorous selection process of auditions and contests, and avoid being condemned to eternal damnation. For a newly deceased young woman only known as 'The Rookie' (Gingle Wang), she soon learns that it's a dog-eat-dog underworld and she must avoid being condemned to eternal damnation. DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY is a hilarious new dark comedy from director John Hsu (Taiwan horror sensation DETENTION).



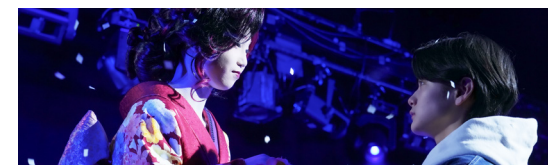
THE CIGARETTE SURFBOARD

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES



UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 93M
DIRECTOR: BEN JUDKINS
6-OCT 2:30PM | KHL • 9-OCT 3:00PM | KHL
3-NOV 1:00PM | KCC (KAUAI) • 9-NOV 2:30PM | PAL (HILO)

Yes, the titular surfboard in question was a prototype invented by Taylor Lane back in 2017, made up mostly of thousands of carelessly discarded cigarette butt filters for a creators contest cosponsored by Jack Johnson's Surf Rider Foundation. What happened to that winning entry makes up the bulk of this fascinating documentary as Tate continues to use the items of pollution as inspiration and statement to make a lighter, functional surfboard with the help of professional shapers and surfers.



CONFETTI

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 80M
DIRECTOR: NAOYA FUJITA
5-OCT 4:00PM | KHL • 6-OCT 1:45PM | KHL

Yuki has been in and out of high schools constantly, a result of living on the road with his father, who leads a traveling theater troupe. As they move to a new town, Yuki is resolved to not make any friends and focus instead on his goal to become a full-fledged actor... until he meets Ken, a bored and teen-angsty truant. CONFETTI is a fresh, sweet-spirited take on the venerable seishun eiga (youth film) genre.



DESERT OF NAMIBIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN



JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 137M
DIRECTOR: YOKO YAMANAKA
10-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 11-OCT 5:15PM | KHL

Noted Gen Z director Yoko Yamamoto's second feature is a slice-of-life portrait of an aimless young woman who leaves the passionless security of being with her longtime boyfriend for the initial excitement of another man she first met casually on a night-out with a friend. Yuumi Kawai holds the film together with her casually magnetic performance.



DIRTY MONEY

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2024 | KOREAN, CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M
DIRECTOR: KIM MIN-SU
9-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 11-OCT 5:45PM | KHL

Myung-deuk and Dong-hyuk are two detectives on the take--the former covers for gangs and takes bribes to cover mounting medical bills for his sick daughter, while the latter is ensnared to pay off his desperate partner's gambling debts. One day, they get a tip that a Chinese gang is transporting laundered money and they decide to rob them. But things go wrong, and now they're being pursued by ruthless gangsters and their colleagues, the police.



DON'T CRY, BUTTERFLY

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

VIETNAM, SINGAPORE, PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA 2024 | VIETNAMESE W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M
DIRECTOR: DƯƠNG DIỆU LINH
12-OCT 1:15PM | KHL • 13-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

Set in the early 2000s, the drama revolves around Tam, a middle-aged housewife, who discovers that her husband is having an affair. Devastated and desperate to pick up the pieces, Tam decides to use voodoo to make him fall back in love with her. But instead of getting her desired result, she accidentally summons a mysterious supernatural force into her home.



FLY ME TO THE MOON

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2023 | CANTONESE, MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M
DIRECTOR: SASHA CHUK
12-OCT 1:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

Rising filmmaker Sasha Chuk wrote, directed, and co-stars in this award-winning feature debut adapted from her own semi-autobiographical novella. She plays the wife of a Hunanese man who she reunites with in Hong Kong. The husband (Wu Kange-ren), however, is caught up in drug smuggling and is an addict himself. This observant drama is also buoyed by the performances of Chloe Hui and Yoyo Tse, who plays the eldest daughter at different points of her life.

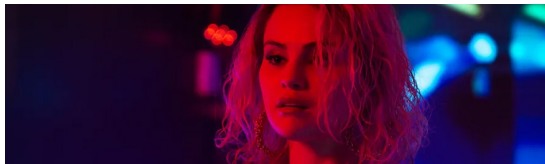


FRIENDLY FIRE

WORLD PREMIERE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

PHILIPPINES 2024 | TAGALOG W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 105M
DIRECTOR: MIKHAIL RED
5-OCT 1:15PM | KHL • 7-OCT 3:00PM | KHL • 23-OCT 5:30PM | LAN (LANA'I)

After taking a lucky sniper shot killing half of the enemy team, Hazel Sales, a female amateur gamer who plays the shooter game Project: Xandata, embarks on a journey of self-discovery when she joins a professional esports team. FRIENDLY FIRE is a hip and energetic coming-of-age sports drama.



EMILIA PÉREZ

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA

FRANCE, SPAIN 2024 | SPANISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 130M
DIRECTOR: JACQUES AUDIARD
12-OCT 8:30PM | KHL

Rita, a lawyer working for a large law firm more interested in getting criminals out of jail than bringing them to justice, is hired by a feared cartel boss. She has to help him retire from his business and disappear forever by becoming the woman he's always dreamed of being. This French-Spanish musical extravaganza, based in Mexico City, stars Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez, Edgar Ramirez and Karla Sofía Gascón.



ESCAPE FROM THE 21ST CENTURY

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

CHINA 2024 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 98M
DIRECTOR: LI YANG
4-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 6-OCT 8:15PM | KHL

What if a sneeze could transport your 18-year-old soul into your 20-years-old self? What if, by chance, this led to saving the world? Three middle-aged individuals with the souls of high school seniors embark on a world-altering journey 20 years into the future, creating a bizarre, entertaining and heartwarming adventure story.



GETTING LOST

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 130M
DIRECTOR: TAYLOR MORDEN
11-OCT 8:15PM | KHL

From 2004-2010, O'ahu was a stand-in location for a mysterious island that was a pivotal point of an episodic sci-fi television series that captured the pop culture zeitgeist internationally and built a rabid fan community. 'Losties' will be enthralled by this documentary that tells how a hastily greenlit ABC pilot put into motion one of television's groundbreaking series. Discussion to follow screening.



GHOST CAT ANZU

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN, FRANCE 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 95M
DIRECTOR: YŪKO KUNO, NOBUHIRO YAMASHITA
6-OCT 3:45PM | KHL • 13-OCT 2:15PM | KHL

Stunningly rotoscoped over live-actors, GHOST CAT ANZU is based on a manga about a strong-willed girl who finds herself spending the summer alone in a rural village, where she meets a cheeky, farting, burping, rude-but-lovable man-sized cat who is seemingly immortal and does odd jobs around town. When Anzu accompanies her on an adventure to Tokyo to find her father, they instead find themselves breaking the barrier between the living and the dead, with a band of yokai in tow.

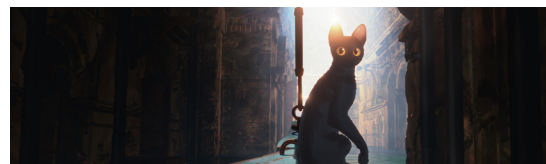


THE FALLING SKY

HAWAII PREMIERE
INDIGENOUS LENS | DOCUMENTARIES

BRAZIL 2024 | BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 110M
DIRECTOR: ERYK RÓCHA, GABRIELA CARNEIRO DA CUNHA
9-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 12-OCT 12:45PM | KHL

A bold, immersive film that is more than just an observant documentary, as we enter the world of the indigenous Yanomami people of Brazil through their leader and shaman Davi Kopensawa. The Yanomami lived in relative isolation until the early 1970s, when the junta built a highway through their territory and brought with them a devastating combination of pollution, violence and diseases. It's a searing indictment of the curse of colonialism.



FLOW

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA

LATVIA, FRANCE, BELGIUM 2024 | ENGLISH | 85M
DIRECTOR: GINTS ZILBALODIS
12-OCT 4:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 12:30PM | KHL

This captivating animated feature with CG rendered animals and beautiful paint-like natural backgrounds tells the story of a great flood that overwhelms a mystical landscape that a cat and other creatures must navigate in order to survive. Latvia's official Academy Awards submission, FLOW is a dialogue-free take on THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY with the steampunk mysteriousness of MYST.



GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES

JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 90M
DIRECTOR: HISASHI KIKUCHI
4-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 5-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

The story of a legendary Taiwanese-style home cooking restaurant in Tokyo called Fumin, where patrons not only fall in love with the food, but also the character of Chef Sai. With her excellent sense of taste and full of love that she got from her parents, she ran her restaurant for 45 years. Now retired at age 70, she welcomes only one group per day at her house to dine. Each dish she prepares has a tale behind it.



THE GIRL WITH THE NEEDLE

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA

DENMARK, POLAND 2024 | DANISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 115M
DIRECTOR: MAGNUS VON HORN
11-OCT 8:45PM | KHL

This haunting period piece centers around the life of a wartime factory seamstress in Copenhagen who becomes pregnant by her boss in hopes of escaping her dire situation. But things turn even more nightmarish when she meets and helps a woman who operates an adoption agency for unwanted infants operating under the guise of a candy shop.





GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS

HAWAII PREMIERE
 SPOTLIGHT ON INDIA
 INDIA | ENGLISH, HINDI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118M
 DIRECTOR: SHUCHI TALATI
 7-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 9-OCT 5:00PM | KHL



In a strict boarding school nestled in the Himalayas, 16-year-old Mira discovers desire and romance, but her rebellious sexual awakening is disrupted by her mother, who never got to come of age herself. A resonant and impeccably written film on generational female awakening, mother-daughter affection and rivalry, and bodily autonomy, *GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS* is exactly the kind of feminine coming-of-age film (for any age) that we need more of.



HAPPYEND

HAWAII PREMIERE
 SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN
 JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M
 DIRECTOR: NEO SORA
 9-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 12-OCT 3:45PM | KHL



Neo Sora, director of the heralded documentary *RYUICHI SAKAMOTO/OPUS*, sets his feature film debut in the near future of Japan. Two rowdy high school best friends pull a prank on their principal, which leads to a surveillance system being installed in their school. Along with a darkening national political situation, the two respond in contrasting ways that challenge their friendship.



HOMEGROWN

HAWAII PREMIERE
 DOCUMENTARIES
 UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 109M
 DIRECTOR: MICHAEL PREMO
 10-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 12-OCT 11:00AM | KHL



HOMEGROWN is a verité portrait of a fractured America, offering an unprecedented look at right-wing activists as they search for purpose and power - with dire consequences. Three of them crisscross the country in the summer of 2020 campaigning for Donald Trump and building a movement they hope will outlast him. When they become convinced that the election is stolen, they take their fight to the streets. The result is a chilling and immersive portrait of a growing movement pushing American democracy to the brink.

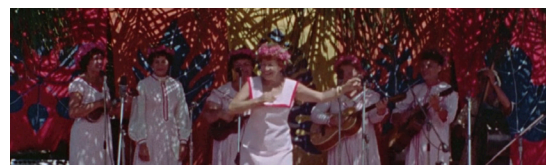


GRAFTED

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
 NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES | HIFF EXTREME
 NEW ZEALAND 2024 | ENGLISH | 96M
 DIRECTOR: SASHA RAINBOW
 12-OCT 9:15PM | KHL • 13-OCT 8:30PM | KHL



When an awkward but brilliant Chinese student wins a scholarship into a prestigious New Zealand University, she finds a new way of achieving the popularity she craves one bloody body at a time. It's *MEAN GIRLS* meets *FACE/OFF* to absolutely wild results in Sasha Rainbow's gory and uniquely Kiwi black comedy, body horror!



HAWAII PONO 1970

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
 MADE IN HAWAII
 UNITED STATES 1970 | ENGLISH | 60M
 DIRECTOR: STEVE MOORE, CARL LINDQUIST, EDDIE KAMAE
 5-OCT 1:00PM | KHL | FREE
 16-OCT 1:00PM | UHWO | FREE



This year's 'Ulu'ulu Archive screening and panel will focus on *HAWAII PONO 1970*, a documentary of the Ho'olaule'a o Hana music festival, which took place on August 1970. This television production emphasized the importance of music in Hawaiian culture and music via the anthem *Hawai'i Pono 1*. Archived at the Bishop Museum Media Collection, the film is beautiful and poetic, resonating with the cultural paradigm shift of the Hawaiian Renaissance.

From one star to another

Honolulu Star-Advertiser is a proud supporter of the **Hawaii International Film Festival.**

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HUNTER BROTHERS

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC 2024 | MANDARIN, TAIWANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 109M
DIRECTOR: SU HUNG-EN
4-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 6-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

Ma Chih-hsiang, Lin Ching-tai and Hsu Yi-fan, all from Oscar shortlisted SEEDIQ BALE (HIFF 2011), head the cast of this suspense thriller of a once close-knit family torn asunder. Two indigenous brothers are haunted by the accidental death of their father during a hunting expedition in the mountains. One of them is convicted of the crime. Years later, upon release from prison, he seeks a return to the mountains to settle a score with his older brother.



KA WHAWHAI TONU: STRUGGLE WITHOUT END

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA 2024 | MAORI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 140M
DIRECTOR: MIKE JONATHAN
11-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 13-OCT 4:15PM | KHL

The battle of Orakau in 1864 between Māori resistance fighters and British soldiers is told through the eyes of two teenagers: Haki, a captured mixed-blood soldier set to be sacrificed, and Kopu, a girl whose mother makes her a reluctant medium of her people's war god. They befriend each other in hopes of escaping, only to lead a group of young battle survivors in a final confrontation with Haki's violent army officer father.



KANIELA: THE DANNY KALEIKINI STORY

WORLD PREMIERE
MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2023 | ENGLISH | 68M
DIRECTOR: MICHAEL LUM, PAWEL NUCKOWSKI
10-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 12:15PM | KHL • 17-OCT 6:00PM | KAP
19-OCT 1:00PM | MACC (MAUI)

A loving tribute to the late 'Ambassador of Aloha', including interviews with the man himself completed before his passing last year. Born into a large family in Papakōlea, Kaniela began working in Hawai'i's tourism industry in the 1950s and grew to be a beloved and internationally known entertainer with over 30 years of performing, not only here, but Las Vegas and Japan as well. One of the last projects he worked on was recording with his grandson Nicholas.



I'M STILL HERE

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA

BRAZIL 2024 | PORTUGUESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 135M
DIRECTOR: WALTER SALLES
11-OCT 6:00PM

BRAZIL, 1971 - The country faces the tightening grip of a military dictatorship. Eunice Paiva, a mother of five children is forced to reinvent herself after her family suffers a violent and arbitrary act by the government. Director Walter Salles returns to the big screen in this adaptation of the true story that helped reconstruct an important part of Brazil's hidden history.



KANASANDO

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 87M
DIRECTOR: TOSHIYUKI TERUYA
12-OCT 3:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 12:00PM | KHL

The title comes from a beloved Okinawan folk song, which plays a pivotal role in this heartfelt drama that strikes a balance between droll comedy and teary poignancy. A wayward daughter returns to her island home to make amends with her sickly father who cheated on her doting mother. Sure to be a festival favorite, the cast is led by excellent performances by Ruka Matsuda, Keiko Horiuchi, and veteran Tadanobu Asano, better known for his work in SHŪGUN.



THE LAST OF THE SEA WOMEN

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA | DOCUMENTARIES

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH, KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M
DIRECTOR: SUE KIM
5-OCT 6:15PM | KHL

A spirited portrait of an endangered tradition and a galvanizing plea for better stewardship of our oceans, Sue Kim's documentary dives deep into the culture of the haenyeo, the South Korean fisherwomen who have been harvesting seafood for their communities for centuries. Their cause is now aided by a younger generation through social media, and the power of their story won the support of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, who joined the film as an executive producer.



LOVE LIES

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2024 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M
DIRECTOR: HO MIU-KI
11-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 5:00PM | KHL

A gentle drama about two people successful at work who connect emotionally through an online romance scam syndicate. She is a middle-aged widow trying to find love outside of her gynecological practice who takes on the identity of a 25-year-old nurse and he is an awkward young scam employee whose online profile is that of a French widower and petroleum engineer. Hong Kong superstar Sandra Ng will be in attendance as this year's SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG Filmmaker In Profile.



MEMOIR OF A SNAIL

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA

AUSTRALIA 2024 | ENGLISH | 94M
DIRECTOR: ADAM ELLIOT
5-OCT 5:45PM | KHL

After a series of misfortunes, a melancholic, snail-collecting, misfit Grace (voiced by SUCCESSION's Sarah Snook) learns how to find confidence within herself amid the clutter of everyday life. The Australian stop-motion animation auteur Adam Elliot (MARY AND MAX, Academy Award-winning HARVEY KRUMPET) delivers a prolific (sometimes of epic proportions), grotesque story of puppets in suffering, instilling in every corner, a sardonic, morbid sense of humor. Snook is joined by other stalwart Aussie talents like Jackie Weaver and Jodi Smit-McPhee (POWER OF THE DOG).



LOVE IN THE BIG CITY

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2024 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118M
DIRECTOR: LEE EON-HIE
3-OCT 6:30PM | KHL • 6-OCT 5:15PM | KHL

Jae-hee (Kim Go-eun) was never like the others and, in a collective, uniform culture like South Korea's, embracing her individuality has triggered endless gossip. One day, she meets Heung-soo (Steve Sanghyun Noh), another misfit lost in the big city. But unlike Jae-hee, Heung-soo hopes to hide his true identity. When Jae-hee finds out his secret by chance, the two form an unlikely relationship. Based on the novel of the same name by Park Sang-young — longlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2022.



MARIMARI

WORLD PREMIERE
PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2024 | TOK PISIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M
DIRECTOR: PAUL WOLFFRAM
4-OCT 5:15PM | KHL • 7-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

This urgent documentary takes us into the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea and one indigenous woman's fight against the insidious influence of sanguma – sorcery violence. A verité style film that provides access to a world in which this new practice wreaks havoc on the lives of many innocent people in the Pacific.



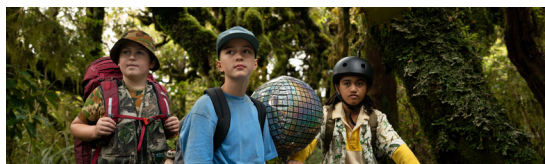
THE MOTHERLOAD

WORLD PREMIERE
NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES, VIETNAM, CANADA 2024 | ENGLISH, VIETNAMESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M
DIRECTOR: VAN TRAN NGUYEN, ALEX DERWICK
5-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 7-OCT 7:30PM | KHL

An imaginative telling of the story of a Vietnamese American mother-daughter duo who, in their attempt to heal the rift between them, reenact and satirize scenes from celebrated Vietnam War films while depicting a diasporic reality.





THE MOUNTAIN

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA 2024 | ENGLISH, MAORI
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 89M

DIRECTOR: RACHEL HOUSE
12-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

A lively and inspirational coming-of-age tale from Rachel House as three kids—a cancer patient, a friendless boy honoring the memory of his mother, and a self-appointed “guardian of Mother Earth”—go on an adventure to try to ascend, off the beaten track, Mt. Taranaki, the second highest mountain on North Island.



MYTHS AND MAIDENS

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND 2024 | ENGLISH | 56M

DIRECTOR: LISA TAUMA
5-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 7-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

We’ve all seen her: the hula girl swinging from the dashboard, the sultry South Seas siren smiling languidly in postcards, and the alluring topless native telling you to come to the “friendly Islands.” The documentary explores the impact of the colonial gaze on “native beauty” through the ages, and looks at how the idea of beauty is being re-defined in the Moana.



THE PARADISE OF THORNS

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

THAILAND 2024 | THAI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 131M

DIRECTOR: BOSS KUNO
10-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 12-OCT 6:00PM | KHL

Rising Thai stars Jeff Satur and Engfa Waraha play feuding family members trying to lay claim on a house and durian orchard in this melodrama by Nareubet “Boss” Kuno. Satur plays half of what was once a devoted gay couple who get married in order to lay claim to his partner’s family assets. Unfortunately, the marriage was never legally recognized by the government, so instead the house and orchard belong to his late partner’s mother.



PERSEVERE

WORLD PREMIERE
MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 42M

DIRECTOR: ROY KIMURA
5-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 10:00AM | KHL

This short documentary looks into the lives of one particular family whose relatives were Okinawan immigrants caught up with the Japanese war effort and how they came through the difficult times of sacrifice and loss with quiet strength to create a legacy that lives through today.

PLAYS WITH: ALETHA – DIRECTOR: Alexander Bocchieri &
WATER BODIES – DIRECTOR: Karly Noetzel



NO OTHER LAND

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES

STATE OF PALESTINE, NORWAY 2024 | ARABIC, ENGLISH, HEBREW
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 95M

DIRECTOR: BASEL ADRA, YUVAL ABRAHAM, RACHEL SZOR, HAMDAN BALLAL
10-OCT 6:15PM | KHL

Basel Adra, a young Palestinian activist from the West Bank, has been fighting the mass expulsion of his community by Israel's occupation since childhood. He documents the slow-motion eradication of the villages in his home region where soldiers deployed by the Israeli government are gradually demolishing houses and driving out their residents. At some point, he meets Yuval, an Israeli journalist, who supports him in his efforts. An unlikely alliance develops.



NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 60M

DIRECTOR: QUYEN NGUYEN-LE, TADASHI NAKAMURA
12-OCT 12:30PM | KHL • 13-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

A solid hour-long documentary from PBS Southern California that chronicles the life and artistry of this Japanese American performance artist and activist. From her beginnings as an accomplished dancer on stage and screen (including the original WEST SIDE STORY) to her political activism beginning in the late 1960s, Miyamoto brings her art into her community work.

PLAYS WITH: BECAUSE OF YOU, I AM
DIRECTOR: Doug Menez



PROMISED LAND

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2023 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 89M

DIRECTOR: MASASHI IJIMA
5-OCT 6:30PM | KHL • 8-OCT 5:45PM | KHL

A stunning meditation on the interplay between cultural practice, heritage and modernity. When a group of traditional bear hunters in rural mountainous Japan are informed that their practice has been banned due to declining bear populations, two young men decide to risk it all to preserve their dying tradition. Based on an award-winning novel, this directorial debut from Masashi Iijima is beautifully lensed, simultaneously serene and thrilling.



THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF IBELIN

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES

NORWAY 2024 | ENGLISH, NORWEGIAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 106M

DIRECTOR: BENJAMIN REE
6-OCT 6:15PM | KHL

Mats Steen, a Norwegian gamer, died of a degenerative muscular disease at the age of 25. His parents mourned that they thought had been a lonely and isolated life, when instead they’re inundated with hundreds of messages from online friends around the world, who had befriended Mats through “World of Warcraft.” Duchenne muscular dystrophy may have confined Mats’s body, but the degenerative disease couldn’t confine his mind, his soul, his generosity and kindness, or his imagination. Winner of two Sundance Awards.



ONCE WERE WARRIORS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA 1994 | ENGLISH, MAORI
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 102M

DIRECTOR: LEE TAMAHORI
16-OCT 7:00PM | KAP

In this powerful drama depicting an indigenous culture in crisis, a Māori woman tries to heroically mend a life torn by domestic violence resulting from a disconnect from her native roots. The aimlessness also affects her combative, alcoholic husband and children, who are also facing their own challenges by trying to find solace in their native culture. HIFF is honored to screen this special presentation for the film’s 30th anniversary with HIFF44 Trailblazer Honoree Temuera Morrison in attendance!



ONE MILLION DOLLA

WORLD PREMIERE
MADE IN HAWAII

HAWAII, UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 139M

DIRECTOR: STEFAN C. SCHAEFER
6-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 19-OCT 5:30PM | MACC (MAUI) • 22-OCT 5:30PM | LAN (LANA'I) • 3-NOV 12:00PM | KAH (WAIIMEA) • 3-NOV 3:30PM | KCC (KAUA'I) • 8-NOV 5:00PM | PAL (HILO)

In this Maui-set mockumentary, Big Island content creator Alex Farnham plays the Guy, a houseless buffoon with a heart of gold. He chases chickens and sells coconuts in his happy-go-lucky existence. After receiving a surprise gift of a million dollars, a documentary crew starts following him around. Before Guy knows it, people come out of the woodwork, latching on to become his posse and he soon finds out who his real friends are.



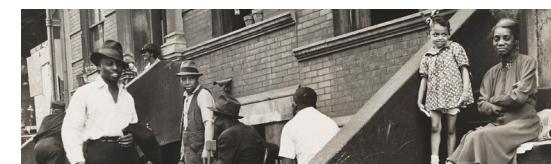
THE ROOM NEXT DOOR

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA

UNITED STATES, SPAIN 2024 | ENGLISH | 110M

DIRECTOR: PEDRO ALMODÓVAR
5-OCT 8:45PM | KHL

Ingrid (Julianne Moore) and Martha (Tilda Swinton) were close friends in their youth, when they worked together at the same magazine. Ingrid went on to become an autofiction novelist while Martha became a war reporter, and they were separated by the circumstances of life. After years of being out of touch, they meet again in an extreme but strangely sweet situation. Directed by Pedro Almodóvar, this is his first English language feature film.



SAN JUAN HILL: MANHATTAN'S LOST NEIGHBORHOOD

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 60M

DIRECTOR: STANLEY NELSON
12-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

Award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson is bringing a forgotten piece of Manhattan’s history to light with his latest film (which was commissioned by the Lincoln Center) that explores the complex relationship between urban development and cultural preservation. Once home to New York City’s largest Black population, Manhattan’s San Juan Hill neighborhood no longer exists. The diverse working-class neighborhood was razed during the 1950s to make way for the Lincoln Center campus.





THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG

HAWAII PREMIERE PANORAMA 

IRAN, FRANCE, GERMANY 2024 | FARSI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 168M
DIRECTOR: MOHAMMAD RASOULOF
6-OCT 2:15PM | KHL

Despite constant repression in his home country, which has already led him to be imprisoned twice, Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof continues to make hard-hitting films, his latest one being about an examining magistrate whose gun disappears unexpectedly just as huge demonstrations erupt in Tehran. The film received a special prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival.



SHAKA, A STORY OF ALOHA  

HAWAII PREMIERE MADE IN HAWAII 

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 80M
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER BOCCHIERI
7-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 9-OCT 1:00PM | KHL • 17-OCT 8:00PM | KAP
20-OCT 1:00PM | MACC (MAUI) • 3-NOV 7:00PM | KCC (KAUAI)
3-NOV 3:00PM | KAH (WAIMEA) • 10-NOV 4:30PM | PAL (HILO)

The La'ie community figures large in this documentary that tries to find the origins of the state's "Swiss army knife" of good-natured gestures. The latter part of the documentary spends a good deal of its time relating the fascinating story of community leader Tutu Hamana Kalili back in the 1910s that may have started it all.



SISTER MIDNIGHT  

HAWAII PREMIERE HIFF EXTREME | SPOTLIGHT ON INDIA

UNITED KINGDOM, INDIA, SWEDEN 2024 | HINDI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 110M
DIRECTOR: KARAN KANDHARI
11-OCT 9:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 6:00PM | KHL

British-Asian director Karan Kandhari brings his distinctive flair to his story of a small town misfit who arrives in Mumbai for an arranged marriage, but then spirals into darkness because of her feeling trapped by social expectation, her awkward spouse and nosy neighbors. She becomes a fierce and feral force that involves a lot of spilled blood.



SOMEBODY  

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2024 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M
DIRECTOR: KIM YEONG-JUNG, LEE JEONG-CHAN
12-OCT 9:00PM | KHL • 13-OCT 4:45PM | KHL

What would you do if your only child turned bad? Swimming instructor and single mother Young-eun has a problem. Her six-year-old daughter So-hyun is displaying disturbing and violent behavior. With nowhere to turn, she begins to consider drastic measures. Twenty years later, orphan Min finds herself embroiled with her new colleague Hae-young as unsettling events swirl around the two women.



SHANGHAI BLUES    

SPECIAL PRESENTATION SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG 1984 | MANDARIN, CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 103M
DIRECTOR: TSUI HARK
12-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

The restored classic romantic comedy from director Tsui Hark is a prime example of the best of Hong Kong cinema of the 1980s. Set in the wartime 1930s, it starts with an eventful chance meeting between a woman and a soldier while sheltering under a bridge. Celebrating its 40th anniversary, this frothy and colorful romp comes with new dialect dubbing and improved English subtitles.



THE SHAPE OF THINGS: THE DICK BREWER STORY  

FESTIVAL PREMIERE MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 60M
DIRECTOR: BOB CAMPI
1-NOV 6:00PM | KCC (KAUAI) • 2-NOV 12:00PM | KAH (WAIMEA)
• 9-NOV 12:00PM | PAL (HILO)

A portrait of the influential surfboard builder whose highly crafted boards made for big wave riding were coveted by professional surfers for decades. The film follows Brewer's career, incorporating in-depth interviews and testimonials of his contemporaries, spanning many years of surfing history, all paying allegiance to the master.



SPACE & TIME 

HAWAII PREMIERE PACIFIC SHOWCASE

UNITED STATES 2023 | ENGLISH | 42M
DIRECTOR: KEONE MADRID, MARI MADRID
9-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 11-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

Award-winning director/choreographers Keone and Mari Madrid make their most personal artistic statement to date with this short film about a married couple expressing a time of grief and loss through dance. The striking imagery and movement is propelled by a selection of music that includes Florence and the Machine.

PLAYS WITH: VAKARAITAKA, THE ADVENTURES OF KAI, EMA I'U - FLOWER OF LIFE



STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS  

HAWAII PREMIERE MADE IN HAWAII | FILM FOR THOUGHT 

HAWAII, UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH, 'OLELO HAWAII W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 82M
DIRECTOR: JALENA KEANE-LEE
4-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 7-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 20-OCT 3:30PM | MACC (MAUI)
2-NOV 1:00PM | KCC (KAUAI) • 3-NOV 6:00PM | KAH (WAIMEA) • 7-NOV 6:00PM | PAL (HILO)

Expanded from the 2020 short film, three intergenerational Indigenous Hawaiian families seek to protect their native land and sacred mountain, the towering inactive volcano Mauna Kea, from the construction of the world's largest telescope.



SHŌGUN - AN EVENING WITH SHOWRUNNERS 

SPECIAL PRESENTATION PANORAMA / HIFILM

UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 60M
DIRECTOR: TAIKA WAITITI
10-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

The first episode of the critically praised, highly rated prestige series (racking an unprecedented 25 Emmy Award nominations including Outstanding Drama Series) will be screened, and will include a Q&A with festival guests and the drama's showrunners Justin Marks and Rachel Kondo.



SISAM 

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE FILM FOR THOUGHT | SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M
DIRECTOR: HIROYUKI NAKAO
12-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 13-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

A young samurai, on a trade mission with the indigenous Ainu, is injured by a traitorous thief. He is healed with the help of an Ainu village family. Over time, he comes to sympathize with their people's culture, customs, and ideals. But there are those in the village suspicious of this stranger who represents the Japanese colonization that looks down on their way of life.



STUNTMAN    

HAWAII PREMIERE SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2024 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M
DIRECTOR: ALBERT LEUNG, HERBERT LEUNG
12-OCT 8:45PM | KHL • 13-OCT 11:00AM | KHL

From twin actor/directors Albert and Herbert Leung comes this drama about a washed-up stunt choreographer making a last go of it when asked by a veteran director to help him on his last action movie. A young, ambitious stuntman gets caught up in the conflict between the choreographer and the movie's star, his former protégé turned rival. Can the fight choreographer reclaim his former glory that was his during the golden age of Hong Kong kung fu movies of the 1980s?



SUPERBOYS OF MALEGAON 

UNITED STATES PREMIERE SPOTLIGHT ON INDIA

INDIA 2024 | HINDI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 127M
DIRECTOR: REEMA KAGTI
6-OCT 2:15PM | KHL • 8-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

Inspired by real events, it tells the story of an amateur filmmaker who, along with his ragtag crew, directs no-budget spoofs of Bollywood and Hollywood classics. Following in the footsteps of BE KIND REWIND and THE FABLEMANS, it is an inspiring ode to tenacity, self-actualization, and the sheer fun of filmmaking.



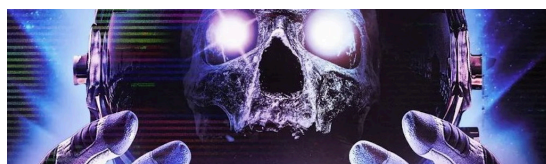
TERRESTRIAL  

WORLD PREMIERE
MADE IN HAWAII
UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 76M
DIRECTOR: ALEX FARNHAM
13-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 19-OCT 8:00PM | MACC (MAUI) • 21-OCT 6:00PM | LAN (LANAI) 2-NOV 6:00PM | KAH (WAIMEA) • 8-NOV 8:00PM | PAL (HILO)
The first alien monster movie independently made on the Big Island! And, of course, the story happens during Halloween!! A high school science teacher from California, unable to find a friendly community, instead tries to find some semblance of respect when he discovers the creature living in a lava tube. Big fun for all as Alex Farnham (ONE MILLION DOLLA) and his cast and crew go for broke.



UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE  

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA
CANADA 2024 | FARSI, FRENCH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 89M
DIRECTOR: MATTHEW RANKIN
9-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 10-OCT 3:15PM | KHL
A gently absurdist comedy from writer-director Matthew Rankin that was an unexpected hit at this year's Cannes Film Festival. He imagines a Winnipeg where the dominant culture is Iranian and people speak Farsi. The film's story starts when two young school-age sisters discover a 500 riel bill in some frozen ice. Thinking they've struck it rich, they enlist the help of a local turkey dealer.



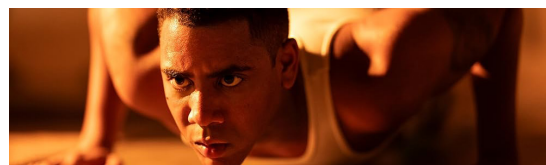
V/H/S/BEYOND 

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
HIFF EXTREME
UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH, HINDI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M
DIRECTOR: JORDAN DOWNEY, CHRISTIAN LONG & JUSTIN LONG, JUSTIN MARTINEZ, VIRAT PAL, KATE SIEGEL, AND JAY CHEEL
3-OCT 9:15PM | KHL
Halloween comes early as the festival screens the latest entry in the popular horror anthology franchise containing six stories, the most anticipated of which are "Furbabies" from actor Justin Long and his brother Christian, and "Stowaway," written by horror master Mike Flanagan and directed by his wife, actor Kate Siegel.



THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
HIFF EXTREME
UNITED KINGDOM 1974 | ENGLISH | 83M
DIRECTOR: TOBE HOOPER
4-OCT 9:30PM | KHL
In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the festival presents a restored version of Tobe Hooper's horror genre classic and gruesome satire of American values. A heartland road trip becomes a nightmarish descent of abduction by a family of cannibals, including the now-iconic hulk of a masked killer known as Leatherface.



UNSTOPPABLE 

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA
UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 116M
DIRECTOR: WILLIAM GOLDENBERG
5-OCT 3:15PM | KHL
Jharrel Jerome and Jennifer Lopez star in this inspiring sports drama based on the life of wrestler Anthony Robles, who was born with one leg and won a national championship in 2011 while competing at Arizona State University.



VIET AND NAM

HAWAII PREMIERE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE
VIETNAM 2024 | VIETNAMESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 129M
DIRECTOR: MINH QUY TRUONG
6-OCT 4:00PM | KHL
In the underground coal mines, Nam and Viet, young miners (and lovers), face danger and darkness. One prepares to leave for a new life, but they must find Nam's father's remains, a soldier lost in a faraway forest by retracing the past through memories. Vietnamese filmmaker Truong Minh Quy imprints his film with sensual detail and mesmeric eroticism, it is a remarkable work of quiet expressivity.



VOICE 

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
PACIFIC SHOWCASE
AUSTRALIA 2024 | ENGLISH | 99M
DIRECTOR: KRUNAL PADHIAR, SEMARA JOSE
11-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 13-OCT 10:15AM | KHL
An intimate and historically crucial documentary about a group of Australian indigenous youths that make a pilgrimage to join up with a Freedom Day Festival. The festival honors the hard work done starting in the mid-1960s to make legitimate a land rights legacy for Aborigines. They also start a grassroots campaign for a national vote to enshrine indigenous people's voice in the national constitution.



WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN  

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN
TAIWAN ROC 2023 | MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M
DIRECTOR: SU I-HSUAN
6-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 8-OCT 5:30PM | KHL
In 1994, Taiwanese students were in the midst of a protest. Chi-wei, a female college student joins the strike to fight for their freedom of expression. During the protest, Chi-wei is slowly attracted to Ching, whose boyfriend Kuang is the student strike leader. As passionate protest enflames personal desires, both the strike and their triangle relationship becomes wild and vibrant.



YINTAH  

HAWAII PREMIERE
FILM FOR THOUGHT | INDIGENOUS LENS
CANADA 2024 | ENGLISH | 125M
DIRECTOR: JENNIFER WICKHAM, BRENDA MICHELL, MICHAEL TOLEDANO
6-OCT 6:30PM | KHL • 8-OCT 2:30PM | KHL
The documentary's title means "land" in the Wet'suwet'en language, one of a group of tribal clans who live in Canadian territories. Over the period of a decade, this excellent overview follows the interlinking stories of two Native women activists who spur on their communities by taking a firm stance against the encroachment of fossil fuel companies who want to build pipelines through their people's sovereign territory.



WE WERE DANGEROUS 

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
PACIFIC SHOWCASE
NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA 2024 | ENGLISH, MAORI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 83M
DIRECTOR: JOSEPHINE STEWART-TE WHIU
6-OCT 1:00PM | KHL • 10-OCT 3:30PM | KHL
This affecting drama focuses on a trio of rebellious girls trapped in a reform school for delinquents isolated on an island that used to be a leper colony. While they come from widely diverse backgrounds, they quickly develop a friendship, one that is challenged when the school settles on experimental forms of punishment that take place in the dead of night.



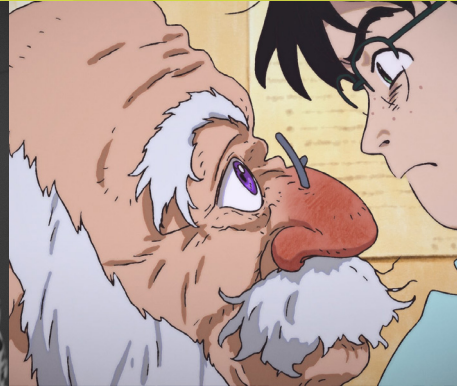
YIN YANG MASTER ZERO

HAWAII PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN
JAPAN 2024 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M
DIRECTOR: SHIMAKO SATO
5-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 9-OCT 5:30PM | KHL
A big-budget epic fantasy written and directed by a woman, Shimako Sato—a first for Japan—is an ambitious blend of court intrigue, romance, and magical battles. The production design is elegant, the visual effects strong (not surprising it's the Oscar-winning team behind GODZILLA MINUS ONE) and fine performances by her lead trio of actors all help bring the story to life.



ZURAWSKI V TEXAS 

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARIES
UNITED STATES 2024 | ENGLISH | 99M
DIRECTOR: MAISIE CROW, ABBIE PERRAULT
9-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 11-OCT 3:15PM | KHL
A timely look at the political right's attacks on American female health care. Early last year, The Center for Reproductive Rights filed a case originally on behalf of five Texas women who faced risks when denied vital care in their state, as well as two ob-gyns, due to a six-week abortion ban.



BREAKING CYCLES SHORTS

Go against the grain, cut the cord, disrupt your everyday monotony! These stories feature characters that challenge the status quo, muster the courage to try something new, and learn to unapologetically be their true selves.

11-OCT 5:30PM | KHL



302
DIRECTOR: LEON CHEO

A SUMMER'S END POEM
DIRECTOR: LAM CAN-ZHAO

ILY, BYE
DIRECTOR: TAYLOR JAMES

SATURN RISING
DIRECTOR: TIARE RIBEAUX, JODY STILLWATER

SEOUL SWITCH
DIRECTOR: LIANN KAYE

TALK TO ME
DIRECTOR: JIMMY MING SHUM

THREE
DIRECTOR: AMIE SONG

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS SHORTS

Of the human kind...mostly! This collection features stories surrounding interactions and their perspective-shifting consequences. From societal labels and misconceptions, to alien and ghostly presences - these encounters hit close to home.

11-OCT 8:00PM | KHL
12-OCT 10:00AM | KHL



COMPLICATIONS
DIRECTOR: IVAR AASE

DALY CITY
DIRECTOR: NICK HARTANTO

END OF SUMMER
DIRECTOR: WEIQI CAI

FRACTAL
DIRECTOR: ANSLEM RICHARDSON

GAME RULES
DIRECTOR: CHRISTIAN ZETTERBERG

THE MASTERPIECE
DIRECTOR: ÁLEX LORA CERCOS

THIRSTYGIRL
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRA QIN

UNIBROW
DIRECTOR: NEDDA SARSHAR

COPING FOR THE BEST SHORTS

We all use coping mechanisms at some point to get through this modern life. These stories capture characters at both their best and worst, while they cope in unique ways and find support in others and within.

7-OCT 7:00PM | KHL
9-OCT 2:30PM | KHL



[SUBTEXT]
DIRECTOR: ERIN BROWN THOMAS

ELECTRA
DIRECTOR: DARIA KASHCHEEVA

GOOSE QUEST
DIRECTOR: CLARISSA CHUA

PLAY DATE
DIRECTOR: LAURA CAMPBELL,
AMBERLEE COLSON

THE LOOMING CLOUD
DIRECTOR: MATTHEW TYLER

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU
DIRECTOR: ALEC GOLDBERG

OUT FOR BLOOD SHORTS

Get into the Halloween spirit with these spooky midnight shorts. This thrilling, special program is in collaboration with Honolulu Horror Nights, so grab a friend for support and try not to cover your eyes!

5-OCT 6:00PM | KHL



AGONIST
DIRECTOR: ANNIE MARIE ELLIOT

BINGE!
DIRECTOR: SAM DAVID ZHANG, ROHIT RELAN

DREAM CREEP
DIRECTOR: CARLOS A.F. LOPEZ

LULLABY
DIRECTOR: CHI THAI

OLGA'S EYES
DIRECTOR: SARAH CARLOT JABER

WAKE
DIRECTOR: SEAN CARTER

WHERE THE MOUNTAIN WOMEN SING
DIRECTOR: JUEFANG ZHANG

HIFF EXTREME AFTER PARTY

Following the screening, join us at Talk Kaimuki for an event in partnership with Honolulu Horror Nights featuring horror film-themed cocktails, discussions with HIFF-featured filmmakers, and performances by DJ Nocturna and Queer Pasifika Artists. **Costumes encouraged!**

TALK KAIMUKI 5-OCT 9:00PM
3601 WAIALAE AVE
HONOLULU, HI 96816

START MOTION SHORTS

Get animated! Marvel at the spectacular artistry and multitude of different animation styles from around the world. These films showcase diverse voices and stories that are equally haunting and beautiful.

6-OCT 5:30PM | KHL



BAIGAL NUUR - LAKE BAIKAL
DIRECTOR: ALISI TELENGUT

FIRST LINE
DIRECTOR: TINA

FORTUNE COOKIE
DIRECTOR: FU YANG

HAVE I SWALLOWED YOUR DREAMS
DIRECTOR: CLARA CHAN

MÛ
DIRECTOR: MALIN NEUMANN

MY JACKET
DIRECTOR: CHESLEY CANNON

RUTHLESS BLADE
DIRECTOR: BO ZHANG

TEHRAN IS OURS
DIRECTOR: HAMIDEH AZIMI

THE BROWN DOG
DIRECTOR: NADIA HALLGREN, JAMIE-JAMES MEDINA

THE UNSEEN
DIRECTOR: FRANCESCO GUARINI

STRANGE FUTURES SHORTS

From dystopian game shows and government programs, to robots and duels - take a journey through different timelines with these peculiar visions of the future.

9-OCT 8:30PM | KHL



DON'T F*CK WITH BA
DIRECTOR: SALLY TRAN

I'M NOT A ROBOT
DIRECTOR: VICTORIA WARMERDAM

MIS-ALIGNMENT
DIRECTOR: PABLO RIESGO ALMONACID

PRIMETIME MOTHER
DIRECTOR: SONNY CALVENTO

SUMMONS
DIRECTOR: KEN CHENG

THE SECOND
DIRECTOR: TAYLOR RAMOS, TONY ZHOU



HOMEGROWN: A PART OF/APART FROM (FIRELIGHT MEDIA SHORTS)

This program comprises eight documentary short films made by emerging BIPOC filmmakers living in the U.S. territories, Hawai'i and their diasporic communities, focusing on stories grappling with issues of sovereignty, agency, and negotiating what it means to be at once "a part of and apart from" the United States. A Firelight Media production, in partnership with Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC), Black Public Media (BPM), and Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB).

5-OCT 3:45PM | KHL



CASA LAUREL

DIRECTOR: PATI CRUZ MARTINEZ

CHAMORU: A LOST LANGUAGE

DIRECTOR: BRIAN MUNA

DEAR ALOHA

DIRECTOR: CRIS ROMENTO

NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

DIRECTOR: GABBY A. FAAIUASO, JOHN "NIKO" PATU

ESCAMBRÓN, PLAYA

DIRECTOR: MARIA DEL MAR ROSARIO

WATERS OF PU'ULOA

DIRECTOR: TIARE RIBEAX

WE ARE TAINO

DIRECTOR: EMMANUEL PHILLIPS

WHAT THE STORMS TAUGHT US

DIRECTOR: JOHN P. WHEATLEY

ELEMENTAL FIRE – GLOBAL INDIGENOUS STORIES OF RETURN

RECIPROCITY PROJECT SHORTS

Facing a climate crisis, the Reciprocity Project embraces Indigenous value systems created in kinship with Earth.

5-OCT 1:00PM | KHL



ENCHUKUNOTO : THE RETURN

DIRECTOR: LAISSA MALIH

MA NAYE KA MASAALA A SE KA WŌMĒTI (FROM GOD TO MAN)

DIRECTOR: LANSANA MANSARAY

TAYAL FOREST CLUB

DIRECTOR: LAHA MEBOW

TENTSÍTEWAHKWE

DIRECTOR: KATSISIONNI FOX

ELEMENTAL WATER – GLOBAL INDIGENOUS STORIES OF RETURN

RECIPROCITY PROJECT SHORTS

Facing a climate crisis, the Reciprocity Project embraces Indigenous value systems created in kinship with Earth.

6-OCT 11:00AM | KHL



ÁHKUIN

DIRECTOR: RADIO-JUSSUNNÁ, SUNNÁ NOUSUNIEMI, GUHTUR NILLAS RITA DUOMIS, TUOMAS KUMPULAINEN

ARMEA

DIRECTOR: LETILA MITCHELL

GATH & K'YIH: LISTEN TO HEAL

DIRECTOR: PRINCESS DAAZHRAII JOHNSON

TAHNAANOOKU'

DIRECTOR: JUSTIN DEEGAN

ENVIRONMENTAL SHORTS

Some of the best environmental shorts from around the world. Covering a range of issues from food sustainability, to deforestation and water restoration efforts. These stories naturally overlap with Indigenous populations that are at the forefront of the fight for a clean, sustainable and safe environmental future.

10-OCT 5:15PM | KHL



GREEN OCEAN GOLD

DIRECTOR: OLAF LAWRENCE

GRUB

DIRECTOR: CARLEEN L. HSU

INDAI APAI DARAH (MOTHER, FATHER, BLOOD)

DIRECTOR: KYNAN TEGAR

LOVE THE ISLAND

DIRECTOR: ISABELA ALVES

TERRA MATER

DIRECTOR: KANTARAMA, GAHIGIRI

THE SALMON FOREST PROJECT

DIRECTOR: BILL HEATH

TURNING THE TIDE – MĀTAURANGA-LED RESTORATION

DIRECTOR: MAGNOLIA LOWE

ገጽጽ ግራይ (MEET ME AT THE CREEK)

DIRECTOR: LOREN WATERS

INDIGENOUS LENS SHORTS

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

13-OCT 11:30AM | KHL



6 KILOMETERS PER SECOND

DIRECTOR: CATHERINE BOVIN

HOW THE LAND REMEMBERS US

DIRECTOR: JARED WAHKINNEY

INIA IKIAMPRI (OUR JUNGLE)

DIRECTOR: MARTÍN KINGMAN

MAMU

DIRECTOR: AEPHIE CHEN

MUNKHA

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER MORUO, MARKEL MARTYNOV

NOT AFRAID

DIRECTOR: MIKAELA BRUCE

WE EXIST IN MEMORY

DIRECTOR: DARIAN WOHR

WINDING PATH

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRA LAZAROWICH, ROSS KAUFFMAN

REEL WĀHINE OF HAWAII' (SEASON 5)

Season 5 of REEL WĀHINE OF HAWAII' highlights the exceptional and crucial work of pioneering wāhine who played a significant role in establishing the local film industry, as well as emerging talents who are producing innovative and ground-breaking work. This season's episodes spotlight Alison Week, Chaunel "Pākē" Salmon, Lola Quan Bautista, Robin Lung, Shirley Thompson and Tiare Ribeaux. Celebrate the latest season documenting the real-life stories of Hawai'i women filmmakers.



12-OCT 10:30AM | KHL

LOLA BAUTISTA

ALISON WEEK

TIARE RIBEAX

SHIRLEY THOMPSON

ROBIN LUNG

PAKE SALMON



HO'OMAU

Stories that capture resiliency, endurance and unceasing perseverance.

8-OCT 6:00PM | KHL
10-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

A SONG FOR NICHOLAS

DIRECTOR: EDDIE KAMAE

HEALING LAHAINA

DIRECTOR: LAUREL TAMAYO



IT'S SHAVE ICE

DIRECTOR: JAYE ORIKASA

OLI KĀHULI

DIRECTOR: MUHAMMAD ALI IJAZ

DANCE, DANCE, (R)EVOLUTION

A vibrant anthology capturing the rhythm, passion, and stories of Pasifika life through the universal language of movement.

9-OCT 5:30PM | KHL
11-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

EMA I'U-FLOWER OF LIFE

DIRECTOR: FRANCIS BAKER

SPACE & TIME

DIRECTOR: KEONE MADRID, MARI MADRID



THE ADVENTURES OF KAI

DIRECTOR: TIMOUR BOURTASENKOV

VAKARAITAKA

DIRECTOR: FENTON LUTUNATABUA

MANIFESTING MANA

Weaving ancestral wisdom, modern resilience, and cinematic prowess that celebrate the spirit of Hawai'i.

4-OCT 8:45PM | KHL 2-NOV 3:30PM | KCC
15-OCT 7:00PM | KAP 10-NOV 12:00PM | PAL

DECODING ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

DIRECTOR: RUTH LICHTMAN, SHARON SHATTUCK

KAI HALI'A (SEA OF MEMORY)

DIRECTOR: ANGELIQUE KALANI AXELRODE

KŪKINI

DIRECTOR: MITCHEL MERRICK



MANIFESTO [FOR CONCRETE POETRY]

DIRECTOR: RICHARD HAMASAKI, JODY STILLWATER, SEBASTIAN GALASSO

THE QUEEN'S FLOWERS

DIRECTOR: CIARA LEINAALA LACY

WOVEN

DIRECTOR: VILSONI HERENIKO, ALEX CANTATORE

NARRATIVE SOVEREIGNTY

Cinematic stories created by Pasifika auteurs rooted in the authority over their land and narratives.

11-OCT 6:00PM | KHL
13-OCT 2:45PM | KHL

DAUGHTER OF GUAM

DIRECTOR: ALFRED BOORDALLO

FIRST HORSE

DIRECTOR: AWANUI SIMICH-PENE

LEA TUPU'ANGA / MOTHER TONGUE

DIRECTOR: VEA MAFILE'O

RECLAIM

DIRECTOR: GEETA GANDBHIR



SON OF SAMOA

DIRECTOR: LAMAN TIME

TEINE

DIRECTOR: GISELLE ILAQA

VAHAA: THE DISTANCE BETWEEN

DIRECTOR: PINGI MOLI

NARRATIVE PLENITUDE

A spectrum of local indie cinema and all its rich diversity, from shoegaze to speculative fiction.

7-OCT 8:30PM | KHL
9-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

HULI

DIRECTOR: DANIEL CROIX

I'M TRYING MY BEST RIGHT NOW

DIRECTOR: KURT HOFFMANN

LAST LIGHT

DIRECTOR: KOA BAYANI



MĀNOA VALLEY

DIRECTOR: EMILY MAY JAMPEL

TWO BREATHS

DIRECTOR: KATERYNA KURGANSEK

VICTORIA

DIRECTOR: ARSENIO SALVANTE

WĀHINE NIGHT OUT!

Guffaw, hoot and holler with these 'Queens of Comedy' from across the Pacific!

12-OCT 12:15PM | KHL

CHATTERBOX

DIRECTOR: SONNI TAINUI TUKIWAHO

FAIR

DIRECTOR: TAYLOR GRUVER

FCBK

DIRECTOR: KANANI KOSTER

HONEY KAHA

DIRECTOR: TE WAIARANGI RATANA



ONLY IN AOTEAROA: WAHINE EDITION

DIRECTOR: SCOTTY COTTER, MARUIA JENSEN

SO MUCH NATURE

DIRECTOR: SHANEIKA AGUILAR, VERA ZAMBONELLI, LAUREN BALLESTEROS

UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE & SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES



UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE

8-OCT 8:30PM | KHL

A selection of the best original shorts made by student filmmakers from post-secondary schools across Hawai'i, including from:

- Leeward Community College
- Hawai'i Community College
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- University of Hawai'i West O'ahu
- Hawai'i Pacific University



BMW of Honolulu

ANXIOUS

DIRECTOR: JOSIAH CASTILLO

IKIRYO

DIRECTOR: TY EVERHEART

MELTING POT

DIRECTOR: KAYLI PASCAL-MARTINEZ

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

DIRECTOR: RICKEY BRUNTY

TIME/LESS

DIRECTOR: JOHN DAVID ARENDT

WHERE DO BUTTERFLIES GO WHEN THEY DIE?

DIRECTOR: STEVEN LOYA-MONTOYA

HO'I

DIRECTOR: HUNTER DARU

JAMES

DIRECTOR: ANNE DI MARTINO

NO, I DON'T FEEL SAFE

DIRECTOR: ARIA DELGADO

STITCHES

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER CLEARY

THE 'ĀINA WITHIN

DIRECTOR: MARCUS GOH



SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

BECAUSE OF YOU, I AM

DIRECTOR: DOUG MENEZ

PLAYING WITH NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT

12-OCT 12:30PM | KHL
13-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

ALETHA

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER BOCCHIERI

WATER BODIES

DIRECTOR: KARLY NOETZEL

PLAYING WITH PERSEVERE

5-OCT 2:00PM | KHL
13-OCT 10:00AM | KHL

'MAGGIE'

DIRECTOR: CIAN ELYSE WHITE

PLAYING WITH MYTHS AND MAIDENS

5-OCT 8:00PM | KHL
7-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

BORED?

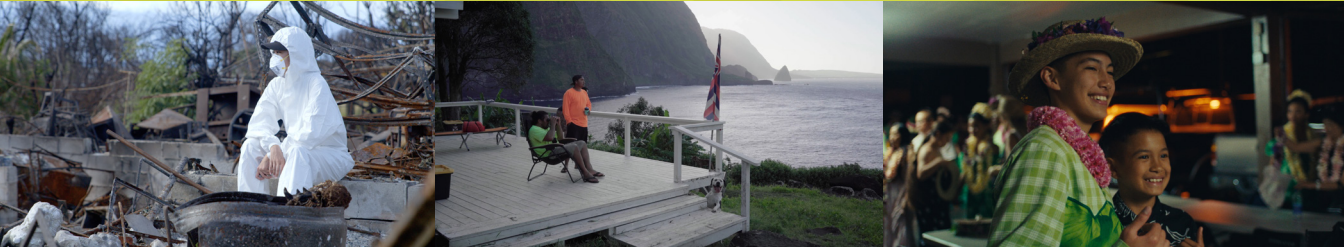
(Take a quick quiz to find out what HNN show you should check out during the previews!)



HAWAII NEWS NOW

HawaiiNewsNow.com

ISLAND SHOWCASES



MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS: MAUI SHOWCASE

19-OCT 3:00PM | MACC

HEALING LAHAINA
DIRECTOR: LAUREL TAMAYO

IT'S SHAVE ICE
DIRECTOR: JAYE ORIKASA

KAI HALI'A (SEA OF MEMORY)
DIRECTOR: ANGELIQUE KALANI AXELRODE

RECLAIM
DIRECTOR: GEETA GANDBHIR



MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS: LĀNA'I SHOWCASE

23-OCT 6:00PM | HALE KEAKA

HEALING LAHAINA
DIRECTOR: LAUREL TAMAYO

IT'S SHAVE ICE
DIRECTOR: JAYE ORIKASA

RECLAIM
DIRECTOR: GEETA GANDBHIR



MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS: KAHILU SHOWCASE

2-NOV 3:00PM | KAHILU

THE ADVENTURES OF KAI
DIRECTOR: TIMOUR BOURTASENKOV

RECLAIM
DIRECTOR: GEETA GANDBHIR

THE QUEEN'S FLOWERS
DIRECTOR: CIARA LEINA'ALA LACY

TWO BREATHS
DIRECTOR: KATERYNA KURGANASKA

KŪKINI
DIRECTOR: MITCHEL MERRICK



MADE IN HAWAI'I SHORTS: MOLOKA'I SHOWCASE

8-NOV 6:00PM | KES

KALA
DIRECTOR: MATT YAMASHITA



THE LAST COOL THING I'VE EVER DONE
DIRECTOR: KEVIN D'ANGELO



STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS
A film by: Jalena Keane-Lee & Amber Espinosa-Jones

Pacific Showcase

Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) has been a proud sponsor of the Pacific Showcase @ HIFF since 2010, amplifying Pacific Islander voices, celebrating stories and storytellers from across the Pacific.

Homegrown

World premiere of the series Homegrown: A Part of/Apart From. Featuring eight short films made by emerging filmmakers that illuminate the living histories, cultures, and prospective futures of the U.S. territories and Hawai'i.



A LOST LANGUAGE
A film by: Brian Muna



Leanne Ka'iulani Ferrer

Honoring Leanne

Each year, we celebrate the work of a cinema artist of Pacific Islander heritage through the Leanne K. Ferrer Trailblazer Award. The awardee is someone who broadens the scope of Pacific Islander stories onto the world stage, producing award winning work in independent and global cinema.

Proudly presented by



PACIFIC ISLANDERS
IN COMMUNICATIONS ▶▶▶

Our Culture. Our Stories.

www.piccom.org

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

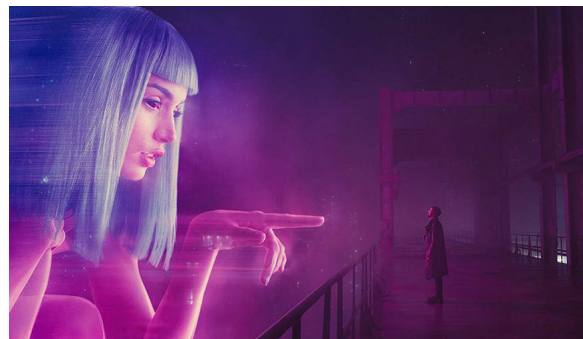


PRESENTED BY THE VILCEK FOUNDATION

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.

We are honored to introduce our 2024 New American Perspectives cohort: Roger Deakins (b. United Kingdom), James Ellis Deakins (b. United States), Ramona Diaz (b. Philippines), Sasha Rainbow (b. New Zealand), and Kenji Tsukamoto (b. Japan). Several of this year's New American Perspectives filmmakers will also participate in HIFF's Guest Filmmaker Program, which brings artists from around the globe into K-12 classrooms in Hawai'i.

HIFF44 FILMS & EVENTS



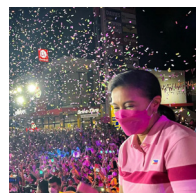
NAP FEATURE EVENT

BLADE RUNNER 2049 WITH ROGER DEAKINS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
UNITED STATES 2017 | ENGLISH | 164M
DIRECTOR: DENIS VILLENEUVE

5-OCT 4:30PM | KHL

Young Blade Runner K's discovery of a long-buried secret leads him to track down former Blade Runner Rick Deckard, who's been missing for thirty years. Join HIFF for a Special Presentation of BLADE RUNNER 2049 with Academy Award winning cinematographer Roger Deakins and partner James Deakins in attendance for an extended post-screening discussion. Presented as part of the New American Perspectives program in partnership with the Vilcek Foundation.



AND SO IT BEGINS

HAWAII PREMIERE
PHILIPPINES 2024 |

ENGLISH, FILIPINO W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 115M

DIRECTOR: RAMONA S. DIAZ

6-OCT 7:00PM | KHL
8-OCT 8:15PM | KHL



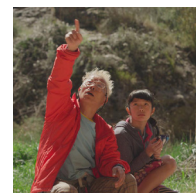
GRAFTED

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
NEW ZEALAND 2024 |

ENGLISH | 96M

DIRECTOR: SASHA RAINBOW

12-OCT 9:15PM | KHL • 13-OCT 8:30PM | KHL



ASHIMA

HAWAII PREMIERE
UNITED STATES 2023 |

ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 84M

DIRECTOR: KENJI TSUKAMOTO

4-OCT 8:00PM | KHL
8-OCT 6:15PM | KHL



THE MOTHERLOAD

WORLD PREMIERE
UNITED STATES, VIETNAM, CANADA 2024 |

ENGLISH, VIETNAMESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M

DIRECTOR: VAN TRAN NGUYEN, ALEX DERWICK

5-OCT 8:15PM | KHL
7-OCT 7:30PM | KHL

6-OCT 2:00PM | 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 HIFF44's NAP cohort -- Roger Deakins (b. UK), Ramona Diaz (b. Philippines), Sasha Rainbow (b. New Zealand); Van Nguyen (b. Vietnam), Kenji Tsukamoto (b. Japan), as they discuss their careers and their experiences as cultural workers adding to the creative lexicon of the United States.

HIFF44 NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES PANEL

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM



The Vilcek Foundation was founded in 2000 to celebrate immigrant contributions to culture and society in the United States, and to foster 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 enliven cinema and storytelling and bring forth new perspectives and narratives that inspire audiences.

2024 NEW AMERICAN FILMMAKERS



NAP FEATURE FILMMAKER: SIR ROGER DEAKINS

Roger A. Deakins was born and raised in Devon. After graduating from the National Film School, he shot a number of documentaries and then moved into feature films. Roger has been nominated 16 times for an Academy Award and won twice for the movies BLADE RUNNER 2049 and 1917. He has also been nominated 17 times for the top award of the American Society of Cinematographers, 11 times for the BAFTA award and 11 times for the British Society of Cinematographers. He has been awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards from the American Society of Cinematographers, the British Society of Cinematographers and the National Board of Review. He is also the only cinematographer to have been awarded the honour of CBE in 2013 as well as receiving the honour of knighthood in 2021.



RAMONA S. DIAZ

Ramona S. Diaz is a Peabody, Gotham, IDA, and Emmy award-winning Asian American filmmaker known for her character-driven documentaries. Ramona's feature-length films—IMELDA (2004), THE LEARNING (2011), DON'T STOP BELIEVIN': EVERYMAN'S JOURNEY (2012), MOTHERLAND (2017), and A

THOUSAND CUTS (2020)—have been nationally broadcast on PBS, Arte, and the BBC amongst others. Ramona is both a Guggenheim Fellow and a USA Fellow – prestigious awards given to those who have significantly contributed to the arts in the United States.



KENJI TSUKAMOTO

Born in Fukushima, Japan, Kenji moved to America as a child where his family relocated frequently across the country. Having been immersed in various cultures both in the United States and Japan during his formative years, Kenji offers a distinct point of view in his storytelling. As a third culture kid, Kenji

found a kindred spirit in the world-renowned climber, Ashima Shiraishi, who became the subject of his first feature film, ASHIMA.



SASHA RAINBOW

Award-winning, BAFTA nominated director Sasha Rainbow, is a New Zealander based in Los Angeles. Her first documentary, KOFI AND LARTEY, about two boys living in one of the world's biggest electronic waste dumps in Ghana, won numerous awards. Her second documentary KAMALI, about a

seven-year-old Indian girl skateboarder, was long-listed for an Academy Award, nominated for a BAFTA, and released through RYOT Films. Sasha has been a BFI Network X BAFTA Crew alumni since 2018 and attended the prestigious Yaddo artists residency in 2019.



VAN TRAN NGUYEN

Van Tran Nguyen is a Vietnamese American artist-scholar, filmmaker, curator, and multimedia artist. Her research investigates Asian American performance and mediations of the diaspora. Her short film, ERIE COUNTY SMILE released in 2021, is available for public access via PBS. Her first full-length

feature film, The MOTHERLOAD, will be released in 2025. In the fall of 2024, she joined the Department of Performing Arts at Georgetown University as the Assistant Professor of Performing Arts. The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Harper's, Time and Wired, among other places. He lives in southern California with his family.

HIFF is committed to offering enriching experiences that inspire and educate students through the world of cinema. Our Education Programs reach more than 10,000 students annually across Hawai'i through filmmaking workshops, classroom presentations with award winning filmmakers, premiere screenings, internships, a Student Advisory Committee, and HIFF's annual 'Ōpio Fest, an exciting youth film festival that shines a spotlight on student made film in Hawai'i. Thanks to our generous sponsors our programs are free to K-12 Schools and University of Hawai'i students and faculty members.



YOUTH EDUCATION SCREENINGS

During the Festival season, HIFF offers screenings exclusively for schools in theaters and online (through HIFF's streaming platform) with live Q & A sessions with filmmakers. We are proud to offer these screenings on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, Lana'i, and Hawai'i (Hilo)! This year's films include:



ASHIMA
DIRECTOR: KENJI TSUKAMOTO
84M



FRIENDLY FIRE
DIRECTOR: MIKHAIL RED
105M



HOW DO YOU SEE ME?
DIRECTOR: TODD J. ROBERTSON
8M



STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS
DIRECTOR: JALENA KEANE-LEE
83M



THE MOUNTAIN
DIRECTORS: RACHEL HOUSE
89M



THE QUEEN'S FLOWERS
DIRECTOR: CIARA LEINAALA LACY
12M

GUEST FILMMAKER PROGRAM

Throughout the fall semester, HIFF arranges local and visiting filmmaking industry guests to 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 this year's guests for sharing their time and expertise!

Alexander Bocchieri
Alika Tengan
Angelique Axelrode
Anne Misawa
Bryson Chun
Ciara Leina'ala Lacy
Daniel Croix
Emily May Jampel

Elijah Kala McShane
Erin Lau
Gerard Elmore
Ioane Goodhue
Jana Park
Justin Gerald Ocampo
Kenji Tsukamoto
Koa Bayani

Kurt Hoffman
Laura Margulies
Melina Kiyomi Coumas
Mikhail Red
Mitchel Merrick
Paula Fuga
Ramona S. Diaz
Todd J. Robertson



HIFF x DKII FUTURE FILMMAKERS CONTEST & STUDENT WORKSHOPS



In partnership with the Daniel K. Inouye Institute, we're raising a platform for student filmmakers to explore the importance of civic engagement and the well-being of a society through creative storytelling and the positive impact film can make. As the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election approaches, we invite students to create an original short film—either a documentary or a narrative—that illustrates people working towards a common goal despite having differing viewpoints. How can we thrive together?

The Future Filmmakers program is a competitive showcase of the best entries from middle school and high school students in Hawai'i and Alaska.

Learn about our free student workshops and this year's submissions guidelines at: hiff.org/futurefilmmakers. Selected student films will be presented in theaters at the Future Filmmakers Showcase at 'Ōpio Fest.

Mahalo to Philip W. Chung and Mitchel Merrick for offering their mentorship and expertise to facilitate this year's student workshops for the Future Filmmakers Contest!



HIFF 'ŌPIO FEST

SAVE-THE-DATE | APRIL 11-13, 2025

HIFF 'Ōpio Fest returns in the Spring of 2025, an exciting student film festival featuring special guests, filmmaking workshops and panels, student showcases and premiere screenings, all dedicated to supporting Hawai'i's young filmmakers! We're currently accepting entries until January 8, 2025. Submit your film at filmfreeway.com/hiffopiofest

HIFF STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A collective group of passionate film enthusiasts, many of whom are alumni of HIFF's Education Programs, all sharing a passion for storytelling. Under the mentorship of HIFF's Education Director, the committee plays a pivotal role in shaping HIFF's University Showcase during the fall and 'Ōpio Fest in the spring.

HIFF x ACM ACCELERATOR



HIFF x ACM Accelerator is a statewide program designed for students and faculty members supported by the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) System across the University of Hawai'i's (UH) ten campuses. For the 2024 - 2025 academic year, participants have an opportunity to make industry connections, with access to the Festival. In partnership with the UH ACM System, we are proud to offer this program at no cost to participants.

ACM PASS

Any student or faculty member of the University of Hawai'i that is supported by the Academy for Creative Media System are eligible for this free pass at the Festival, granting participants invaluable access to premiere screenings with networking opportunities with cinema and media industries, professional development, and more.

VIRTUAL KICK-OFF IN HIFF'S METAVERSE

ACM Passholders are invited to kick-off HIFF44 with a unique twist—the event takes place in HIFF's metaverse, an interactive platform that resembles an 8-bit video game! Participants will network with fellow attendees and meet ACM alumni and award-winning filmmakers, Alikea Tengan (MOLOKA'I BOUND, EVERY DAY IN KAIMUKI) and Erin Lau (STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS, REEL WĀHINE OF HAWAII).

FREE PUBLIC SCREENINGS AT UH WEST O'AHU

ACM STUDENT PRODUCTION CENTER SCREENING ROOM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

IN CONVERSATION WITH TEMUERA MORRISON + FREE SCREENING OF THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT CHAPTER 2: "THE TRIBES OF TATOOINE"

11:00 AM TO 12:20 PM | RSVPS REQUIRED

Join us for an exciting program featuring a special screening presentation and a live conversation with Actor Temuera Morrison, who stars as the titular Boba Fett.

HAWAII PONO'I 1970

1:00 PM TO 2:15 PM | RSVPS REQUIRED

In partnership with the 'Ulu'ulu Archive, Hawai'i's official state archive for moving images, we are proud to present an encore screening of HAWAII PONO'I 1970, a documentary of the Ho'olaule'a o Hana music festival, which took place on August 1970.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS SHOWCASE

A public presentation in the Spring of 2025 that spotlights a select group of Creative Media filmmakers from various UH campuses and the projects they're currently working on.

For more information regarding the 2024-2025 Accelerator Program, please visit hiff.org/hiffxacm-accelerator



For over 40 years, the Hawai'i International Film Festival has presented the best in cinema from around the world. When the Academy for Creative Media's first generation of local and indigenous filmmakers from UH Mānoa were ready to debut their films twenty years ago, HIFF was the perfect partner to bring their original stories to the broadest possible audience.

Today, as ACM System celebrates its 20th year, we are excited to launch our newest supported program at UH Mānoa, a degree in Creative Computational Media in the College of Natural Sciences, Department of Information and Computer Sciences. CCM joins 15 ACM System programs across all ten UH campuses. Content production in all its evolving forms and digital literacy are catalysts to diversify our economy and keep our graduates in the islands with living wage jobs.

ACM System salutes HIFF as an essential cultural institution and is thrilled to continue our relationship through the HIFF x ACM Accelerator which will help to bring HIFF to all of our islands, offer Master Classes, and provide free movie passes to all ACM supported students and faculty.

Mahalo,
Chris Lee
Founder and Director
Academy for Creative Media
University of Hawai'i System





SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

FILM PROGRAM



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FILMMAKER IN FOCUS: SANDRA NG



Award-winning actor Sandra Ng is a mainstay of Hong Kong cinema, from her iconic comedic performances reaching back to the 1980s through to more serious roles and recent work as a director and producer. A household name as Hong Kong's 'Queen of Comedy', her films have been consistent box-office smashes throughout the decades, in both Hong Kong and China, and her versatility has also been recognized at the Golden Horse and Hong Kong film awards for her powerhouse dramatic performances. She both produced and starred in ZERO TO HERO (2021), Hong Kong's submission to the 2021 Academy Awards, and was honored to be the Filmmaker In Focus at the Hong Kong International Film Festival in 2022 in recognition of her outstanding artistic and commercial contribution to her native film industry. In the same year, Ng made history as the first Hong Kong actress to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

SCREENINGS



ALL SHALL BE WELL

HAWAII PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA | CANTONESE
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 93M

DIRECTOR: RAY YEUNG

10-OCT 5:30PM | KHL
11-OCT 3:00PM | KHL



FLY ME TO THE MOON

HAWAII PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2023 | CANTONESE,
MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M

DIRECTOR: SASHA CHUK

12-OCT 1:00PM | KHL
13-OCT 3:00PM | KHL



THE LAST DANCE

WORLD PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2024 | CANTONESE
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 130M

DIRECTOR: ANSELM CHAN

10-OCT 7:45PM | KHL
12-OCT 5:45PM | KHL



LOVE LIES

HAWAII PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2024 | CANTONESE
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 114M

DIRECTOR: HO MIU-KI

11-OCT 8:00PM | KHL
13-OCT 5:00PM | KHL



SHANGHAI BLUES

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
HONG KONG 1984 | MANDARIN, CANTONESE
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 103M

DIRECTOR: TSUI HARK

12-OCT 3:15PM | KHL



STUNTMAN

HAWAII PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2024 | CANTONESE
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M

DIRECTOR: ALBERT LEUNG, HERBERT LEUNG

12-OCT 8:45PM | KHL
13-OCT 11:00AM | KHL

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SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN



The Taiwan film industry in 2024 stands at a fascinating crossroads, marked by a renaissance of creativity, a bold embrace of storytelling and genre diversity, and an increasing presence on the global stage with major exposure on the film festival circuit. Over the years, Taiwan's cinematic output has evolved significantly, reflecting the island's rich cultural heritage, political complexity, and innovative spirit. The four films that make up this year's Spotlight on Taiwan represent said genre diversity.

In **THE HUNTER BROTHERS** (Director: SU Hung-en) is a family drama wrapped around a dark secret--Two brothers are haunted by the accidental death of their father during a hunting expedition in the mountains a few years before. Starring HSU Yi-fan and Umin Boya of SEEDIQ BALE fame, this slow burn mystery puts a spotlight on Taiwan's indigenous population and does so with alacrity and narrative heft from the main cast.

Noted Youtube content creator turned filmmaker John Hsu (of video game to film adaptation **DETENTION**) breaks the sophomore slump with **DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY**, a hilarious supernatural comedy that shows the afterlife is just as competitive than in real life. The newly expired who wish to survive in the dog-eat-dog world of ghostdom need to become the spookiest and most successful of urban legends by coming up with the best scares and haunts against the living to "survive." It's a novel concept, as if the classic film **GHOST** ultimately had Patrick Swayze figuring out his parasocial Q rating with great Google Analytics.

WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN from director SU I-hsuan, is an LGBTQ+ drama that revolves around two female students who get swept up in the island's longest student strike during the early days of the post-martial law era of 1994. The coming-of-age sapphic romance cuts to the heart of a Taiwan still adjusting to its post-martial law reality.

Finally, HIFF celebrates with a special presentation of **OLD FOX** from director HSIAO Ya-chuan, is a family drama about an 11-year-old boy who befriends his landlord--nicknamed Old Fox--and learns from him how to survive in a rapidly changing world. A box office hit that also garnered critical success at film festivals, the film was chosen as Taiwan's official entry to the Academy Awards Best International Feature category.

As Taiwan's filmmakers continue to push the boundaries of storytelling and explore new formats, they are also helping to shape the island's cultural identity in an increasingly interconnected world. The stories told through Taiwanese cinema in 2024 not only reflect the island's unique experiences but also contribute to a broader dialogue about the human condition, making Taiwan an essential voice in Asian cinema.

FEATURES



DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY

HAWAII PREMIERE
TAIWAN ROC 2024 | MANDARIN
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 110M

DIRECTOR: JOHN HSU

5-OCT 9:00PM | KHL
8-OCT 8:30PM | KHL



HUNTER BROTHERS

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
TAIWAN ROC 2024 | MANDARIN, TAIWANESE
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 109M

DIRECTOR: SU HUNG-EN

4-OCT 6:00PM | KHL
6-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

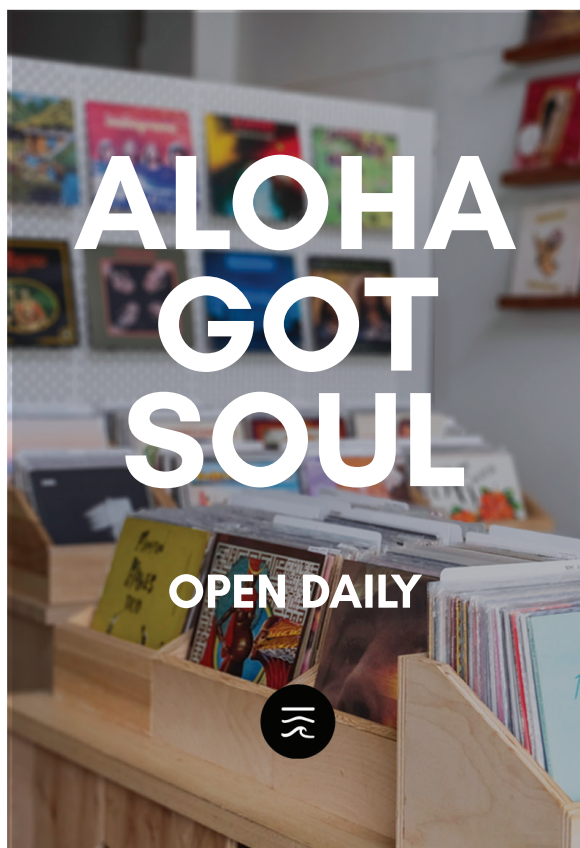


WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
TAIWAN ROC 2023 | MANDARIN
W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 113M

DIRECTOR: SU I-HSUAN

6-OCT 3:30PM | KHL
8-OCT 5:30PM | KHL



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↳ CINDY'S LEI SHOPPE



Sig & Kuhao Zane
↳ SIG ON SMITH & KAI AO SPACE

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