

HAWAI'I INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI



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STAFF

HIFF STAFF

Jean H. Lee | Executive Director
Anderson Le | Artistic Director
Aaron Hansen | Managing Director
Jen May Pastores | Director of Education
Noah Gordines | Director of Partnerships
Joshua Nye | Festival Manager
Melina Kiyomi Coumas | Programming Manager
Alana Eagle | Director of Marketing & Membership
Jana Park | HIFILM Industry Manager

HIFF46 TRANSPORTATION TEAM

Ian Stewart | Transportation Coordinator
Randall Yokota | Festival Driver
Kellen Ferguson | Festival Driver
Sally Chow | Festival Driver
Carlton Saito | Festival Driver
Reid Fowler | Festival Driver

FESTIVAL INTERNS

Alexa Waser	Jade Zhang	Melissa Guevarra
Ami Asakawa	Jaylynn Gangstad	Phoenix Lenchanko
Ashley Eiden	Jonah Kim	Princess Bautista
Belle Rose	Joshua Chase	Shawn Araki
Caleb Lee	Julian Fort	Valentina Lorenzotti
Faith Christy Soliven	Ki'inani Rosario	Valerie Villanueva
Grace Lee	Lucas Stevens	
Hailey Park	Maya Bautista	

HIFF46 FESTIVAL TEAM

Anna Page | Programming Consultant
Eseel Borlasa | Guest Services Manager
Quinn Chun | Booth Operations Manager
Camille Watts | Box Office Manager
Heather Wilson | Guest Services Coordinator
Joey Carranza | Special Projects Coordinator
Anette Arinix | Event Coordinator
Lia Mitchell | Event Coordinator
Ku'ulei Kaili | HIFILM Conference Operations Coordinator
Anuhea Nihipali | Social Media Coordinator
Marc Porterfield | Festival Operations Coordinator
Kim Nowicki | Festival Operations Coordinator
Jordan Brown | Festival Operations Coordinator
Jade Kwan | Outreach Coordinator
Bendy Sysomboun | Operations Assistant
Gary Chun | Programming Associate
Sat Freedman | Programming Associate
Tharaka Sriram | Programming Associate
Tiffany Liu | Education Associate
Bry Occhiboi | Box Office Coordinator
Trevor Sanchez | Box Office Coordinator
Sarah Di Bella | Festival Projectionist
Shain Miller | Festival Projectionist
Tanyah Tavorn | Festival Projectionist
Trúc Mai | Festival Projectionist
Sthanlee Mirador | Festival Photographer
Keith Champaco | Festival Photographer

HIFF46: THE KEY VISUAL



MADE OF HIFF

There's no "one way" to experience HIFF, and there's definitely no individual who defines it.

This year's festival artwork takes inspiration from 'Exquisite Corpse' - the collaborative art game where separate pieces are created and brought together to form something unexpected. For HIFF46, these pieces come from the festival goers: filmmakers, volunteers, moviegoers, artists, and all the personalities you'll find moving from screenings to panels to meet & greets. Each figure is cut and reassembled, mixing different styles and identities of the festival into one character. Created in collaboration with Middle MGMT and the HIFF Team, the HIFF46 campaign brings this idea to life throughout the festival's visual identity.

HIFF is about bringing different people and perspectives into the same space and seeing what happens. Celebrating different perspectives, creating one festival.

Mahalo to our models Jana Park, Grayson Kostron, and Lucy Lee, and photographer Jen May Pastores.

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

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WELCOME

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Emeritus

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Emeritus (deceased)

HIFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

Aloha e kākou,

Welcome to the 46th annual Hawai'i International Film Festival, presented by Halekulani!

It's been nearly five decades since HIFF launched its first festival with seven films and a mission: to lean on the medium of movies to bring Asia and the Pacific to Hawai'i. That mission remains stronger, broader and more relevant than ever in 2026. We are proud to serve as the premier film festival for showcasing the best in new cinema from around the world, led by groundbreaking storytelling from Hawai'i, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

For Opening Night, we return to the historic Hawai'i Theatre for the first time since the pandemic for the world premiere of THE NAVIGATOR, following Nainoa Thompson on what may be his final long-distance voyage nearly 50 years after he became the first Native Hawaiian in six centuries to navigate, unaided, from Hawai'i to Tahiti. It's a fitting journey to open this edition of HIFF46 as we celebrate voyagers and visionaries who bring our worlds together, on screen and off.

The importance of stewardship is a thread woven through this year's Made in Hawai'i slate, from the hula lineage of MAKING THE LINE to the fight to restore ancestral land in EA (SOVEREIGN). The quiet, hard-won healing of LAHAINA: VOICES OF CHANGE. The decades of activism honored in PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ. Thirty of our films were made in Hawai'i.

True to HIFF's roots, we are also bringing the world to Hawai'i again in 2026, with 84 features and 86 shorts, drawn from the best of Cannes, Sundance, Berlin and Busan, 55 of them premiering here in Honolulu for the first time anywhere.

Our Centerpiece Presentation is the U.S. premiere of DRIFTER, actor-turned-filmmaker Sung Kang's tribute to Hawai'i's 1990s drift culture. Alongside Sung, our First Wave brings a strong run of films fresh from Cannes and new work through our New American Perspectives program presented by the Vilcek Foundation.

This is also a festival that looks beyond the screen and helps to build the pipeline here in Hawai'i. Our second annual HIFILM Industry Conference brings together artists, executives and storytellers shaping where our industry goes next.

It's only here at HIFF where you'll find a filmmaker from Seoul sitting beside a kumu hula from Waimānalo, and where a story shot in Yangon plays a few nights after one shot in Kaua'ula Valley. None of this happens without the people who believe in it — our filmmakers, our members, our audiences, our sponsors and partners, our HIFF board, and the small but tireless and devoted team that builds this festival anew each year.

Mahalo nui loa for trusting us with your stories, and for showing up, year after year, to gather over the pull and power of filmmaking and to be open to how storytelling can change how we see the world.

Welcome to HIFF46. We are so glad you are here. Mahalo nui e me ke aloha pumehana,



JEAN H. LEE
Executive Director



JORDAN KANDELL
Board President

GOVERNOR'S LETTER



Special Message from
Governor Josh Green, M.D.
In Recognition of
**46th Hawai'i International
Film Festival**

October 21, 2026



On behalf of the State of Hawai'i, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 46th Hawai'i International Film Festival, HIFF46, presented by Halekulani.

Through cinema and story-telling, HIFF has built a decades-long legacy as a cultural bridge between Hawai'i, Asia, the Pacific and beyond. As evidence of these enduring connections, this year we welcome filmmakers, artists, industry leaders and audiences from all around the world. Shaped by our Native Hawaiian foundation and multicultural communities Hawai'i is a uniquely positioned center for storytelling. The ever-growing film and creative industries here are valuable contributors to our workforce, economy and industry diversification. As this industry grows, we give the next generation of creators in Hawai'i the opportunity to turn their passions into fruitful careers in the creative industries.

We wish you all a successful festival and mahalo all those whose hard work helped this event come to life. May you encounter new stories, treasured connections and enjoy a memorable HIFF46.

With warmest aloha,

Josh Green M.D.
JOSH GREEN, M.D.

Governor, State of Hawai'i

AWARDS

PRESENTED AWARDS

JEANNETTE PAULSON HERENIKO HIFF LEGACY AWARD



Established in 2022 in honor of HIFF founder and inaugural recipient Jeannette Paulson Hereniko, the HIFF Legacy Award recognizes individuals and organizations whose extraordinary dedication has strengthened the creative communities of Hawai'i and the Pacific. The award honors those who champion storytellers, preserve culture and history, and build a sustainable future for media arts—ensuring that Hawai'i and Pacific stories are captured, preserved, and perpetuated through the moving image for generations to come.

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. The recipient may 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 Justin Marks & Rachel Kondo of SHOGUN, 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, to support, advance, and develop Pacific Island media content and talent resulting 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



HIFF BEST SHORT FILM AWARD PRESENTED BY HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

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

KAU KA HŌKŪ AWARD PRESENTED BY HAWAIIAN AIRLINES



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



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.

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.

HALEKULANI MAVERICK AWARD

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

HALEKULANI NEW VANGUARD AWARD

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



MADE IN HAWAII FILM AWARDS

PRESENTED BY HAWAII FILM OFFICE & NICHOLS FAMILY FILM FUND

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.

PACIFIC AWARD PRESENTED BY PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS



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

BOX OFFICE & TICKET INFORMATION

Advance purchases can be made online at [HIFF.ORG](https://hiff.org). For ticketing questions you can email us at tickets@hiff.org or call +1 808-447-0577 during the hours listed below.

BOX OFFICE HOURS

PHONE HOURS

+1 808-447-0577

SEPT 18TH - OCT 21ST

2:00PM - 6:00PM | Closed Sundays

OCT 22ND - NOV 5TH

10AM - 8:00PM | Daily

TICKETS IN PERSON AT CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KAHALA & KAPOLEI

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

FOR CONSOLIDATED THEATRES SCREENINGS

(Special screenings and events at other venues may have different prices)

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$17

SENIOR/STUDENT/MILITARY: \$2 Discount

I ♥ HIFF MEMBERS: \$14

DAY OF SHOW/RUSH TICKET: \$20

Tickets Purchased within 12 hours of showtime are not eligible for membership or other discounts.

FALL FESTIVAL PASSES

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

- Access to ALL Screenings

PLATINUM PASS: \$1000 (\$900 for I ♥ HIFF Members)

- Reserved Seating at ALL Screenings

TICKET PACKAGES

6-PACK: \$90 (\$80 for I ♥ HIFF Members)

12-PACK: \$160 (\$150 for I ♥ HIFF Members)



TICKETS, PASSES AND PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT:

boxoffice.hiff.org/passes

FESTIVAL ACCREDITATION

For further information about Filmmaker, Press or Guest Accreditations, please email guestservices@hiff.org, or visit hiff.org/visiting-filmmaker-resources to apply.

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

PRESS: Members of the press and approved content creators.

We fly for Hawai'i

Local roots. Global reach.

At Hawaiian Airlines, everything we do starts here, in Hawai'i. For over 96 years, we've connected our Islands with the world. Now we can take you even further with our loyalty program, Atmos Rewards™, and Huaka'i by Hawaiian kama'āina travel benefits. Your next journey begins here.



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HIFF MEMBERSHIP

YOU CAME FOR THE FILMS.

MEMBERSHIP MEANS THE FESTIVAL NEVER REALLY ENDS.

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

HIFF SUPPORTER

\$50 / Per Year

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

INDUSTRY

\$100 / Per Year

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

HIFF SELECTS

\$120 / Per Year

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

HIFF SELECTS+

\$200 / Per Year

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

HIFF INDUSTRY + HIFF SELECTS COMBO

\$200 / Per Year

- All benefits of HIFF Industry and Selects levels
- Complimentary access to monthly HIFF Selects premiere screenings for 1
- Access to all HIFILM Industry Members Only Events, Panels and filmmaker benefits

HIFF PLATINUM

\$1500 / Per Year

- HIFF Selects+ Benefits for 1 year
- Platinum Pass at 2026 Fall Festival
- Platinum Pass at 2027 'Ōpio Fest

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



SUPPORT HIFF BY BECOMING A MEMBER TODAY!

www.hiff.org/membership

MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS

PRESENTING



MAJOR



LUMINARY



INNOVATOR



SUPPORTER



MAHALO

Bob Nakasone	Kauai Comicon
Hawaii'i United Okinawan Association	Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema (NETPAC)
Jean Kim Foundation	
Josie & Don Over Memorial Fund at the Hawaii'i Community Foundation	HIFF Has Received Support From The Ruth Foundation Of The Arts

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE



OPENING NIGHT FILM 23
THE NAVIGATOR



CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION 23
DRIFTER



SPECIAL PRESENTATION 23
INDIANA JONES & THE TEMPLE OF DOOM

AFTER DARK	
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GAMALAND	39
HIGUMA!! THE KILLER BEAR	28
KINKI	29
THE MAGE	30
YOU ARE THE FILM	39
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14TH	24
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KŪKULU	38
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SCREENING SCHEDULE

FOR THE LATEST SCHEDULE UPDATES VISIT HIFF.ORG

VENUES - O'AHU

DASHOP - da Shop: books + curiosities 3565 Harding Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816	HCB - Honolulu Civil Beat 3650 Waiialae Avenue #200 Honolulu HI 96816	HTC - Hawaii Theatre Center 1130 Bethel St Honolulu, HI 96813	KHL - Consolidated Theatres Kahala Mall 4211 Waiialae Ave #3080 Honolulu, HI 96816	KAP - Consolidated Theatres Kapolei 890 Kamokila Blvd #107 Kapolei, HI 96707
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST				5:00 PM-6:38 PM	SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFORE ME	NZ, AU	KHL
7:00 PM-8:40 PM	THE NAVIGATOR	US, HI	HTC	5:15 PM-7:04 PM	THE HOUSE ON THE MOON	SG, TW, DE, ID	KHL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND				5:30 PM-7:36 PM	BEDFORD PARK	US	KHL
5:30 PM-7:27 PM	THE STATION	YE, NL, FR, JO	KHL	5:45 PM-7:00 PM	LAHAINA: VOICES OF CHANGE + KÜKULU	US, HI	KHL
5:45 PM-7:49 PM	JOSEPHINE	US	KHL	6:00 PM-7:36 PM	TAKE ME HOME	US	KHL
6:00 PM-7:40 PM	BEYOND THE SMILES: YANI TSENG	TW, US	KHL	7:00 PM-8:38 PM	EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL
7:00 PM-8:43 PM	MAKING THE LINE	US, HI	KHL	7:30 PM-9:08 PM	2 VALID IDS	PH	KHL
8:00 PM-9:36 PM	QUEER SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL	8:00 PM-10:40 PM	SUKIYAKI	JP	KHL
8:15 PM-10:34 PM	CLARISSA	NG, US	KHL	8:15 PM-10:23 PM	MY SASSY GIRL 4K RESTORATION	KR	KHL
8:30 PM-10:40 PM	A GIRL UNKNOWN	CN	KHL	8:30 PM-10:43 PM	YOU ARE THE FILM + GAMALAND	JP	KHL
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD				SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH			
5:00 PM-6:49 PM	NO GOOD MEN	DE, FR, NO, DK	KHL	10:30 AM-12:08 PM	BTS: THE RETURN WITH BAO NGUYEN	US, KR	KHL
5:30 PM-7:39 PM	BEHEMOTH!	US	KHL	11:30 AM-1:14 PM	SUMO: SPIRIT WEIGHS NOTHING	JP, US	KHL
6:00 PM-7:45 PM	UGLY DUCKLING MS. MAENG	KR	KHL	12:15 PM-1:41 PM	ORPHAN MYTH	BR, IN, IR, US, HI	KHL
6:30 PM-8:04 PM	SGT. HAANE	NZ, TN	KHL	12:45 PM-2:28 PM	REHEARSALS FOR A REVOLUTION	CZ, SP	KHL
7:00 PM-8:45 PM	WILL YOU STILL BE MY FRIEND	TW	KHL	1:00 PM-3:10 PM	A GIRL UNKNOWN	CN	KHL
7:30 PM-9:13 PM	REHEARSALS FOR A REVOLUTION	CZ, SP	KHL	1:30 PM-2:46 PM	KEIKI SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL
8:00 PM-10:07 PM	CLUB KID	US	KHL	1:45 PM-2:33 PM	AAPI FILMMAKERS IN FOCUS: ENOUGH + THUMBPRINT	US	KHL
8:30 PM-10:33 PM	DEAR YOU	CN	KHL	2:00 PM-4:40 PM	SUKIYAKI	JP	KHL
8:30 PM-9:57 PM	FATHERLAND	PO, FR, DE, IT	KHL	2:15 PM-3:51 PM	TAKE ME HOME	US	KHL
8:45 PM-10:58 PM	YOU ARE THE FILM + GAMALAND	JP	KHL	2:30 PM-3:42 PM	PROTECTING KAHO'OLAWÉ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA + SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM	US, HI	KHL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH				3:00 PM-4:45 PM	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM	US	KHL
10:30 AM-11:46 AM	KEIKI SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL	3:45 PM-6:36 PM	THAT DAY, ON THE BEACH	TW	KHL
11:00 AM-12:50 PM	CHURA VITA	JP	KHL	4:30 PM-6:21 PM	LOMU	NZ	KHL
12:00 PM-2:03 PM	DEAR YOU	CN	KHL	4:45 PM-6:30 PM	FILIPINANA	PH, SG, UK, FR, NL	KHL
12:15 PM-2:00 PM	FILIPINANA	PH, SG, UK, FR, NL	KHL	5:00 PM-7:01 PM	INK	US	KHL
12:30 PM-1:52 PM	NAZA	UK	KHL	5:15 PM-7:32 PM	THE INTERN	KR	KHL
12:45 PM-2:19 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: PACIFIC DAUGHTERS	VARIOUS	KHL	5:15 PM-7:15 PM	INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: THE YOUNG & THE RESTLESS	VARIOUS	KHL
1:30 PM-4:51 PM	ALL OF A SUDDEN	JP, FR	KHL	7:00 PM-8:47 PM	TANGLES	US	KHL
2:15 PM-3:49 PM	IRON BOY	FR, BE	KHL	7:15 PM-8:11 PM	THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL + MINK!	US	KHL
2:30 PM-4:10 PM	BEYOND THE SMILES: YANI TSENG	TW, US	KHL	7:30 PM-10:12 PM	WE ARE ALL STRANGERS	SG	KHL
2:45 PM-4:30 PM	UGLY DUCKLING MS. MAENG	KR	KHL	7:45 PM-10:11 PM	MINOTAUR	FR, DE, LV	KHL
3:00 PM-4:35 PM	ULU'ULU — TIP DAVIS: PRESERVING HAWA'I IN MOTION	US, HI	KHL				
3:15 PM-5:12 PM	THE STATION	YE, NL, FR, JO	KHL				
4:30 PM-6:30 PM	TBA		KHL				

VENUES - NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

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

LAN - Hale Keaka
465 7th St
Lanai City, HI 96763

MGO - The Mango Theater
61 Ala Malama Ave Unit 1
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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

PAL - The Palace Theater & Box Office
38 Haili Street
Hilo, HI 96720

8:00 PM-10:16 PM	THE ASSASSIN(S)	KR	KHL	4:30 PM-6:19 PM	LOS VAMPIRES	US	KHL
8:00 PM-9:54 PM	BIG LITTLE THINGS	US, HK	KHL	5:15 PM-6:53 PM	2 VALID IDS	PH	KHL
8:15 PM-9:51 PM	QUEER SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL	5:30 PM-7:32 PM	WHY WE DANCE	US, MX	KHL
8:00 PM-10:16 PM	THE ASSASSIN(S)	KR	KHL	5:30 PM-7:20 PM	CHURA VITA	JP	KHL
8:00 PM-9:54 PM	BIG LITTLE THINGS	US, HK	KHL	5:45 PM-7:24 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 1	US, HI	KHL
8:15 PM-9:51 PM	QUEER SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL	7:00 PM-9:51 PM	THAT DAY, ON THE BEACH	TW	KHL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

2:00 PM-4:00 PM	TBA		KHL	7:30 PM-9:56 PM	MINOTAUR	FR, DE, LV	KHL
2:30 PM-4:33 PM	DEAR YOU	CN	KHL	8:00 PM-9:16 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: BETWEEN WORLDS	VARIOUS	KHL
3:00 PM-3:56 PM	THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL + MINK!	US	KHL	8:00 PM-10:23 PM	SATOKO ALWAYS	JP	KHL
3:15 PM-4:53 PM	SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFORE ME	NZ, AU	KHL	8:15 PM-10:47 PM	DRIFTER	US	KHL
3:30 PM-5:14 PM	SUMO: SPIRIT WEIGHS NOTHING	JP, US	KHL	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH			
5:00 PM-7:19 PM	CLARISSA	NG, US	KHL	1:30 PM-3:20 PM	CHURA VITA	JP	KHL
5:15 PM-6:49 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: PACIFIC DAUGHTERS	VARIOUS	KHL	2:00 PM-4:04 PM	JOSEPHINE	US	KHL
5:30 PM-7:38 PM	MY SASSY GIRL 4K RESTORATION	KR	KHL	2:30 PM-4:19 PM	THE HOUSE ON THE MOON	SG, TW, DE, ID	KHL
5:30 PM-7:06 PM	INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: STILL, LIFE	VARIOUS	KHL	3:00 PM-5:02 PM	WHY WE DANCE	US, MX	KHL
5:45 PM-7:00 PM	EA (SOVEREIGN)	US, HI	KHL	3:30 PM-5:24 PM	BIG LITTLE THINGS	US, HK	KHL
6:00 PM-7:00 PM	NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES PANEL DISCUSSION	US	HCB	5:15 PM-6:49 PM	IRON BOY	FR, BE	KHL
6:00 PM-7:36 PM	IN WAVES	FR	KHL	5:30 PM-6:47 PM	THE SEOUL GUARDIANS	KR	KHL
7:00 PM-10:21 PM	ALL OF A SUDDEN	FR, JP	KHL	5:45 PM-7:35 PM	PUREHEARTED	JP	KHL
7:45 PM-9:34 PM	LOS VAMPIRES	US	KHL	5:45 PM-7:35 PM	THE DEBUT	US	KHL
8:00 PM-9:45 PM	WILL YOU STILL BE MY FRIEND	TW	KHL	6:00 PM-7:47 PM	THE DATING MENU	HK	KHL
8:15 PM-9:39 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: WHERE WE BELONG	VARIOUS	KHL	7:30 PM-9:10 PM	JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT	US	KHL
8:15 PM-10:04 PM	NO GOOD MEN	DE, FR, NO, DK	KHL	7:45 PM-10:10 PM	9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN	TH	KHL
8:30 PM-10:39 PM	BEHEMOTH!	US	KHL	8:00 PM-9:27 PM	FATHERLAND	PO, FR, DE, IT	KHL
				8:15 PM-9:32 PM	NIU FOREVER + WHAT WE CALL HOME	US, HI	KHL
				8:15 PM-10:29 PM	SHADOW WORK	JP	KHL
				8:30 PM-10:15 PM	WOLFRAM	AU	KHL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

1:30 PM-2:31 PM	PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA + SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM	US, HI	KHL	12:30 PM-1:45 PM	EA (SOVEREIGN)	US, HI	KHL
2:00 PM-2:48 PM	AAPI FILMMAKERS IN FOCUS: ENOUGH + THUMBPRINT	US	KHL	1:00 PM-2:45 PM	WOLFRAM	AU	KHL
2:30 PM-4:17 PM	TANGLES	US	KHL	1:15 PM-4:06 PM	THAT DAY, ON THE BEACH	TW	KHL
2:45 PM-5:01 PM	THE ASSASSIN(S)	KR	KHL	2:00 PM-4:25 PM	9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN	TH	KHL
3:00 PM-4:45 PM	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM	US	KHL	2:30 PM-4:53 PM	SATOKO ALWAYS	JP	KHL
3:15 PM-5:06 PM	LOMU	NZ	KHL	3:00 PM-4:40 PM	JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT	US	KHL
				3:15 PM-4:58 PM	MAKING THE LINE	US, HI	KHL
				3:30 PM-4:54 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: WHERE WE BELONG	VARIOUS	KHL
				5:00 PM-7:42 PM	WE ARE ALL STRANGERS	SG	KHL

SCREENING SCHEDULE

FOR THE LATEST SCHEDULE UPDATES VISIT HIFF.ORG

VENUES - O'AHU

DASHOP - da Shop: books + curiosities 3565 Harding Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816	HCB - Honolulu Civil Beat 3650 Waialae Avenue #200 Honolulu HI 96816	HTC - Hawaii Theatre Center 1130 Bethel St Honolulu, HI 96813	KHL - Consolidated Theatres Kahala Mall 4211 Waialae Ave #3080 Honolulu, HI 96816	KAP - Consolidated Theatres Kapolei 890 Kamokila Blvd #107 Kapolei, HI 96707
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH				11:15 AM-12:58 PM	FRUIT GATHERING	CZ, MM, FR	KHL
5:30 PM-7:40 PM	COWARD	BE, FR, NL	KHL	11:30 AM-1:09 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 1	US, HI	KHL
5:30 PM-6:52 PM	NAZA	UK	KHL	12:30 PM-2:47 PM	THE INTERN	KR	KHL
5:45 PM-7:26 PM	WE ARE BORN GOOD	HK	KHL	12:45 PM-2:35 PM	HORROR SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL
6:00 PM-8:06 PM	BEDFORD PARK	US	KHL	1:00 PM-2:45 PM	14TH	US	KHL
6:15 PM-8:00 PM	LOOK BACK	JP	KHL	1:15 PM-2:52 PM	MY PRINCE EDWARD	HK	KHL
7:45 PM-9:35 PM	INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: WILL TRAVEL	VARIOUS	KHL	1:30 PM-3:15 PM	LOOK BACK	JP	KHL
8:00 PM-9:44 PM	AH GIRL	SG	KHL	1:30 PM-3:40 PM	COWARD	BE, FR, NL	KHL
8:15 PM-10:08 PM	ELEPHANTS IN THE FOG	NP, DE, BR, FR, NO	KHL	1:45 PM-3:05 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: TRACING HOME	VARIOUS	KHL
8:30 PM-10:46 PM	THE ASSASSIN(S)	KR	KHL	3:45 PM-6:34 PM	POSSIBLE LOVE	KR	KHL
8:30 PM-10:13 PM	FULL CONTACT	HK	KHL	7:30 PM-9:18 PM	KINKI	JP	KHL
8:45 PM-10:46 PM	INK	UK, FR, US	KHL	8:00 PM-9:37 PM	SPARE QUEENS	HK	KHL
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH				8:00 PM-10:05 PM	MOUSE	US	KHL
12:30 PM-1:45 PM	LAHAINA: VOICES OF CHANGE + KŪKULU	US, HI	KHL	8:15 PM-10:20 PM	SAMURAI VENGEANCE	JP	KHL
12:45 PM-2:35 PM	INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: WILL TRAVEL	VARIOUS	KHL	8:30 PM-10:33 PM	WILD HORSE NINE	US, UK, CL	KHL
1:00 PM-3:01 PM	INK	UK, FR, US	KHL	9:30 PM-11:15 PM	HIGUMA!! THE KILLER BEAR	JP	KHL
2:00 PM-3:17 PM	NIU FOREVER + WHAT WE CALL HOME	US, HI	KHL	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST			
2:30 PM-4:13 PM	FULL CONTACT	HK	KHL	10:30 AM-11:55 AM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 2	US, HI	KHL
3:00 PM-4:45 PM	LOOK BACK	JP	KHL	11:30AM-1:00PM	NEVER SAY DIE: A BOOK TALK WITH KE HUY QUAN	US	DASHOP
3:15 PM-4:49 PM	SGT. HAANE	NZ, TU	KHL	12:15 PM-1:59 PM	SUMO: SPIRIT WEIGHS NOTHING	JP, US	KHL
3:30 PM-5:23 PM	ELEPHANTS IN THE FOG	NP, DE, BR, FR, NO	KHL	12:30 PM-2:14 PM	AH GIRL	SG	KHL
5:30 PM-7:44 PM	SHADOW WORK	JP	KHL	1:00 PM-2:17 PM	THE SEOUL GUARDIANS	KR	KHL
5:30 PM-7:13 PM	FRUIT GATHERING	CZ, MM, FR	KHL	1:15 PM-2:35 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: TRACING HOME	VARIOUS	KHL
5:45 PM-7:10 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 2	US, HI	KHL	1:45 PM-3:30 PM	14TH	US	KHL
6:00 PM-8:13 PM	I PLAY ROCKY	US	KHL	2:00 PM-4:03 PM	INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM	US	KHL
6:00 PM-7:50 PM	HORROR SHORTS	VARIOUS	KHL	2:45 PM-4:50 PM	MOUSE	US	KHL
7:45 PM-9:47 PM	WE ARE ALIENS	JP	KHL	3:00 PM-4:46 PM	PARADISE LOST	KR	KHL
8:00 PM-10:49 PM	POSSIBLE LOVE	KR	KHL	3:15 PM-5:17 PM	WE ARE ALIENS	JP	KHL
8:00 PM-9:21 PM	GUIDED BY HORSES	AU	KHL	4:00 PM-5:47 PM	THE DATING MENU	HK	KHL
8:15 PM-10:55 PM	LA BOLA NEGRA	SP	KHL	5:15 PM-7:20 PM	SAMURAI VENGEANCE	JP	KHL
8:30 PM-10:12 PM	THE MAGE	HK	KHL	5:30 PM-7:33 PM	WILD HORSE NINE	US, UK, CL	KHL
8:45 PM-10:25 PM	THE BLOB: GORE & SCORE	US	KHL	6:30 PM-8:15 PM	HIGUMA!! THE KILLER BEAR	JP	KHL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST				7:45 PM-9:21 PM	IN WAVES	FR	KHL
10:00 AM-11:16 AM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: BETWEEN WORLDS	VARIOUS	KHL	8:00 PM-10:40 PM	SUKIYAKI	JP	KHL
10:45 AM-12:06 PM	GUIDED BY HORSES	AU	KHL	8:15 PM-10:55 PM	LA BOLA NEGRA	SP	KHL
11:00 AM-12:41 PM	WE ARE BORN GOOD	HK	KHL	8:30 PM-10:12 PM	THE MAGE	HK	KHL
11:00 AM-12:50 PM	PUREHEARTED	JP	KHL	8:45 PM-10:33 PM	KINKI	JP	KHL

VENUES - NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

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

LAN - Hale Keaka
465 7th St
Lanai City, HI 96763

MGO - The Mango Theater
61 Ala Malama Ave Unit 1
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

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

PAL - The Palace Theater & Box Office
38 Haili Street
Hilo, HI 96720

KAPOLEI SHOWCASE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

6:00 PM-7:39 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 1	US, HI	KAP
7:00 PM-8:50 PM	PUREHEARTED	JP	KAP
8:00 PM-9:40 PM	THE NAVIGATOR	US, HI	KAP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

6:00 PM-7:17 PM	NIU FOREVER + WHAT WE CALL HOME	US, HI	KAP
7:00 PM-8:46 PM	PARADISE LOST	KR	KAP
8:00 PM-10:00 PM	TBA		KAP

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

6:00 PM-7:26 PM	ORPHAN MYTH	BR, IN, IR, US, HI	KAP
7:00 PM-8:25 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 2	US, HI	KAP
8:00 PM-9:38 PM	2 VALID IDS	PH	KAP

BIG ISLAND (WAIMEA) SHOWCASE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

3:30 PM-4:51 PM	GUIDED BY HORSES	AU	KAH
5:30 PM-6:45 PM	EA (SOVEREIGN)	US, HI	KAH
7:30 PM-9:10 PM	THE NAVIGATOR	US, HI	KAH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

3:00 PM-4:12 PM	PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA + SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM	US, HI	KAH
5:30 PM-6:50 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: TRACING HOME	VARIOUS	KAH
7:30 PM-9:13 PM	MAKING THE LINE	US, HI	KAH

MOLOKA'I SHOWCASE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

7:00 PM-8:16 PM	KEIKI SHORTS	VARIOUS	MGO
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

7:00 PM-8:40 PM	THE NAVIGATOR	US, HI	MGO
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LANA'I SHOWCASE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

5:00 PM - 6:40 PM	THE NAVIGATOR	US, HI	LAN
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BIG ISLAND (HILO) SHOWCASE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

7:00 PM-8:40 PM	THE NAVIGATOR	US, HI	PAL
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

6:00 PM-7:15 PM	EA (SOVEREIGN)	US, HI	PAL
8:00 PM-10:13 PM	I PLAY ROCKY	US	PAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

1:15 PM-2:31 PM	KEIKI SHORTS	VARIOUS	PAL
3:15 PM-4:54 PM	MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 1	US, HI	PAL
5:30 PM-7:20 PM	PUREHEARTED	JP	PAL
8:00 PM-9:43 PM	MAKING THE LINE	US, HI	PAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15H

12:00 PM-1:12 PM	PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA + SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM	US, HI	PAL
2:00 PM-3:50 PM	CHURA VITA	JP	PAL
4:30 PM-6:33 PM	DEAR YOU	CN	PAL
7:00 PM-9:32 PM	DRIFTER	US	PAL

MAUI SHOWCASE

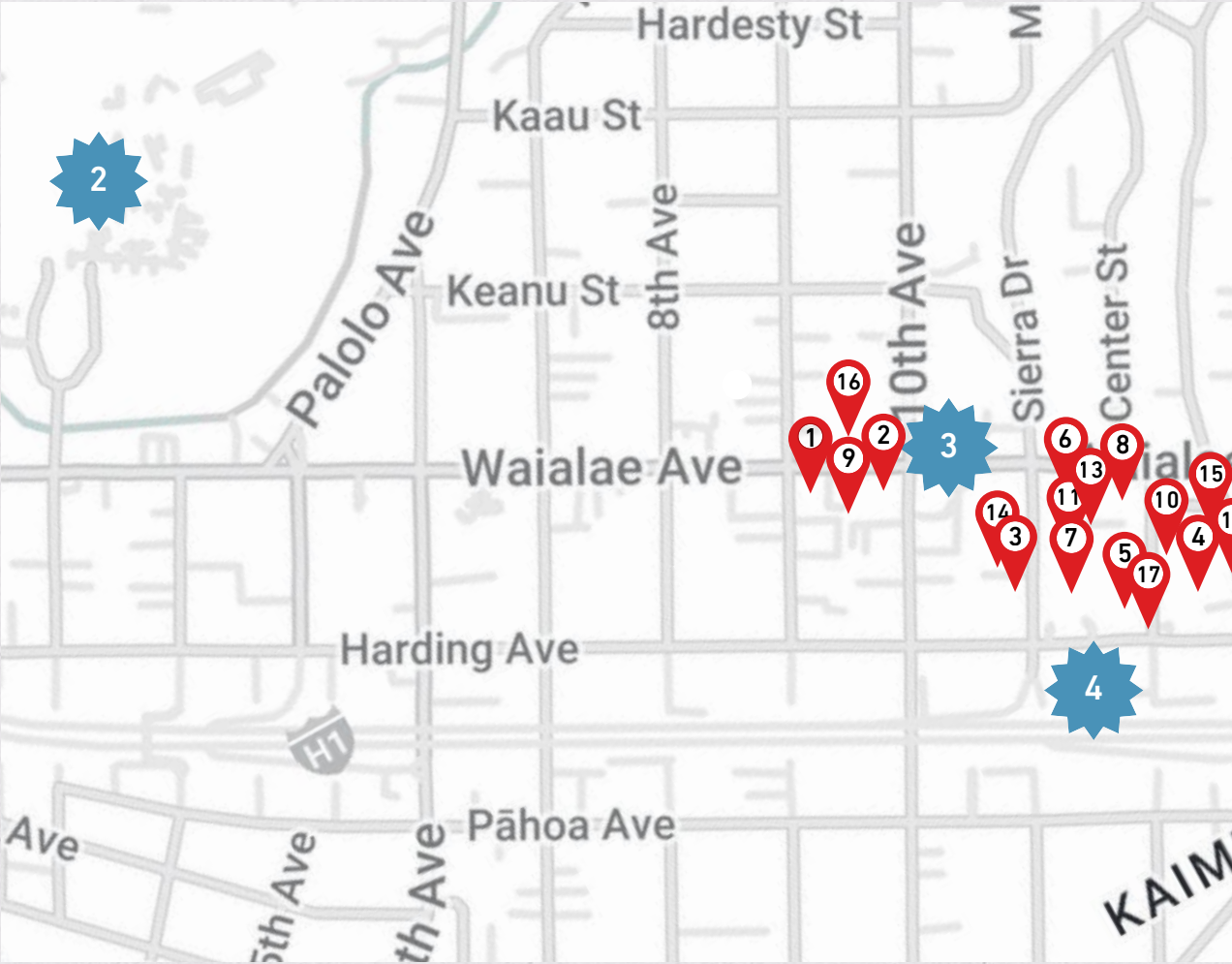
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14H

1:00 PM-2:12 PM	PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA + SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM	US, HI	MACC
3:30 PM-4:45 PM	EA (SOVEREIGN)	US, HI	MACC
6:00 PM-7:40 PM	THE NAVIGATOR	US, HI	MACC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15H

1:00 PM-2:24 PM	PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: WHERE WE BELONG	VARIOUS	MACC
3:00 PM-4:15 PM	LAHAINA: VOICES OF CHANGE + KŪKULU	US, HI	MACC
6:00 PM-7:43 PM	MAKING THE LINE	US, HI	MACC

HIFF46 KAIMUKĪ MAP

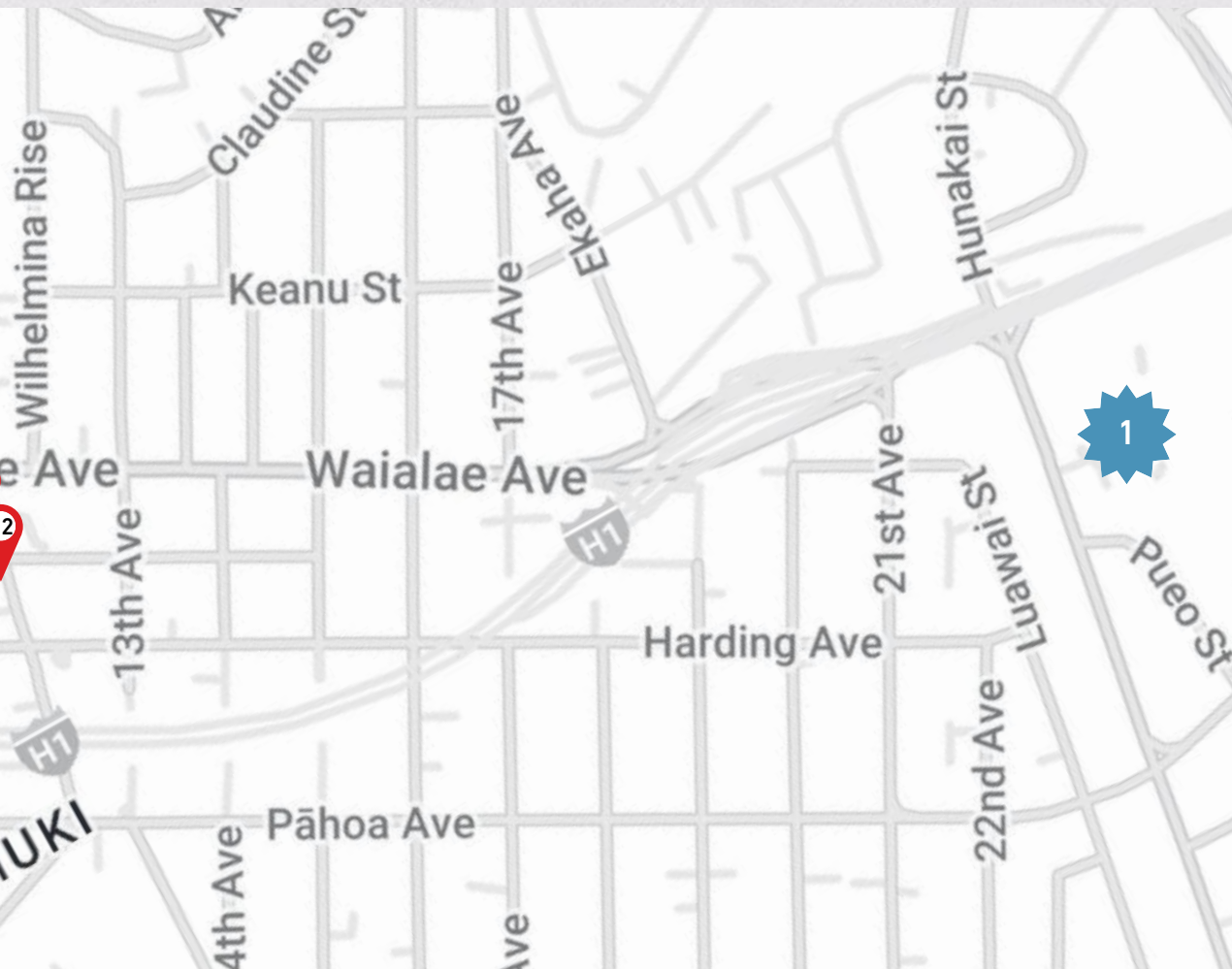


KEEP IT KAIMUKĪ COMMUNITY PARTNERS

1. BREW'D CRAFT PUB
2. COLDWELL BANKER ISLAND PROPERTIES
3. DAILY WHISK MATCHA
4. HONOLULU CLASSICAL BALLET
5. HOUSE OF INTENTION
6. LOTUS CAFE
7. MOKÉ'S KAIMUKĪ
8. NANA AI KATSU
9. OTA INTERNATIONAL
10. RED PINEAPPLE
11. RISE CAFE
12. SPROUT SANDWICH SHOP
13. SUGARCANE
14. TEN TOMORROW
15. THE HONEY BAR BY MANOA HONEY & MEAD
16. THE PUBLIC PET
17. YOGA ROOM HAWAII
18. YOGA UNDER THE PALMS

HIFF46 VENUES

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



KEEP IT KAIMUKĪ SATURDAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026

Join us for our 10th Annual Keep it Kaimukī Saturday event, held on Small Business Saturday on November 28th. To support local businesses and energize the neighborhood, attendees can enjoy entertainment, performances, keiki activities, a scavenger hunt, and free trolley rides along Waialae Avenue to explore the neighborhood. While you're shopping in stores, don't forget to check out the Makers Market at Ali'iolani Elementary School from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm with additional performances, free keiki activities, virtual tree lighting, and HIFF film screenings from 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Kaimukī Community Park.

MADE IN HAWAI'I FILM AWARD NOMINEES



HIFF presents the eighth annual **MADE IN HAWAI'I FILM AWARD**, celebrating the resilience, creativity, and evolution of Hawai'i's independent filmmaking community. Fiction, documentary, and short films created by Hawai'i-based filmmakers or rooted in Hawai'i stories are presented throughout HIFF46, standing alongside exceptional cinema from around the world.

For 46 years, HIFF has championed Hawai'i-made films and locally rooted voices. As the industry evolves, that commitment extends to building a sustainable filmmaking ecosystem in Hawai'i that supports local storytellers, producers, crew, artists, and audiences while amplifying authentic Native Hawaiian, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander stories.

The **MADE IN HAWAI'I FILM AWARD** honors films that embody this spirit: artistically accomplished works that authentically reflect the distinct, complex, and universal experiences of Hawai'i while helping shape the future of cinema in the islands.

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



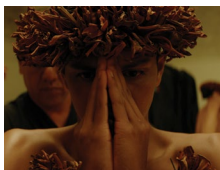
EA (SOVEREIGN)

DIRECTORS: NOAH KEONE VIERNES,
SANCIA MIALA SHIBA NASH



LAHAINA: VOICES OF CHANGE

DIRECTOR: TY SANGA



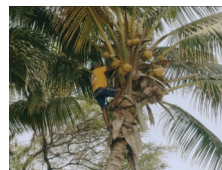
MAKING THE LINE

DIRECTOR: ZILLA BARBOSA



THE NAVIGATOR

DIRECTOR: JORDAN MANLEY



NIU FOREVER

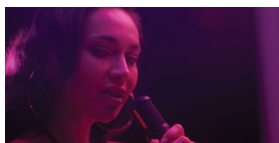
DIRECTOR: ALEX CANTATORE

NOMINATED SHORTS



DAN & KAT HIDE A BODY

DIRECTOR: CLARK JACOBY DAVIS



OLI

DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS B. GIANFORTI



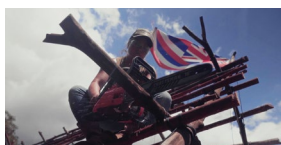
PROTECTING KAHO'OLAWA: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA

DIRECTORS: MARK CARPENTER, CORBIN GREGORY



TUTUUI

DIRECTORS: KEKAHI WAHI (SANCIA MIALA
SHIBA NASH AND DREW K. BRODERICK)



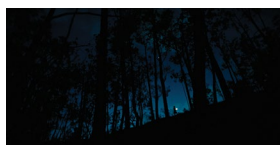
KŪKULU

DIRECTOR: AUKAI LIGAIRI



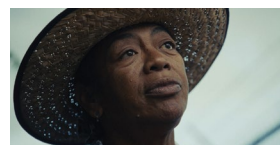
PR

DIRECTOR: ELIOT BU



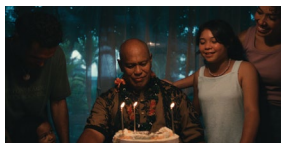
SONS ARE NOT EARTHBOUND

DIRECTOR: LAUREN LUKE



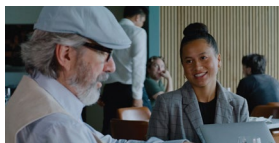
WHAT WE CALL HOME

DIRECTOR: JOSIAH MENDOZA



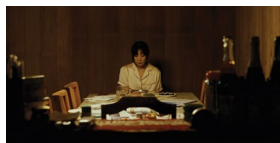
THE MAN AND THE TREE

DIRECTOR: JUSTYN AH CHONG



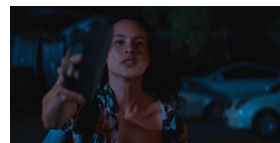
PROFS

DIRECTORS: NANCY CARAWAY, JESS COLE



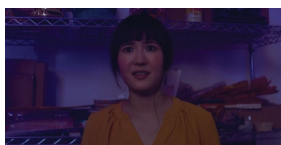
STAINED

DIRECTOR: TIFFANY LIU



WHO RAISED YOU

DIRECTOR: LIA ALICIA MITCHELL



MASSAGERS 4 SALE

DIRECTOR: CHRIS LUI

**KE HUY QUAN**

HIFF46 HALEKULANI GOLDEN MAILE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Academy Award winner Ke Huy Quan has made one of Hollywood's most celebrated comebacks. After beginning his career as Short Round in *INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM* and Data in *THE GOONIES*, Quan stepped away from acting, working behind the camera and as a stunt choreographer before returning triumphantly in *EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE*. His performance as Waymond earned him an Academy Award, Golden Globe, SAG Award, and numerous other honors. Quan has since appeared in Disney+'s *LOKI* and *AMERICAN BORN CHINESE*, Netflix's *THE ELECTRIC STATE*, and his first leading role in Universal's *LOVE HURTS*. He most recently voiced Gary De'Snake in Disney's blockbuster *ZOOTOPIA 2* and is set to reprise the role in *ZOOTOPIA 3*. His memoir, *NEVER SAY DIE*, published September 15, 2026, chronicles his remarkable journey from childhood refugee to Hollywood star, exploring resilience, identity, reinvention, and rediscovery.

**SUNG KANG**

HIFF46 HALEKULANI MAVERICK AWARD



Sung Kang is an actor, filmmaker, and lifelong car enthusiast, known worldwide for his portrayal of Han in *THE FAST & THE FURIOUS* franchise. Beyond the screen, Kang has built a career defined by both storytelling and his deep connection to car culture. His latest project, *DRIFTER*, marks his most personal work to date. Serving as writer, director, producer, and lead actor, Kang crafted a film about a solitary janitor who finds redemption and belonging through the competitive drifting scene. For Kang, *DRIFTER* is more than a feature film, it is a love letter to the car community that has shaped his life.

**NAINOA THOMPSON**

HIFF46 HALEKULANI LEGACY AWARD



Nainoa Thompson is a Pwo Navigator and CEO of the Polynesian Voyaging Society whose life's work has helped revitalize the art and tradition of Polynesian wayfinding. In the 1970s, artist and historian Herb Kawainui Kāne introduced Thompson to Hōkūle'a and the vision of navigating the voyaging canoe by the stars. He later studied under legendary Master Navigator Mau Pīailug and Bishop Museum Planetarium lecturer Will Kyselka.

In 1980, Thompson became the first Native Hawaiian in centuries to navigate a voyaging canoe from Hawai'i to Tahiti without modern instruments, a landmark achievement in the Hawaiian cultural renaissance. Since then, he has captained and navigated Hōkūle'a on more than a dozen voyages throughout the Pacific and around the world. For decades, Thompson has dedicated himself to passing on traditional wayfinding knowledge while inspiring new generations to care for the ocean, the planet, and one another.

**BRYSON CHUN**

HIFF LEANNE K. FERRER TRAILBLAZER AWARD PRESENTED BY PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS



Bryson Chun is a Native Hawaiian screenwriter whose credits include Disney+'s *DOOGIE KAMEALOHA, M.D.* and Walt Disney Animation Studios' *MOANA 2*, with additional development work for Mattel and Ubisoft. An alumnus of the Sundance Native Shorts Lab and a CAPE Fellow, Chun has also been recognized by the Black List's Indigenous List. He has produced award-winning Hawai'i films presented by PBS, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Criterion Collection, and wrote *DASHER*, winner of the HIFF 2025 Audience Award. Chun is currently writing *THE FIRST & LAST*, a live-action musical feature inspired by true events and set against the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

**LUCIANE BUCHANAN**

HIFF46 HALEKULANI NEW VANGUARD AWARD



Luciane Buchanan is a Tongan and New Zealand actress/writer who gained international recognition in the Netflix hit series *THE NIGHT AGENT*. She started her career in Aotearoa in local TV shows, and most recently as the lead on Apple TV+'s limited historical drama, *CHIEF OF WAR*. This year she starred in the sixth installment of the Evil Dead franchise, *EVIL DEAD BURN*, and wrapped filming for Netflix's *UNTAMED*, Season 2. In 2024, her debut screenplay short *LEA TUPU'ANGA/MOTHER TONGUE* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was widely acclaimed during its festival circuit, gaining eligibility to 98th Oscars for Best Live Action Short Film. She is currently working with the New Zealand Film Commission developing her first feature. Luciane's range of experience, in front of and behind the camera, has pushed her to find her voice as an emerging writer and producer, whose motivation is to elevate Pasifika and female driven stories.



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KEY TO ICONS IN FILM GUIDE:

 MADE IN HAWAII

 FEMALE-DRIVEN STORIES

 INDIGENOUS NARRATIVES

 KAU KA HŌKŪ NOMINEES

 DOCUMENTARIES

 FOODIE FILM FAVORITES

 LGBTQIA+ STORIES

 FREE PROGRAMS

 ENVIRONMENTAL

OPENING NIGHT FILM



THE NAVIGATOR

WORLD PREMIERE

OPENING NIGHT FILM | MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH, HAWAIIAN ('OLELO HAWAII) | 95M

DIRECTOR: JORDAN MANLEY

21-OCT 7:00PM | HTC • 3-NOV 8:00PM | KAP • 7-NOV 7:30PM | KAH

8-NOV 7:00PM | MGO • 10-NOV 5:00PM | LAN • 12-NOV 7:00PM | PAL

14-NOV 6:00PM | MACC

HIFF is honored to present the World Premiere of THE NAVIGATOR as its Opening Night film. Nearly 50 years after becoming the first Native Hawaiian in six centuries to navigate from Hawai'i to Tahiti without modern instruments, Nainoa Thompson returns to the open ocean for one final voyage. With a crew of student navigators, he sails 2,400 miles guided by stars, nature, and the teachings of master navigator Mau Piailug. This is a journey of legacy, discovery, and connection—preserving ancient knowledge for generations to come.

CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION



DRIFTER

U.S. PREMIERE

CENTERPIECE PRESENTATION

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH, KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 147M

DIRECTOR: SUNG KANG

27-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 15-NOV 7:00PM | PAL

In a forgotten desert town, a solitary racetrack janitor (Sung Kang, also the writer-producer-director) with a gift for drifting is haunted by his tragic past. Given a single chance to compete at a pro drifting event, he discovers his raw talent is useless without the one thing he's always avoided: connection with others. Under a hardened mentor, he must learn to trust his found family and transform his untamed, lonely art into a dangerous dance of partnership, or be consumed and controlled by the past he's desperate to escape.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION



INDIANA JONES & THE TEMPLE OF DOOM

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES 1984 | ENGLISH | 118M

DIRECTOR: STEVEN SPIELBERG

1-NOV 2:00PM | KHL

A darker prequel to RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, TEMPLE OF DOOM finds Indy chasing fortune and glory in a rollicking adventure whose gruesome thrills helped inspire the PG-13 rating, even as its outdated Orientalism remains impossible to ignore. Most iconic is Ke Huy Quan's unforgettable debut as Short Round, the film's precocious heart. Four decades before his Oscar-winning comeback in EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE, a young Quan burst onto the screen with charisma, humor, and irrepressible spunk. HIFF is honored to revisit an '80s classic with HIFF46 Honoree Ke Huy Quan in attendance.

VILČEK
FOUNDATION

W



2 VALID IDS

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

PHILIPPINES 2026 | FILIPINO W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 93M

DIRECTORS: MA-AN L. ASUNCION-DAGNAN

24-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 27-OCT 5:15PM | KHL • 5-NOV 8:00PM | KAP

Sylvia, an impoverished farmer, desperately needs to claim money sent by a relative to pay for her gravely ill husband's medical treatment. But the remittance center requires two valid IDs—and she doesn't have even one. Forced to turn to a fixer, Sylvia navigates endless lines, mounting expenses, hunger, and an unforgiving bureaucracy. As her husband's condition deteriorates, a seemingly simple requirement becomes a desperate race against time, testing Sylvia's faith, conscience, and humanity.

K



9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN

HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

HAWAII PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE | KAU KA HOKU AWARD NOMINEE

THAILAND 2026 | THAI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 140M

DIRECTOR: SOMPOT CHIDGASORNONGSE

28-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 29-OCT 2:00PM | KHL

After a fortune teller warns that his elderly mother may soon die, 63-year-old Sakol gathers his family for a one-day pilgrimage to nine temples, hoping their merit-making will prolong her life. As nine relatives journey through Thailand's magnificent temples, old tensions surface and their grandmother grows increasingly weary. Premiering at Cannes, Sompot Chidgasornpongse's 9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN is a tender, gently humorous family odyssey about mortality, faith, and the complicated ways we express love.

D



14TH

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 100M

DIRECTOR: AVA DUVERNAVY

31-OCT 1:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 1:45PM | KHL

A decade after her Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winning 13TH, Ava DuVernay turns her lens to the 14th Amendment and its enduring promise of citizenship and equal protection. Blending archival research with contemporary headlines and more than 50 interviews spanning the political and cultural spectrum, 14TH traces 150 years of battles over rights, identity and belonging. Urgent and provocative, DuVernay's latest confronts a fundamental question America has yet to fully answer: Who gets to belong?

HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT

W



AH GIRL

HAWAII PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

SINGAPORE 2026 | ENGLISH, MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 99M

DIRECTOR: ANG GECK GECK PRISCILLA

29-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 12:30PM | KHL

Singapore, 1994. At seven years old, spirited Ah Girl is beginning to understand the adult world, even as its contradictions leave her bewildered. Between a schoolyard crush and her budding chewing gum business, she cares for her younger sister while being shuttled between separated, self-absorbed parents. Drawing from her own childhood memories, director Ang Geck Geck Priscilla's tender, funny debut captures divorce and dysfunctional adults through a child's eyes, where small joys and heartbreaks carry enormous weight.

W



ALL OF A SUDDEN

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN | PANORAMA

FRANCE, JAPAN, GERMANY, BELGIUM 2026 | FRENCH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 196M

DIRECTOR: RYUSUKE HAMAGUCHI

24-OCT 1:30PM | KHL • 26-OCT 7:00PM | KHL

From Ryūsuke Hamaguchi (DRIVE MY CAR) comes a moving meditation on care, mortality, and human connection. In the Paris suburbs, nursing home director Marie-Lou challenges convention with a radical philosophy of compassionate care. Her encounter with Mari, a terminally ill Japanese playwright, blossoms into a transformative friendship that challenges the institutions surrounding them. Featuring Cannes Best Actress winners Virginie Efira and Tao Okamoto, ALL OF A SUDDEN finds quiet resistance and profound humanity in an unexpected bond.

noa BOTANICALS



THE ASSASSIN(S)

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2026 | KOREAN, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 131M

DIRECTOR: HUR JIN-HO

25-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 27-OCT 2:45PM | KHL • 29-OCT 8:30PM | KHL

Based on the 1974 assassination attempt on South Korean President Park Chung-hee that killed First Lady Yuk Young-soo, Hur Jin-ho's gripping conspiracy thriller follows police and journalists determined to uncover the truth behind the case. Starring Yoo Hae-jin, Park Hae-il and Lee Min-ho, the film blends historical record with dramatic interpretation, channeling the paranoid energy of JFK and investigative tenacity of SPOTLIGHT to confront dictatorship, Cold War politics and a national trauma still shrouded in questions.

KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII

W



BEDFORD PARK

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 121M

DIRECTOR: STEPHANIE AHN

24-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 29-OCT 6:00PM | KHL

Haunted by an abusive childhood, Audrey, a Korean American woman in her 30s, reluctantly returns home after her mother is injured in a car accident. There, she forms an unexpected connection with the man responsible, forcing her to confront the family trauma she has long avoided. Produced by Nina Yang Bongiovi, Stephanie Ahn's feature debut **BEDFORD PARK** is an intimate exploration of love, healing, and whether moving forward is possible without forgetting the past. Premiered at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival.



BEHEMOTH!

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

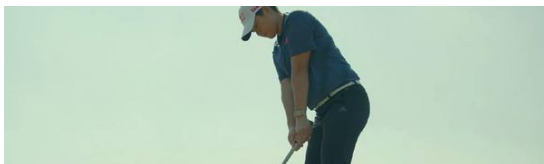
UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 124M

DIRECTOR: TONY GILROY

23-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 26-OCT 8:30PM | KHL

Tony Gilroy (MICHAEL CLAYTON, **ANDOR**) returns to the big screen with **BEHEMOTH!**, starring Pedro Pascal as Alex Serian, a gifted cellist returning to Los Angeles after two decades on the road. As music pulls him toward unfinished relationships and unexpected discoveries, Alex embarks on a transformative journey through the life he left behind. Olivia Wilde, Eva Victor, Alexa Swinton, JoBeth Williams, Margarita Levieva, Hank Azaria, and Will Arnett round out Gilroy's impressive ensemble.

D



BEYOND THE SMILES: YANI TSENG

WORLD PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC, UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH, MANDARIN W/ENGLISH

SUBTITLES | 95M

DIRECTOR: FRANK W CHEN

22-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 24-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

Once the "Smiling Queen of Golf," Taiwanese sensation Yani Tseng captured five Majors and held the World No. 1 ranking for 109 consecutive weeks before injuries and personal struggles derailed her extraordinary career. Following Tseng from 2020 to 2025, this intimate documentary chronicles her journey to rediscover herself beyond the game, revealing the physical and psychological toll of elite competition and the burden of becoming a national icon while exploring resilience, mental health and redefining success.



D

FREE



BTS: THE RETURN WITH BAO NGUYEN

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA | SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

UNITED STATES 2026

ENGLISH, KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 91M

DIRECTOR: BAO NGUYEN

25-OCT 10:30AM | KHL | FREE | TICKET RESERVATIONS IS REQUIRED

HIFF invites Hawai'i ARMY to a special presentation of **BTS: THE RETURN**, followed by an in-person Q&A with director Bao Nguyen. After completing South Korea's mandatory military service, BTS reunites in Los Angeles to record their fifth album, *Arirang*, and prepare for their comeback at Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square. Nguyen captures the seven members rediscovering their collective identity, offering an intimate behind-the-scenes look at the long-awaited return of the biggest band in the world. Free Admission! Ticket reservations required.



W

K



BIG LITTLE THINGS

U.S. PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES | SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

UNITED STATES, HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH

SUBTITLES | 109M

DIRECTOR: MICHELLE ZHOU

25-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 28-OCT 3:30PM | KHL

On New Year's Eve, Lei returns home to her seemingly perfect middle-class Chinese family with a man pretending to be her boyfriend, hoping to conceal her sexuality and satisfy familial expectations. When her real girlfriend unexpectedly arrives, the carefully constructed charade begins to unravel. Writer-director Michelle Zhou crafts an intimate portrait of family, identity, and belonging, as unspoken tensions surface and Lei confronts the complicated divide between cultural expectations and living authentically.



F



CHURA VITA

U.S. PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON OKINAWA | SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2026 | ENGLISH, JAPANESE, SWEDISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 105M

DIRECTOR: TSUKASA KISHIMOTO

24-OCT 11:00AM | KHL • 27-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 28-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

15-NOV 2:00PM | PAL

Okinawan director Tsukasa Kishimoto returns with his latest after **HAPPY SANDWICH** (HIFF 2023) for another journey into Okinawa. Swedish traveler Nicolina Svensen arrives seeking the secret to the island's legendary longevity, only to find ancestral traditions fading amid modernization. When she encounters a stranded dolphin and joins efforts to return it to the sea, her search takes on deeper meaning. Surrounded by Okinawa's people and natural beauty, Nico discovers a way of life rooted in connection and reverence for nature.

FILMS A-Z



CLARISSA

HAWAII PREMIERE

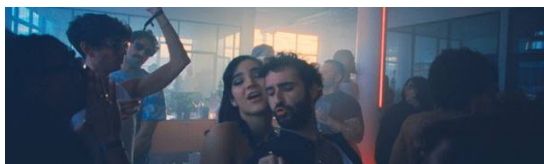
PANORAMA

NIGERIA, UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH, NIGERIAN PIDGIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 134M

DIRECTORS: ARIE ESIRI, CHUKO ESIRI

22-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 26-OCT 5:00PM | KHL

Oscar nominee Sophie Okonedo leads **CLARISSA**, Chuko and Arie Esiri's lyrical reimagining of Virginia Woolf's *MRS. DALLOWAY*, transplanted to contemporary Lagos. Preparing for an elegant gathering, Clarissa reunites with friends from her youth, awakening memories of love, hidden desires, and roads not taken. Gorgeously shot on 35mm, this distinctly Nigerian adaptation explores class, colonialism, identity, and longing while transforming Woolf's classic into something strikingly new. 2026 Cannes Director's Fortnight Premiere.



CLUB KID

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 122M

DIRECTOR: JORDAN FIRSTMAN

23-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

A hard-partying New York City club promoter has built his life around velvet ropes, late nights, and keeping the party going. But his carefully curated existence is upended when a 10-year-old boy arrives claiming to be the son he never knew he had. Jordan Firstman brings his singular comedic sensibility to this irreverent and unexpectedly tender story of accidental fatherhood, arrested development, and discovering that growing up doesn't necessarily mean giving up the party.



COWARD

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

BELGIUM, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS 2026 | DUTCH, FRENCH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 125M

DIRECTOR: LUKAS DHONT

29-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 31-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

On the Belgian front during the First World War, young soldier Pierre arrives eager to prove his courage in battle. Behind the trenches, he meets Francis, whose makeshift theatrical performances offer weary soldiers a fleeting escape from the horrors of war. As an unexpected bond forms between them, **COWARD** becomes a poignant meditation on love, masculinity, and the quiet acts of humanity that endure amid unimaginable violence. Lukas Dhont's latest Cannes sensation won the festival's Best Actor prize for co-stars Emmanuel Macchia and Valentin Campagne.



THE DATING MENU

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CANTONESE, MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 102M

DIRECTORS: AMOS WHY, FRANKIE CHUNG

28-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 4:00PM | KHL

With his private chef business barely staying afloat, a lovelorn cook turns to a dating app searching for Zelda, the girl who captured his heart years ago. Instead, he finds four Zeldas, preparing each a meal in hopes of recovering something he lost. Directors Amos Why and Frankie Chung serve up a funny, tender Hong Kong romance about missed connections, memory, and love, set against a changing city where food preserves what time threatens to erase.



DEAR YOU

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

CHINA 2026 | TEOCHEW W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 118M

DIRECTOR: LAN HONGCHUN

23-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 12:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 2:30PM | KHL
15-NOV 4:30PM | PAL

Broke and desperate, Xiaowei travels from China's Chaoshan region to Thailand in search of his long-lost grandfather, hoping to uncover a forgotten family fortune. But what begins as a comic quest for money transforms into a deeply moving journey through decades of love, sacrifice, and family history, revealed through *giaoqi*—the letters and remittances exchanged by overseas Teochew communities. Fueled by heartfelt storytelling and exceptional word of mouth, **DEAR YOU** has become one of China's sleeper hits of the year.



THE DEBUT

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH W/ | 105M

DIRECTOR: JESSE EISENBERG

28-OCT 5:45PM | KHL

Shy housewife Mona Friedman's quiet life is upended when she lands a bit part in a community theater production and transforms into a fiercely committed method actor. Determined to protect the artistic integrity of her marginal role, she wages an escalating battle against the show's domineering director. Jesse Eisenberg's latest directorial effort, starring Julianne Moore and Paul Giamatti, is a sharply observed comedy about ambition, ego, creative obsession, and one woman's unexpected determination to claim the spotlight.





EA (SOVEREIGN)

HAWAII PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH, HAWAIIAN ('OLELO HAWAII) | 70M

DIRECTORS: NOAH KEONE VIERNES, SANCIA MIALA SHIBA NASH

26-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 29-OCT 12:30PM | KHL • 7-NOV 5:30PM | KAH
13-NOV 6:00PM | PAL • 14-NOV 3:30PM | MACC

Kanaka 'Ōiwi cultural leader Ke'eumoku Kapu and his family fight to reclaim their ancestral lands in Kaua'ula Valley, Maui. Through family histories, community memories, and nearly two decades of legal battles, the documentary traces the lasting impacts of colonization, plantation agriculture, militarization, and development on Native Hawaiian land and water rights. Blending archival materials with contemporary community life, this is a powerful portrait of Indigenous resilience, cultural sovereignty, and the intergenerational responsibility to mālama 'āina for future generations.



FATHERLAND

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

POLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY 2026 | GERMAN, ENGLISH, FRENCH,
RUSSIAN W/ENGLISH SUBTTILES | 82M

DIRECTOR: PAWEŁ PAWLKOWSKI

23-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 28-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

At the height of the Cold War, Nobel Prize-winning author Thomas Mann (Hanns Zischler) and his daughter Erika Mann (Sandra Hüller), an actress, writer, and outspoken anti-fascist, embark on a road trip across a divided postwar Germany. As they journey from American-controlled Frankfurt to Soviet-occupied Weimar, buried family tensions and questions of exile, identity, and belonging emerge. Paweł Pawlikowski's FATHERLAND is a poignant historical drama about family, memory, and reconciliation. Cannes Film Festival world premiere.



FRUIT GATHERING

U.S. PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE | KAU KA HŌKŪ AWARD NOMINEE

MYANMAR, CZECH REPUBLIC, FRANCE 2026
BURMESE W/ENGLISH SUBTTILES | 98M

DIRECTOR: AUNG PHYOE

30-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 31-OCT 11:15AM | KHL

In contemporary Myanmar, two young women working at a textile factory in industrial Yangon endure exhausting labor, social repression and economic uncertainty. As they grow closer, long-suppressed emotions surface, awakening desires for intimacy and escape in a society where love between women remains stigmatized. Told through silences and subtle gestures, Aung Phyo's tender directorial debut is a quietly powerful portrait of queer desire and personal freedom. Winner of the Grand Prix at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival.



ELEPHANTS IN THE FOG

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA | KAU KA HŌKŪ AWARD NOMINEE

NEPAL, GERMANY, BRAZIL, FRANCE, NORWAY 2026 | NEPALI W/ENGLISH
SUBTTILES | 108M

DIRECTOR: ABINASH BIKRAM SHAH

29-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 30-OCT 3:30PM | KHL

Deep within Nepal's forests, where wild elephants roam through the mist, Pirati is the matriarch of a close-knit Kinnar transgender community. Secretly dreaming of leaving with the man she loves and pursuing a life beyond the expectations placed upon her, her plans are upended when one of her daughters disappears. Forced to search for answers, Pirati must choose between personal freedom and responsibility to her chosen family. World Premiering at Cannes, ELEPHANTS IN THE FOG is an atmospheric portrait of transgender identity, love, sacrifice, and belonging.



FILIPINANA

HAWAII PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, NETHERLANDS 2026 |
FILIPINO, ENGLISH, ILOKANO W/ENGLISH SUBTTILES | 100M

DIRECTOR: RAFAEL MANUEL

24-OCT 12:15PM | KHL • 25-OCT 4:45PM | KHL

Amid stifling heat and drought, 17-year-old Isabel works as a tee girl at an exclusive country club outside Manila, serving powerful men amid manicured lawns and quiet humiliations. As she navigates the club's rigid hierarchy and becomes drawn to its patriarchal director, Dr. Palanca, cracks emerge beneath its pristine facade. Rafael Manuel's darkly comic, visually arresting debut transforms this privileged playground into a biting portrait of class, patriarchy, colonialism, and the violence embedded in Philippine society.



FULL CONTACT

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG 1992 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTTILES | 98M

DIRECTOR: RINGO LAM

29-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 30-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

Newly remastered, Ringo Lam's blistering 1992 cult classic FULL CONTACT stars Chow Yun-Fat as Jeff, a Bangkok nightclub bouncer pulled into the criminal underworld after helping his reckless friend Sam (Anthony Wong). A high-stakes arms heist with Sam's sadistic cousin Judge (Simon Yam) ends in bloody betrayal, setting Jeff on a path of revenge. Packed with explosive gunplay, unforgettable villains, and Lam's muscular direction, FULL CONTACT remains a high watermark of Hong Kong action cinema.



W



A GIRL UNKNOWN

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

CHINA, FRANCE 2026 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 125M

DIRECTOR: JING ZOU

22-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 25-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

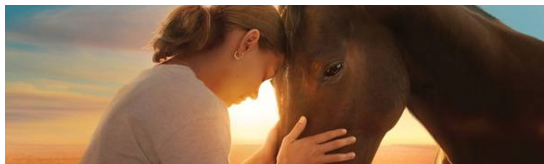
Growing up under China's one-child policy, Wang Juan is passed through three different families, each giving her a new name and identity. Uprooted from her rural home after her father's death, she searches for belonging amid repeated displacement and abandonment. As she reaches adulthood and finds work in a garment factory, Juan begins defining herself on her own terms. Zou Jing's assured debut is a quietly affecting coming-of-age story of resilience, identity, and self-determination.



D

I

K



GUIDED BY HORSES

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA | KAU KA HÖKŪ AWARD NOMINEE

AUSTRALIA 2026 | ENGLISH W/CLOSED CAPTIONS
(FOR CLOSED CAPTION DEVICES) | 76M

DIRECTOR: SEAN O'REILLY

30-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 31-OCT 10:45AM | KHL • 7-NOV 3:30PM | KAH

In a remote region of Australia's outback affected by high youth suicide rates, Indigenous young people find healing, purpose, and belonging through transformative relationships with wild horses. At the heart of the story is a sanctuary founded by Aboriginal researcher Professor Juli Coffin, whose own life was changed by horses. Blending documentary realism with spiritual and cinematic storytelling, the film is an uplifting portrait of resilience, cultural connection, and the power of reconnecting with community, country, and self.



HONOLULU
CIVIL BEAT

HAWAIIAN
AIRLINES



noa
BOTANICALS



HIGUMA!! THE KILLER BEAR

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN | AFTER DARK

JAPAN 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

DIRECTOR: EISUKE NAITO

31-OCT 9:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 6:30PM | KHL

Buried in debt after his family is destroyed by ruthless scammers, a desperate teenager drifts into the same shadow economy, taking a high-paying criminal gig that leads him deep into the woods. Then comes the bear. Huge, bloodthirsty, and very angry. Eisuke Naito's gruesome, bleakly funny *yamibaito* creature feature turns financial desperation into a ferocious fight for survival. Think COCAINE BEAR, but one that actually delivers on the thrills, gore, and bite.



K

K



THE HOUSE ON THE MOON

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN | KAU KA HÖKŪ AWARD NOMINEE

SINGAPORE, TAIWAN ROC, GERMANY, INDONESIA 2026
MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M

DIRECTOR: NELSON YEO

24-OCT 5:15PM | KHL • 28-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

Drawing from the Chinese legend of moon goddess Chang Er and her archer husband Hou Yi, Nelson Yeo's cosmic wuxia film follows Chang Er to the dark side of the moon after her lover disappears on a quest to save the dying sun. Accompanied by an astronaut from Earth, she embarks on a surreal journey through love and immortality. Singapore's first wuxia feature (with Taiwan as co-production country) plays like a Gen Z ASHES OF TIME, bursting with lush, vibrant cosmic imagery.



HAWAIIAN
AIRLINES



I PLAY ROCKY

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 128M

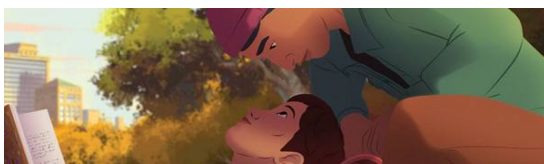
DIRECTOR: PETER FARRELLY

30-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 13-NOV 8:00PM | PAL

Before ROCKY became an American classic, Sylvester Stallone was an unknown actor willing to bet everything on himself. Directed by Academy Award winner Peter Farrelly, I PLAY ROCKY follows Stallone (Anthony Ippolito) as he fights to sell his screenplay while refusing to relinquish the lead role. Told "no" at every turn, he holds his ground against impossible odds, creating the ultimate underdog story behind the ultimate underdog movie, 50 years after its 1976 debut.



W



IN WAVES

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

FRANCE 2026 | ENGLISH | 91M

DIRECTOR: PHUONG MAI NGUYEN

26-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 7:45PM | KHL

Adapted from AJ Dungo's acclaimed graphic memoir, IN WAVES is a heartfelt animated romance about first love, loss, and the healing power of the ocean. After shy skateboarder AJ falls for surfer Kristen, she introduces him to the world of surfing and a newfound sense of belonging. Featuring the voices of Will Sharpe and Stephanie Hsu, director Phuong Mai Nguyen's luminous debut opened Cannes Critics' Week 2026 with an emotional celebration of love, memory, and resilience.





INK

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 116M

DIRECTOR: DANNY BOYLE

25-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 29-OCT 8:45PM | KHL • 30-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

Oscar-winning director Danny Boyle brings his signature kinetic energy to **INK**, an explosive journalism thriller chronicling the rise of Rupert Murdoch's tabloid empire. Jack O'Connell leads a powerhouse ensemble alongside Claire Foy and Guy Pearce, as ambition, sensationalism, and the pursuit of circulation transform the newsroom. Channeling **NETWORK** and **NIGHTCRAWLER**, Boyle delivers a visceral political parable about the birth of the attention economy and how yesterday's tabloid revolution helped shape today's fractured media landscape.



IRON BOY

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

FRANCE, BELGIUM 2026 | FRENCH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 89M

DIRECTOR: LOUIS CLICHY

24-OCT 2:15PM | KHL • 28-OCT 5:15PM | KHL

In rural France, 11-year-old Christophe struggles to earn the approval of his stern father until a mysterious condition forces him to wear an iron corset, changing the course of his childhood. Away from the family farm, he discovers music, friendship, and a new sense of self. Winner of the Special Jury Prize in Cannes' Un Certain Regard section and three major awards at Annecy, this animated heartfelt coming-of-age drama celebrates resilience and finding strength through vulnerability.



THE INTERN

U.S. PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2026 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 132M

DIRECTOR: KIM DO-YOUNG

25-OCT 5:15PM | KHL • 31-OCT 12:30PM | KHL

Director Kim Do-young returns to HIFF after **KIM JI-YOUNG: BORN 1982** (HIFF 2020) with this warm Korean remake of the beloved 2015 Hollywood comedy. Choi Min-sik (**OLDBOY**) stars as a retired widower who finds new purpose interning at a booming fashion startup led by a young entrepreneur, played by Han So-hee (**GENERATION Y**). An unlikely friendship soon bridges generations in this funny, heartfelt story about second chances, work-life balance, and finding purpose at any age.



KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII



JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 95M

DIRECTORS: QUINN WHITNEY WILSON, VIRIDIANA LIEBERMAN

28-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 29-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

Thirty-eight years after his death, Jean-Michel Basquiat is everywhere, yet the man behind the iconic paintings remains elusive. Directed by Quinn Whitney Wilson and Viridiana Lieberman, **JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT** offers an intimate portrait through the eyes of his sisters, Lisane and Jeanine, alongside friends and collaborators. Drawing on rare archival material, the film traces Basquiat's Brooklyn upbringing, punk beginnings, meteoric rise, and inner life, reclaiming the person behind an artist whose influence only continues to grow.



JOSEPHINE

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 119M

DIRECTOR: BETH DE ARAUJO

22-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 28-OCT 2:00PM | KHL

Eight-year-old Josephine's childhood is shattered after she witnesses a violent crime in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Consumed by fear and anger she cannot fully understand, she struggles to regain a sense of safety while her devoted parents (Channing Tatum and Gemma Chan) find themselves powerless to help. Anchored by newcomer Mason Reeves' remarkable performance, Beth de Araujo's deeply empathetic **JOSEPHINE** won both the U.S. Dramatic Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award at Sundance.



KINKI

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN (AFTER DARK)

JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 103M

DIRECTOR: KOJI SHIRAIISHI

31-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 8:45PM | KHL

From Koji Shiraishi, director of **NOROI: THE CURSE**, comes a chilling new descent into found-document horror. When an occult magazine editor mysteriously disappears, freelance writer Chihiro Seno (Miho Kanno) and colleague Yūsei Ozawa (Eiji Akaso) investigate his archive of missing children, haunted livestreams, mass hysteria, and urban legends. As seemingly unrelated incidents converge on one terrifying location, Shiraishi transforms fragments of rumor and recorded evidence into an unnerving, wickedly entertaining nightmare.





LA BOLA NEGRA

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

SPAIN 2026 | SPANISH, ENGLISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 155M

DIRECTORS: JAVIER CALVO, JAVIER AMBROSSI

30-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 1-NOV 8:15PM | KHL

Following its acclaimed Cannes debut, *LA BOLA NEGRA* is a bold tapestry spanning nearly a century of Spanish history. Set across 1932, 1937 and 2017, the film follows three generations of men connected by desire, pain and inheritance. Cannes-winning directors Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi draw inspiration from Federico García Lorca's unfinished play and enduring legacy, crafting a sensual, deeply cinematic exploration of queer identity, forbidden love and historical trauma carried across generations. Spain's official Academy Awards submission.



LAHAINA: VOICES OF CHANGE

HAWAII PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 53M

DIRECTOR: TY SANGA

24-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 30-OCT 12:30PM | KHL • 15-NOV 3:00PM | MACC

One year after the devastating Lahaina wildfire, award-winning Native Hawaiian filmmaker Ty Sanga turned toward the quieter work of healing. Rooted in a deeply Kanaka Maoli perspective, the film focuses on reflection, reconnection, rebirth, and a "second succession" as families contemplate what comes next. More than rebuilding structures, it asks what it means to restore an ancestral homeland while ensuring Lahaina's future remains grounded in 'āina, culture, community, and the people who have long called it home. Plays With: KŪKULU



LOMU

U.S. PREMIERE

PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA, UNITED KINGDOM 2026 | ENGLISH | 106M

DIRECTORS: GAVIN FITZGERALD, VEA MAFILO

25-OCT 4:30PM | KHL • 27-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

Jonah Lomu became rugby's first global superstar, overcoming extraordinary challenges to become the youngest-ever All Black and one of the sport's most dominant players. Ten years after his untimely passing, this documentary explores the man behind the legend through intimate stories from his family, friends, and teammates. Celebrating his remarkable talent, resilience, and lasting impact, it offers a powerful portrait of a sporting icon who transformed rugby and captured the hearts of fans around the world.



LOOK BACK

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

DIRECTOR: HIROKAZU KORE-EDA

29-OCT 6:15PM | KHL • 30-OCT 3:00PM | KHL • 31-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

Palme d'Or winner Hirokazu Kore-eda (*SHOPLIFTERS*) brings Tatsuki Fujimoto's beloved manga *LOOK BACK* to live action for the first time. This tender coming-of-age story follows two girls united by their passion for drawing manga and dreams of becoming professional artists. As friendship, rivalry, ambition and creativity shape their lives, their bond becomes a moving exploration of why we create and the connections forged through art. Shot in northern Japan, Kore-eda wrote, directed, and edited this adaptation.



LOS VAMPIRES

U.S. PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH, SPANISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M

DIRECTOR: CRAIG MITCHELL

26-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 27-OCT 4:30PM | KHL

In 1930s Hollywood, a Spanish actor (*LOST*'s Henry Ian Cusick) is cast in the Spanish-language night shoot version of a soon-to-be-legendary vampire film, forced to imitate the English-speaking star who performs the same role by day. The two actors regularly meet at the transitory hours of their shoots, and a rivalry stirs between them. All the while, a series of murders are occurring on and around the soundstage.



THE MAGE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG | AFTER DARK

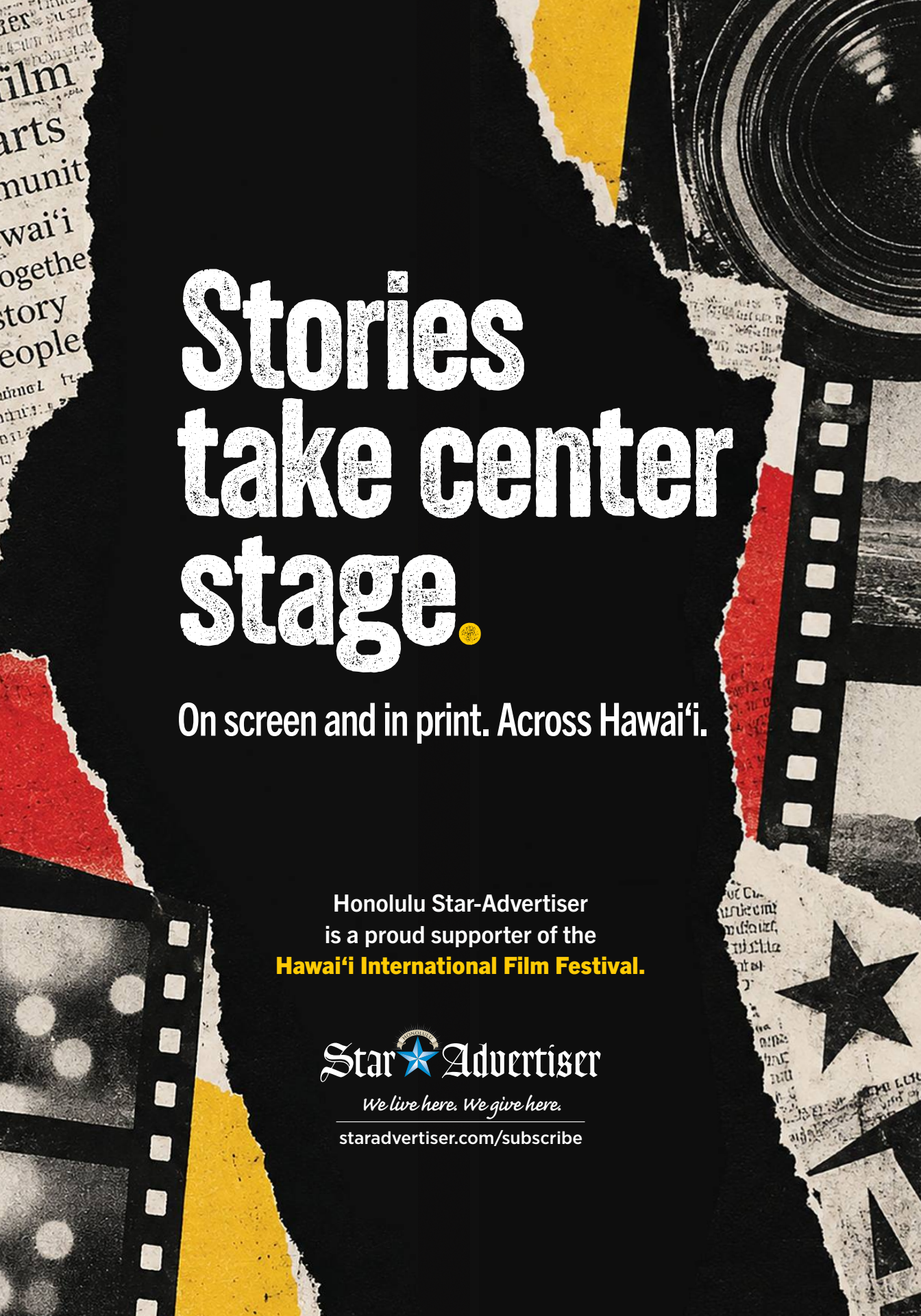
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M

DIRECTORS: OXIDE PANG, DANNY PANG

30-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 8:30PM | KHL

Josie Ho stars as Lan, a mysterious woman who collects discarded objects she believes harbor restless spirits. After discovering a hanged body, she becomes entangled in a string of suspicious deaths and an uneasy alliance with a skeptical detective. Blending procedural mystery with supernatural dread, *THE MAGE* marks a thrilling homecoming for the Pang Brothers, returning to the atmospheric Hong Kong genre cinema where they made their international mark with the horror classic *THE EYE*.





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FILMS A-Z



MAKING THE LINE

WORLD PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2026

ENGLISH, HAWAIIAN ('OLELO HAWAII) W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 98M

DIRECTOR: ZILLA BARBOSA

22-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 29-OCT 3:15PM | KHL • 8-NOV 7:30PM | KAH
14-NOV 8:00PM | PAL • 15-NOV 6:00PM | MACC

MAKING THE LINE is a character-driven feature documentary that delves into the world of competitive Hula — where athleticism and artistry are inseparable from a living Hawaiian cultural tradition. At its heart are Kumu Keano and Kumu Lono, two master Hula teachers and life partners who lead a diverse group of dancers striving for excellence in the art and discipline of Hula.

HAWAII
PACIFIC
HEALTH

KAPUOLANI
PALI MOHI
STRAUB BENIOFF
WILCOX
CREATING A HEALTHIER HAWAII



MOUSE

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA | KAU KA HŌKU AWARD NOMINEE

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 120M

DIRECTORS: KELLY O'SULLIVAN, ALEX THOMPSON

31-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 2:45PM | KHL

In the summer of 2002, shy Minnie lives in the shadow of her charismatic best friend Callie, finding refuge with Callie's affluent family from her own hard-scrabble home life. When their friendship is suddenly upended, Minnie is left rudderless, struggling to forge an identity of her own while developing a complicated attachment to Callie's mother (Sophie Okonedo in a buzzworthy performance). A Berlinale breakout from GHOSTLIGHT directors Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson, this tender coming-of-age drama features remarkable performances.



MY SASSY GIRL (4K RESTORATION)

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2001 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 123M

DIRECTOR: KWAK JAE-YONG

24-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 26-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

Twenty-five years after taking Asia by storm, MY SASSY GIRL returns in a new 4K restoration. An unassuming college student's life is upended when he encounters a beautiful, unpredictable force of nature, launching a tumultuous romance filled with outrageous comedy and unexpected heartbreak. Starring Cha Tae-hyun and Jun Ji-hyun, Kwak Jae-yong's 2001 phenomenon shattered romcom conventions, became a defining film of the Korean Wave, and remains one of Korean cinema's most beloved crowd-pleasers.



KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII



MINOTAUR

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

FRANCE, GERMANY, LATVIA 2026 | RUSSIAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 141M

DIRECTOR: ANDREY ZVYAGINTSEV

25-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 27-OCT 7:30PM | KHL

Set in Russia in 2022, Andrey Zvyagintsev's MINOTAUR follows Gleb, a successful corporate executive whose carefully controlled life begins to unravel amid mounting business pressures and a society spiraling into uncertainty. As personal and professional tensions collide, his descent into paranoia and violence exposes the fragility beneath privilege and power. From one of contemporary cinema's master filmmakers comes a gripping psychological drama about morality, control, and the darkness within. Cannes Film Festival world premiere.



MY PRINCE EDWARD

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2019 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M

DIRECTOR: NORRIS WONG

31-OCT 1:15PM | KHL

Set amid the bridal shops of Hong Kong's Prince Edward district, MY PRINCE EDWARD follows Fong (Stephy Tang), who becomes engaged to her boyfriend of seven years while hiding a secret: years earlier, she entered a sham marriage with a mainland Chinese man seeking a Hong Kong identity card. Before she can marry, Fong must track down her estranged husband and secure a divorce, forcing her to confront questions of love, independence, and societal expectations. Presented as part of the spotlight on 2026 Hong Kong Honoree Stephy Tang.



NO GOOD MEN

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

GERMANY, FRANCE, NORWAY, DENMARK 2025

DARI, PASHTU W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M

DIRECTOR: SHAHRBANOO SADAT

23-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 8:15PM | KHL

Set in Kabul on the eve of the Taliban's return to power, Shahrbanoo Sadat's sparkling political romantic dramedy follows Naru, the city's only TV camerawoman, as she fights for custody of her son while navigating workplace sexism and a nation on the brink. Convinced there are "no good men" left, she unexpectedly finds a connection with Kabul's leading journalist. Balancing sharp humor, romance, and escalating political tension, NO GOOD MEN is both deeply affecting and quietly defiant.



NIU FOREVER

WORLD PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAII

UNITED STATES 2026

ENGLISH, HAWAIIAN ('OLELO HAWAII) W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 57M

DIRECTOR: ALEX CANTATORE

28-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 30-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 4-NOV 6:00PM | KAP

The deep friendship between a Sri Lankan knowledge-keeper and a Hawaiian cultural practitioner sparks a movement to put edible coconuts back in Hawaii's palm trees, long valued only as ornaments. Facing generations of misunderstanding about "niu" – the Pacific's Tree of Life – and the threat of a dangerous invasive species, NIU FOREVER tells the story of a community's fight for food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and climate resilience, guided by thousands of years of indigenous knowledge. Plays With: WHAT WE CALL HOME



ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 100M

DIRECTOR: CONCEIVED AND FILMED BY WILLIAM GREAVES, DIRECTED BY DAVID GREAVES

25-OCT 3:00PM | KHL • 27-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

In 1972, pioneering filmmaker William Greaves gathered luminaries of the Harlem Renaissance at Duke Ellington's townhouse for an extraordinary evening of conversation, debate, and reflection. More than 50 years later, his son David resurrects this historic gathering through newly restored 16mm footage, creating a vibrant meditation on art, legacy, and cultural memory. ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM World Premiered at Sundance before making its International Premiere at the Cannes Film Festival.



ORPHAN MYTH

WORLD PREMIERE

MADE IN HAWAII

BRAZIL, INDIA, ESWATINI, IRELAND, HAWAII (UNITED STATES) 2026

ENGLISH, SWATI W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 81M

DIRECTOR: KEONI TETAWA BOWTHORPE

25-OCT 12:15PM | KHL • 5-NOV 6:00PM | KAP

What if most children living in orphanages aren't actually orphans? Studies reveal that nearly 80 percent have at least one living parent, with poverty often driving families apart. Traveling from Africa to India and Brazil, ORPHAN MYTH follows families and advocates working to reunite children with their loved ones and transform institutional care. Directed by North Shore, O'ahu filmmaker Keoni TeTawa Bowthorpe, this powerful documentary challenges assumptions about orphanhood and affirms every child's right to family.



PARADISE LOST

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2026 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 101M

DIRECTOR: YEON SANG-HO

1-NOV 3:00PM | KHL • 4-NOV 7:00PM | KAP

From Yeon Sang-ho, the director of TRAIN TO BUSAN and COLONY, comes a gripping psychological thriller about grief, technology, and motherhood. After her son vanishes with a busload of children, So-young (Kim Hyun-joo) turns to augmented reality to recreate the child she lost. Nine years later, he suddenly returns as a grown man (Bae Hyun-sung), shattering her carefully constructed reality and revealing disturbing truths about the disappearance, memory, and the darkness hidden within unconditional love.



KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII



POSSIBLE LOVE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2026 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 164M

DIRECTOR: LEE CHANG-DONG

30-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 31-OCT 3:45PM | KHL

Acclaimed South Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong returns with POSSIBLE LOVE, his first feature since BURNING, world premiering at the Venice Film Festival. When an affluent documentary filmmaker begins chronicling the lives of laid-off workers, her world collides with that of a struggling married couple. As their lives become increasingly intertwined, repressed emotions and hidden desires emerge. Featuring Jeon Do-yeon, Sul Kyung-gu, Cho Yeo-jeong and Zo In-sung, Lee delivers an incisive exploration of marriage and class.



KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII



PUREHEARTED

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN | SPOTLIGHT ON OKINAWA

JAPAN 2025 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 105M

DIRECTOR: KAORU HAGA

28-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 31-OCT 11:00AM | KHL • 3-NOV 7:00PM | KAP
14-NOV 5:30PM | PAL

Majimu, a timid office temp in Okinawa, surprises everyone when she proposes an unlikely idea: crafting local rum from the island's sugarcane. With no experience but an infectious determination, she navigates skeptical bosses, family doubts, and local politics to bring her vision to life. Based on an inspiring true story, this heartwarming tale follows one woman's unexpected journey as a simple idea grows into a community movement, celebrating Okinawan identity, perseverance, and the courage to dream big.

D



REHEARSALS FOR A REVOLUTION

CB HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA | KAU KA HOKU AWARD NOMINEE

CZECH REPUBLIC, SPAIN 2026 | FARSI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 98M

DIRECTOR: PEGAH AHANGARANI

23-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 25-OCT 12:45PM | KHL

Through five portraits of relatives and mentors, five expressions of resistance, Pegah Ahangarani sketches her life story. Drawing from personal archives, home videos, street protests footage, newspapers, and recorded voices, she retraces more than 40 years of Iran's history. From the early days of 1979, until the war that began in 2026, she pieces together intimate and collective memories, forming the portrait of a country shaped by political repression and in constant hope for a revolution. Cannes Film Festival World Premiere.



SAMURAI VENGEANCE

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 120M

DIRECTOR: TAKASHI MINAMOTO

31-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 1-NOV 5:15PM | KHL

In Edo, 1810, 17-year-old Kikunosuke avenges his murdered samurai father in a spectacular duel outside a theater, witnessed by crowds leaving a performance of 47 RONIN. Eighteen months later, smooth-talking ronin Soichiro Kase arrives to investigate the legendary incident and Kikunosuke's mysterious connection to the theater. Its colorful, suspicious staff are determined to protect their secrets, but as Kase digs deeper, the celebrated tale of revenge begins to unravel, blurring the line between performance and reality.

W



SATOKO ALWAYS

U.S. PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2026 | JAPANESE, KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 138M

DIRECTOR: SHUICHI OKITA

27-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 29-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

Three women, three generations, one name. In Shuichi Okita's tender SATOKO ALWAYS, three women named Satoko find themselves at turning points: a 15-year-old experiencing first love, a 35-year-old film publicist questioning her choices, and a 55-year-old mother rediscovering her independence. Each turns to writing to make sense of her life, setting their seemingly separate stories on an unexpected collision course. Warm, funny, and poignant, the film is a celebration of creativity, reinvention, and finding your own voice.

D

K



THE SEOUL GUARDIANS

HAWAIIAN AIRLINES



KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA | KAU KA HOKU AWARD NOMINEE

SOUTH KOREA 2026 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 72M

DIRECTORS: KIM JONG-WOO, KIM SHIN-WAN, CHO CHUL-YOUNG

28-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 1:00PM | KHL

On December 3, 2024, South Korea was thrust into crisis when President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law. As soldiers surrounded the National Assembly, thousands of citizens poured into Seoul's streets to defend the country's democratic institutions. Captured with urgent, reportage-style immediacy, THE SEOUL GUARDIANS plunges audiences into a night when history unfolded in real time, becoming a gripping testament to civic resistance, collective memory, and the enduring struggle to protect democracy from authoritarian rule.

I

D



SGT. HAANE

PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS

VILCEK FOUNDATION

U.S. PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES | PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA, TUNISIA 2026 | ENGLISH, MAORI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 89M

DIRECTOR: TEAREPA KAHU

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

On April 19, 1943, Māori Battalion soldier Haane Manahi led a daring assault on the fortress of Takrouna in Tunisia, helping change the course of the North African campaign during World War II. Though he was recommended for the Victoria Cross, the honor was never awarded. Starring Alex Tarrant (NCIS: HAWAII) as Haane Manahi, this powerful docu-drama explores courage, sacrifice, and the enduring legacy of a Māori hero whose extraordinary story continues to inspire generations.

W



SHADOW WORK

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 129M

DIRECTOR: RYOHEI YOSHINO

28-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 30-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

Noriko (Riho Yoshioka) flees a long history of severe domestic violence, seeking refuge at "The House," a strict, hidden seaside shelter near Enoshima. Living alongside other recovering survivors under rigid daily rules, she slowly begins to piece her broken life back together. However, her hard-won recovery takes a dark turn when she uncovers unsettling, secret rules within the organization. As Noriko digs deeper, a detective (Nao) closes in, threatening to expose the refuge's deeply buried, dangerous secrets. Based on the hit suspense series.



SPARE QUEENS

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M

DIRECTOR: TOMMY TOM

31-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

2026 Hong Kong Honoree Stephy Tang in attendance for post-screening Q&A. Once fierce rivals in Hong Kong's competitive bowling scene, Bik Kwan (Stephy Tang) and Yin Ching (Chrissie Chau) reunite years after a bitter falling out. When Bik Kwan's struggling women's bowling team faces dissolution, she reluctantly turns to her former rival for help. Forced to confront old grudges and new challenges, the two discover that saving the team—and finding their own second chance—may depend on learning to trust each other again.



SUKIYAKI

WORLD PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN 2026 | ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 155M

DIRECTOR: TAKAHISA ZEZE

24-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 25-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 8:00PM | KHL

In 1963, "Ue o Muite Arukou," known internationally as "Sukiyaki," made history as the first Japanese song to top the U.S. Billboard charts. Acclaimed director Takahisa Zeze chronicles the remarkable story of its creators: composer Hachidai Nakamura (Junichi Okada), lyricist Rokusuke Ei (Tori Matsuzaka), and singer Kyu Sakamoto (Taiga Nakano). Through friendship, ambition, and artistic clashes, SUKIYAKI celebrates the extraordinary journey of a song that transcended language and became a global phenomenon.



THE STATION

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

YEMEN, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, JORDAN, GERMANY, NORWAY, QATAR 2026 | ARABIC W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 112M

DIRECTOR: SARA ISHAQ

22-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 24-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

In war-torn Yemen, Loyal runs a women-only gas station, a sanctuary where the rules are simple: no men, no weapons, no politics. When her younger brother faces conscription, Loyal reunites with her estranged sister in a desperate attempt to save him. A highlight of the Cannes Film Festival, THE STATION marks Sara Ishaq's fiction feature debut, offering an intimate portrait of sisterhood, resilience, and women carving out refuge amid the devastating realities of war.



SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFORE ME

U.S. PREMIERE

PACIFIC SHOWCASE

NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA, AUSTRALIA 2026 | ENGLISH, TOK PISIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 93M

DIRECTORS: MATASILA FRESHWATER, LACHLAN MCLEOD

24-OCT 5:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 3:15PM | KHL

Along Papua New Guinea's sacred Sepik River, Indigenous communities unite against a massive copper and gold mine threatening their homeland and way of life. Led by activist Emmanuel Peni, their grassroots resistance pits ancestral knowledge and collective action against multinational interests and colonial power structures. From filmmaker Matasila Freshwater (VAI) and producer Kerry Warkia (WARU), SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFORE ME is a stirring work of cine-activism and a David-and-Goliath fight to protect one of the Asia Pacific's great waterways.



TAKE ME HOME

HAWAII PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 91M

DIRECTOR: LIZ SARGENT

24-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 25-OCT 2:15PM | KHL

Rooted in the real-life experiences of writer-director Liz Sargent and star Anna Sargent, TAKE ME HOME follows Anna, a Korean American adoptee caring for her aging parents in a Florida suburb. When a devastating heat wave disrupts their fragile routine, Anna, her sister Emily, and their father Bob must confront an uncertain future. World premiering at Sundance, this intimate drama explores disability, family, and resilience with compassion and hope.



SUMO: SPIRIT WEIGHS NOTHING

HAWAII PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA | SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

JAPAN, DENMARK, UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 99M

DIRECTOR: ERIK SHIRAI

25-OCT 11:30AM | KHL • 26-OCT 3:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 12:15PM | KHL

SUMO SPIRIT WEIGHS NOTHING grants rare inside access to Japan's notoriously private world of sumo. Over a turbulent year of sacrifice and survival, wrestlers at different stages of their careers fight to endure within one of Japan's most punishing traditions. Behind the curtain, true strength is measured — not in flash, but in refining the spirit.



FILMS A-Z

W



TANGLES

HAWAII PREMIERE

PANORAMA

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 102M

DIRECTOR: LEAH NELSON

25-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 27-OCT 2:30PM | KHL

A 2026 Cannes Film Festival Premiere, **TANGLES** is a moving animated adaptation of Sarah Leavitt's acclaimed graphic memoir. When queer artist Sarah returns home to care for her mother, whose vibrant personality is disappearing from Alzheimer's disease, she must confront complicated family dynamics, memory and loss. Featuring the voices of Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Abbi Jacobson and Bryan Cranston, Leah Nelson's tender feature debut balances heartbreak with humor, imagination and the enduring bonds of family.



THAT DAY, ON THE BEACH (2K RESTORATION)

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC 1983 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 166M

DIRECTOR: EDWARD YANG

25-OCT 3:45PM | KHL • 27-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 29-OCT 1:15PM | KHL

Edward Yang's landmark theatrical debut follows Chia-li (Sylvia Chang), trapped in a crumbling marriage, as she reunites with Ching-ching (Terry Hu), a concert pianist returning to Taiwan after 13 years abroad. Moving between past and present, Yang crafts an intricate meditation on romance, memory, and a rapidly changing Taiwan. A foundational work of the Taiwanese New Wave, **THAT DAY, ON THE BEACH** also marked the feature debut of legendary cinematographer Christopher Doyle. Presented in a stunning 2K restoration.



W



UGLY DUCKLING MS. MAENG

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

SOUTH KOREA 2026 | KOREAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

DIRECTOR: LEE YONG-JAE

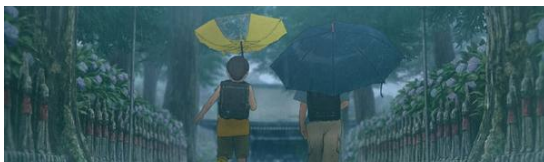
23-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 24-OCT 2:45PM | KHL

Small-town teacher Ms. Maeng receives the opportunity of a lifetime when she's selected to help create South Korea's all-important College Scholastic Ability Test. Expecting academic prestige and intellectual debate, she instead finds herself sequestered under spy-level security, surrounded by clashing egos, rivalries, and absurd office politics. This spirited underdog comedy turns Korea's notoriously intense college entrance exam culture into a workplace battleground, where Ms. Maeng discovers surviving her colleagues may be the hardest test of all.



KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII

K



WE ARE ALIENS

HAWAII PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN | KAU KA HOKU AWARD NOMINEE

JAPAN, FRANCE 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 117M

DIRECTOR: KOHEI KADOWAKI

30-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 1-NOV 3:15PM | KHL

Premiering at Cannes, Kōhei Kadowaki's **WE ARE ALIENS** follows childhood friends Tsubasa and Gyotaro across a decade in rural Japan. When classmates label the eccentric Gyotaro an "alien," Tsubasa pushes him away to fit in, setting off a betrayal that reverberates into adulthood. Unfolding with a structure reminiscent of **BOYHOOD**, Kadowaki's expressive animated debut explores friendship, conformity, and the toxic masculinity embedded in Japanese gender roles, revealing how childhood wounds shape the people we become.



WE ARE ALL STRANGERS

HAWAII PREMIERE

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHOWCASE

SINGAPORE 2026 | ENGLISH, MANDARIN, CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 157M

DIRECTOR: ANTHONY CHEN

25-OCT 7:30PM | KHL • 29-OCT 5:00PM | KHL

In contemporary Singapore, 21-year-old Junyang's carefree youth is disrupted when his relationship with his girlfriend takes a life-altering turn, forcing them toward adulthood sooner than expected. Meanwhile, an exuberant woman enters his father's life, reshaping the fragile balance between father and son. Acclaimed filmmaker Anthony Chen (**ILO ILO**) returns with a tender, deeply human portrait of two generations navigating love, loss, and responsibility while discovering that family encompasses both those we are born to and those we choose.



WE ARE BORN GOOD

U.S. PREMIERE

SPOTLIGHT ON HONG KONG

HONG KONG 2025 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 96M

DIRECTOR: LEUNG CHUEN YEUNG

29-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 31-OCT 11:00AM | KHL

A botched takeaway order ignites a bitter feud between Ji, an aspiring actress drowning in debt, and Rui, a restaurant owner recently released from prison. As petty retaliation escalates into chaos, their hostility unexpectedly evolves into connection. Inspired by a viral Hong Kong street dispute, **WE ARE BORN GOOD** is Leung Chuen Yeung's compassionate feature debut, exploring how financial pressure, social judgment, grief, and exhaustion can push ordinary people to the breaking point.



D
I



WHY WE DANCE

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED STATES, MEXICO 2026 | ENGLISH, SPANISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 117M
DIRECTOR: OOGIE PUSH

27-OCT 5:30PM | KHL • 28-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

In 1923, the U.S. government ordered hundreds of Tribal Nations to stop dancing. The Meskwaki responded with a massive powwow, transforming tradition into resistance. A century later, WHY WE DANCE follows Indigenous dancers and culture-keepers from the Meskwaki Settlement and Rosebud Reservation to Hawai'i and Mexico. Among them are Loa Simoes (Sac & Fox), Chairwoman of the Honolulu Intertribal Powwow, Pualeilani Paiea Kamahoahoa, and others carrying forward dance as an expression of land, identity, resilience, and community.

noa
BOTANICALS

CB HONOLULU
CIVIL BEAT

P



WILL YOU STILL BE MY FRIEND

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN

TAIWAN ROC, SINGAPORE 2026
ENGLISH, CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M

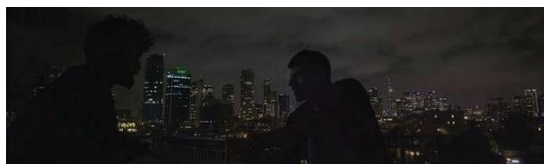
DIRECTOR: LU PO-SHUN

23-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

In a rural fishing village in southern Taiwan, 13-year-old Jun forms a secret bond with Jasper, a Singaporean newcomer whose family's solar business has divided the community. As tensions between their families and neighbors escalate, Jun struggles to protect their friendship while confronting feelings that may be something more. Lu Po-Shun's gentle feature debut is a tender coming-of-age story about childhood loyalty, first love, and two boys caught between adult conflicts and their burgeoning emotions.

臺灣書院
TAIWAN ACADEMY
文化局
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

D



NAZA

HAWAII PREMIERE
DOCUMENTARY PANORAMA

UNITED KINGDOM | ENGLISH, HEBREW W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 80M

DIRECTORS: YUVAL ABRAHAM, RACHEL SZOR

24-OCT 12:30PM | KHL • 29-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

Filmed at night on the rooftops of Tel Aviv, NAZA is an investigative documentary examining the systems behind Israel's military campaign in Gaza and the mass killing of Palestinian civilians. Drawing on testimony from anonymous Israeli intelligence officers and soldiers, the film exposes the technologies, calculations, and bureaucratic processes used to select targets and assess civilian casualties. From the directors of Academy Award-winning NO OTHER LAND (HIFF 2024), NAZA is an urgent examination of modern warfare and accountability. Venice Film Festival, Special Jury Prize.

CB HONOLULU
CIVIL BEAT



WILD HORSE NINE

HAWAII PREMIERE
PANORAMA

UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, CHILE 2026 | ENGLISH | 118M

DIRECTOR: MARTIN MCDONAGH

31-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 5:30PM | KHL

Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Martin McDonagh (IN BRUGES, THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN) returns with a wickedly dark comedy set on Easter Island before Chile's 1973 coup. John Malkovich and Sam Rockwell star as CIA agents whose covert mission spirals into chaos amid personal demons and shifting loyalties. Featuring Steve Buscemi, Tom Waits, and Parker Posey, WILD HORSE NINE blends McDonagh's razor-sharp satire with an existential exploration of power, complicity, and moral ambiguity.

HONOLULU
CIVIL BEAT

I



WOLFRAM

HAWAII PREMIERE
PACIFIC SHOWCASE

AUSTRALIA 2025 | ENGLISH | 100M

DIRECTOR: WARWICK THORNTON

28-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 29-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

On the colonial frontier of 1930s Australia, three Aboriginal youths flee forced labor and menacing outlaws, setting off across the punishing desert in search of safety and home. Set in the same stark universe as Warwick Thornton's acclaimed SWEET COUNTRY, WOLFRAM is a tough, uncompromising outback Western and tender family drama. Featuring Deborah Mailman and remarkable young performers, this gripping tale confronts colonial violence and separation through a powerful journey of survival, resilience, freedom, and belonging.

PACIFIC ISLANDERS
IN COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



SCREENING + TALK

AAP I FILMMAKERS IN FOCUS: ENOUGH + THUMBPRINT
| 90M

AAP I FILMMAKERS IN FOCUS celebrates AAP I storytelling with two new shorts exploring the Japanese American experience surrounding WWII incarceration and its generational legacy. Brian Tee's **ENOUGH**, starring Tee, Tamlyn Tomita, and Amy Hill, examines the fight for reparations, while Chris Naoki Lee's **THUMBPRINT** follows a Japanese photographer seeking freedom amid government persecution. A post-screening panel after the first screening brings filmmakers and special guests together to discuss representation, historical memory, and reclaiming AAP I stories through cinema.

25-OCT 1:45PM | KHL | EXT. Q&A
27-OCT 2:00PM | KHL

ENOUGH

HAWAII PREMIERE
AUSTRALIA 2025 | ENGLISH | 100M
DIRECTOR: WARWICK THORNTON

Two young women, separated by time, are drawn toward a story buried beneath the silence.

THUMBPRINT

WORLD PREMIERE
**UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH, JAPANESE W/
ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 22M**
DIRECTOR: WARWICK THORNTON

After the capture and interrogation by the FBI and a US Attorney, Japanese photographer Midori Shimoda retells the pivotal moments during World War II when he escaped California and the internment camp roundup, all in search of his American dream.

SCREENING + TALK

THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL + MINK!
WITH BEN PROUDFOOT | 90M

Join HIFF for a special presentation of director Ben Proudfoot's latest film **THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL** along with a return engagement of his 2022 Patsy Mink documentary, **MINK!** The first screening will be followed by an in-depth conversation with Ben Proudfoot.

25-OCT 7:15PM | KHL | Q&A
26-OCT 3:00PM | KHL

THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL

HAWAII PREMIERE
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 29M
DIRECTORS: BEN PROUDFOOT, STEPHEN CURRY

As lawyer, advisor, and speechwriter to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Clarence B. Jones helped shape the language of the Civil Rights Movement. Co-directed by Ben Proudfoot and Stephen Curry, **THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL** captures Jones's remarkable story in his own words, brought to life through Daniel Bruson's hand-painted watercolor animation. An intimate testament to a history-making life, the film World Premiered at Sundance, where it won the Short Film Grand Jury Prize.

MINK!

RETURN ENGAGEMENT
UNITED STATES 2025 | ENGLISH | 22M
DIRECTOR: BEN PROUDFOOT

As told by her daughter Wendy, **MINK!** chronicles the remarkable life of Patsy Takemoto Mink, a Japanese American from Hawaii who became the first woman of color elected to the U.S. Congress.

SCREENING + LIVE SCORE

THE BLOB: A NIGHT OF GORE & SCORE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

AFTER DARK
UNITED STATES 1988 | ENGLISH | 95M
DIRECTOR: CHUCK RUSSELL

HIFF celebrates Chuck Russell's cult classic with a special big-screen presentation featuring live musical accompaniment by Honolulu musician and composer Holden Mandrial-Santos (**EVERY DAY IN KAIMUKI**).

A small California town becomes an all-you-can-eat buffet when a gelatinous organism begins dissolving everyone in its path. Chuck Russell's gloriously nasty 1988 remake, co-written with Frank Darabont, turns a corny monster premise into a thrilling showcase of spectacular practical effects, gore, dark humor, and relentless action.

30-OCT 8:45PM | KHL





SCREENING + AFTER DARK DOUBLE DOWN

GAMALAND + YOU ARE THE FILM | 128M

AFTER DARK | SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN

Catch a two-for-one special with 2 mid-length features from the next wave of Japanese talent, featuring found-footage horror GAMALAND plus sci-fi head-turner YOU ARE THE FILM.

23-OCT 8:45PM | KHL

24-OCT 8:30PM | KHL

GAMALAND

HAWAII PREMIERE

JAPAN 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES

| 60M

DIRECTOR: NISHII HIROKI

Hidden within the raw footage of a 1990s Japanese TV program lies a disturbing record of Gamaland, an abandoned amusement park and the obsessive figures drawn to it. Director Hiroki Nishii, creator of Filmmest TV, masterfully recreates the analog textures of vintage Japanese television and ghost programs. City Pop meets found footage, channeling THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT and SKINAMARINK with uncanny verisimilitude, as recorded reality and fabrication blur into something increasingly sinister.

YOU ARE THE FILM

U.S. PREMIERE

JAPAN 2026 | JAPANESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES

| 68M

DIRECTOR: MAKOTO UEDA

Struggling playwright Madoka and musician Kazuma enter separate neighborhood microcinemas, only to discover the people onscreen are living parallel lives—and watching them back. The directorial debut of BEYOND THE INFINITE TWO MINUTES screenwriter Makoto Ueda, YOU ARE THE FILM blends romance, comedy, and meta-fiction into an ingenious multiverse adventure. An otaku spin on THE PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO, it's a clever, endearing celebration of microbudget filmmaking where big ideas triumph over big budgets.



SCREENING + TALK

PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA

+ SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM | 100M

MADE IN HAWAII

Join HIFF for the World Premiere of PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA along with SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM. The first screening will be followed by an in-depth panel discussion presented by 'Ulu'ulu.

25-OCT 2:30PM | KHL | EXTENDED Q&A •

27-OCT 1:30PM | KHL • 8-NOV 3:00PM | KAH

(WAIMEA) • 14-NOV 1:00PM | MACC (MAUI)

• 15-NOV 12:00PM | PAL (HILO)

PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ: 50 YEARS OF ALOHA 'ĀINA

WORLD PREMIERE

HAWAII (UNITED STATES) 2026

ENGLISH, HAWAIIAN ('OLELO HAWAII) W/ | 31M

DIRECTORS: MARK CARPENTER, CORBIN GREGORY

Marking 50 years since the Kaho'olawe Nine's historic 1976 landing, PROTECTING KAHŌ'OLAWĒ chronicles the movement that helped end decades of U.S. military bombing. Directors Mark Carpenter and Corbin Gregory honor the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana and generations dedicated to restoring the island through resistance, cultural stewardship, and the enduring practice of aloha 'āina.

SACRED ISLAND: LIVING THE DREAM

SPECIAL PREMIERE

HAWAII (UNITED STATES) 2026 |

ENGLISH, HAWAIIAN ('OLELO HAWAII) W/ | 25M

DIRECTOR: BLAKE ABE

A group of local musicians visit Kaho'olawe to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the island's reclamation from military bombing. They pule (pray) at sacred sites and compose new music for an album inspired by the island's mana (spiritual power) and the work of nonprofit Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana.



HAWAII
PACIFIC
HEALTH

KAPI'OLANI
PALI MOMI
STRAUB BENIOFF
WILCOX

CREATING A HEALTHIER HAWAII



SCREENING + TALK

'ULU'ULU — TIP DAVIS: PRESERVING HAWAII IN
MOTION | 90M

MADE IN HAWAII

Drawn from archival collections, this program offers a rare opportunity to experience Tip Davis's work on the big screen and celebrate the importance of preserving Hawaii's audiovisual history. Selections include the legendary CRATER FESTIVAL (1972); MEALI'I KALAMA, QUILTER (1974), an intimate portrait of the celebrated Hawaiian quilter; HŌKŪLE'A, STAR OF GLADNESS (1975), documenting the voyaging canoe that became a powerful symbol of cultural renewal; and KOHALA UNUPA'A: LAND OF THE DETERMINED PEOPLE, featuring beloved kūpuna William "Bill" Sproat, longtime keeper of the Kohala Ditch, who shares stories of the area. A panel discussion will further explore Davis's remarkable legacy.

24-OCT 3:00PM | KHL | FREE

FEATURES:

CRATER FESTIVAL (1972)

DIRECTOR: TIP DAVIS

MEALI'I KALAMA, QUILTER (1974)

DIRECTOR: TIP DAVIS

HŌKŪLE'A, STAR OF GLADNESS (1975)

DIRECTOR: TIP DAVIS

KOHALA UNUPA'A: LAND OF THE DETERMINED PEOPLE

DIRECTOR: TIP DAVIS



HAWAII
PACIFIC
HEALTH

KAPI'OLANI
PALI MOMI
STRAUB BENIOFF
WILCOX

CREATING A HEALTHIER HAWAII



SHORTS PROGRAMS



EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

Short films that don't quite follow the expected formula, pushing the boundaries of what a film can be and how a story manifests.

24-OCT 7:00PM | KHL

A LETTER HOME

DIRECTOR: DAISY OKAZAKI

AMATEUR IN THE MOON

DIRECTOR: PANG-CHUAN HUANG, CHUNNI LIN

ANGEL MAKER

DIRECTOR: SAMUEL DAVENPORT

FOR KAPISIGA PAUL LYONS

DIRECTOR: RICHARD HAMASAKI

LOTUS BODY (HIROSHIMA)

DIRECTOR: NOE NAOMI TANIGAWA

STILL STANDING

DIRECTORS: VICTOR TADASHI SUAREZ, LIVIA ALBECK-RIPKA

THREE CUPS OF COFFEE

DIRECTOR: NATALIA KRAWCZUK

THE 7TH MOON

DIRECTOR: TONY DIA

THE CITY ON THE EDGE OF WHATEVER

DIRECTOR: AIDAN (NAYNAY) MCDERMOTT

HORROR SHORTS

It's officially spooky season! Curl up with these unsettling oddities. Full of screams, laughs and gasps.

30-OCT 6:00PM | KHL

31-OCT 12:45PM | KHL

A HAND TO HOLD

DIRECTOR: PHILIP CLYDE-SMITH

BANSHEE

DIRECTOR: PETER VASS

BREEDER

DIRECTOR: SAPPHIRE SANDALO

DRY JANUARY

DIRECTOR: C.J. ARELLANO

HEIRLOOMS

DIRECTOR: DAN ABRAMOVICI

PRAYING MANTIS

DIRECTOR: JOE HSIEH

THE HIGHWAY

DIRECTOR: YUNG CHANG

KEIKI SHORTS

Fun, kid-friendly films from both around the world and close to home. Recommended for all ages, suitable for keiki under 10 years old.

24-OCT 10:30PM | KHL

25-OCT 1:30PM | KHL

7-NOV 7:00PM | MGO (MOLOKA'I)

14-NOV 1:15PM | PAL (HILO)

DA FARM

DIRECTOR: 'ĀINA PAIKAI

GROUNDED

DIRECTOR: CHRIS CALLUS

IN THE STILLNESS OF THE NIGHT

DIRECTOR: DANIEL A. KELIN, II

RAMEN WESTERN

DIRECTOR: MELODDY GAO

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

DIRECTORS: DILLON VALENZUELA, JEWEL RACASA

SPROUT

DIRECTOR: JASON CHEN

ULU MAIKA

DIRECTORS: NALEIAULI'I KAAI, GABRIEL GONZALES, CHELEE-ROSE PUA, AVERIE BISHAW-JUARIO, KOHZIAH PHILLIPS





QUEER SHORTS

This special collection of LGBTQIA+ films from near and far will have you laughing, crying and everything in between.

22-OCT 8:00PM | KHL
25-OCT 8:15PM | KHL

AS IT SHOULD BE

DIRECTOR: EDWIN LAI

BETTY ST. CLAIR

DIRECTORS: SYRA MCCARTHY, KYLE CASEY CHU

DEAR BELOVED

DIRECTOR: JARED CALLAHAN

DELAY

DIRECTOR: WANG HAN-XUAN

GABE'S SISTER

DIRECTOR: MONICA MAI

O ALOFA NEI, O ALOFA NĀ

DIRECTOR: GISELLE ILAOA

SHEESH, A TAYLOR LOVE STORY

DIRECTOR: RAMONA S. DIAZ

WHALE 52 | SUITE FOR MAN, BOY & WHALE

DIRECTOR: DANIEL NEIDEN

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: THE YOUNG & THE RESTLESS

A refreshing collection of coming-of-age stories (but not suitable for keiki!). Six films from five different countries featuring fresh perspectives and surprising revelations.

25-OCT 5:15PM | KHL

ALI

DIRECTOR: ADNAN AL RAJEEV

ASTRONAUTA

DIRECTOR: GIORGIO GIAMPÀ

CHANNELS

DIRECTOR: MATT LINDAUER

DOKOMADEMO (TO ANYWHERE)

DIRECTOR: MAIKI KAYO

HYENA

DIRECTOR: ALTAY ULAN YANG

KATTI (UNFRIEND)

DIRECTOR: KANISHKA AGGARWAL

THE BOY WITH THE DINOSAUR HEAD

DIRECTOR: IMRAN J. KHAN

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: WILL TRAVEL

Embark on a journey with these films centered around travel – stories that explore immigration, returning home, and the time travel of growing up.

29-OCT 7:45PM | KHL
30-OCT 12:45PM | KHL

GIRL | DAD

DIRECTOR: LIANZI FIELDS

LUCKY

DIRECTORS: RYAN MALLOY, MICHAEL LANGAN

MILK & HONEY

DIRECTOR: RACHEL LEYCO

NOT VALID FOR TRAVEL

DIRECTOR: JIAYING LIN

THE WIND IN ASH

DIRECTOR: SUN KUN

VATERLAND

DIRECTOR: BERTHOLD WAHJUDI

SHORTS PROGRAMS



INTERNATIONAL SHORTS: STILL, LIFE

Seven films from six different countries! Windows into unexpected stories from around the world that capture the perseverance and resilience of the human spirit.

26-OCT 5:30PM | KHL

ADAPTATION

DIRECTOR: ASLAK PALTTO

AGAPITO

DIRECTOR: ARVIN BELARMINO, KYLA ROMERO

GOD SLEEPS ON SUNDAYS

DIRECTOR: NAISHE NYAMUBAYA

MANONGS

DIRECTOR: COLIN GALESTE

THE DREAM IS A SNAIL

DIRECTOR: THIEN AN NGUYEN

TIDES OF LIFE

DIRECTOR: TATIANA MCCABE

VETERANO

DIRECTOR: PATRICK EPINO

MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 1

From the echoes of the battlefield to the rhythms of slow cinema and the irreverence of ribald comedy, these stories find grace, humor, and healing in the messy ties that bind us to home.

27-OCT 5:45PM | KHL
31-OCT 11:30AM | KHL
3-NOV 6:00PM | KAP
14-NOV 3:15PM | PAL (HILO)

DAN & KAT HIDE A BODY

DIRECTOR: CLARK JACOBY DAVIS

OLI

DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS B. GIANFORTI

PR

DIRECTOR: ELIOT BU

MASSAGERS 4 SALE

DIRECTOR: CHRIS LUI

WHO RAISED YOU

DIRECTOR: LIA MITCHELL

MADE IN HAWAII SHORTS 2

Across generations, these stories trace the roots of memory, grief, art, and inheritance, finding renewal in what we carry forward and what we learn to let go.

30-OCT 5:45PM | KHL
1-NOV 10:30AM | KHL
5-NOV 7:00 PM | KAP

PROFS

DIRECTORS: NANCIE CARAWAY, JESS COLE

SONS ARE NOT EARTHBOUND

DIRECTOR: LAUREN LUKE

STAINED

DIRECTOR: TIFFANY LIU

THE MAN AND THE TREE

DIRECTOR: JUSTYN AH CHONG

TUTUVI

DIRECTORS: KEKAHI WAHI (SANCIA MIALA SHIBA NASH, DREW K. BRODERICK) WITH COLLEEN KIMURA



SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES



WHAT WE CALL HOME

DIRECTOR: JOSIAH MENDOZA

PLAYS WITH

NIU FOREVER

28-OCT 8:15PM | KHL • 30-OCT 2:00PM | KHL • 4-NOV 6:00PM | KAP

On the outskirts of paradise, a family grows up in a self-governed houseless community on the island of O'ahu. As the looming threat of government removal draws closer, memories of the community's past intertwine with an uncertain future. A long-time village resident, a boy on the precipice of adolescence, his carefree younger sister, and their father, the leader of the village, each come to understand what home means in their own way.





PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: WHERE WE BELONG

Pacific Islander stories of roots, reinvention, and the search for belonging across the shifting landscapes of the West.

26-OCT 8:15PM | KHL
29-OCT 3:30PM | KHL
15-NOV 1:00PM | MACC (MAUI)

IAKWE: HELLO, GOODBYE
DIRECTOR: NATHAN FITCH

LANI
DIRECTOR: CHRISTIAN VILLAVICENCIO

OF THE LAND
DIRECTOR: ANETTE ARINIX

OHANA VENDORS:
DIRECTOR: ALIKA TENGAN

TAMAI
DIRECTOR: ENOCH J LUI

THE PLATFORM
DIRECTOR: MARK HARRIS

THE RAPTURE
DIRECTORS: JAIMEE POIPOI, ROO REIHANA-WILSON



PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: BETWEEN WORLDS

Journeys through fear, identity, and belonging, where finding your way home means first finding the courage to become who you truly are.

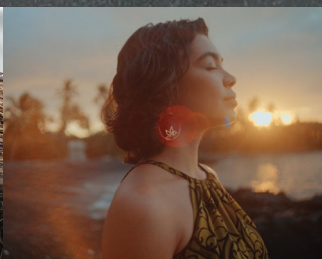
27-OCT 8:00PM | KHL
31-OCT 10:00AM | KHL

AMID THE NOISE AND THE HASTE
DIRECTOR: JULIE GOLDSTONE

FACELESS
DIRECTORS: FRASER PEMBERTON,
WILLIAM JAKA

**OUR BIG GREAT TOTALLY AWESOME
(AND PRACTICAL) ESCAPE**
DIRECTOR: KALANI AXELRODE

POUĀKAI (RAPTOR)
DIRECTOR: LIBBY HAKARAIA



PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: PACIFIC DAUGHTERS

Women across the Pacific reclaim identity, culture, and belonging, drawing strength from family, ancestry, and the lands and communities that shape them.

24-OCT 12:45PM | KHL
26-OCT 5:15PM | KHL

EI
DIRECTOR: AUKAI LIGAIRI

HO'OLONO (TO LISTEN DEEPLY)
DIRECTOR: SAMANTHA RAMIREZ-HERRERA

LADY SHAKA: SONIC SANDS
DIRECTOR: URSULA GRACE WILLIAMS

LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER
DIRECTOR: OLIVÉ



PACIFIC SHOWCASE SHORTS: TRACING HOME

Journeys of finding culture, uncovering roots, and finding the way home.

31-OCT 1:45PM | KHL
1-NOV 1:15PM | KHL
8-NOV 5:30PM | KAH (WAIMEA)

HOPE LOA
DIRECTOR: NANEAH AH YOU

NOBODY #9
DIRECTOR: FRITZ BITSOIE

PILI HOU - FINDING HELEN
DIRECTOR: MARTHA SHADE

WHERE YOU FIND ME
DIRECTOR: JENNIFER TOCQUIGNY



KŪKULU

DIRECTOR: AUKAI LIGAIRI

PLAYS WITH

LAHAINA: VOICES OF CHANGE

24-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 30-OCT 12:30PM | KHL • 15-NOV 3:00PM | MACC (MAUI)

Kūkulu follows Kānaka 'Ōiwi cultural practitioners Aliah Irvine and Kēhau Kapua'a, working in the male-dominated practice of hale building, and their efforts to restore cultural spaces nearly lost to colonial erasure.

NICHOLS
FAMILY FILM FUND



HIFILM INDUSTRY CONFERENCE



WELCOME TO THE 2026 HIFILM INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 24–25, 2026 | CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

After a dynamic inaugural year, the HIFILM Industry Conference returns in 2026—bigger, bolder, and focused on where our industry is headed next.

Over two days, filmmakers, creators, producers, executives, and industry leaders from Hollywood, the Asia-Pacific, and right here in Hawai'i, will come together to exchange ideas, challenge conventional thinking, and build meaningful connections. This year's conversations meet a rapidly changing industry head-on: from AI and the "Next-Gen" production studio; to why horror remains one of cinema's most resilient genres; from building community and creative ecosystems before the creative IP; to documenting the cultural zeitgeist through nonfiction storytelling.

We'll also explore the craft and longevity of the journeyman actor, break down Hawai'i's new film incentives through real-world case studies, and welcome one of today's most exciting filmmakers for a special conversation about his journey from Maui to the global stage—and how Hawai'i continues to ground the stories he tells.

As HIFF celebrates its 46th year, HIFILM is more than a conference. It's a meeting place for ideas, collaboration, experimentation, and opportunity—a space where Hawai'i connects with the wider industry while building a creative ecosystem of its own.

LET'S BUILD WHAT COMES NEXT—TOGETHER.

LOCATION

Chaminade University of Honolulu

3140 Waialae Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

Clarence T.C. Ching Conference Center

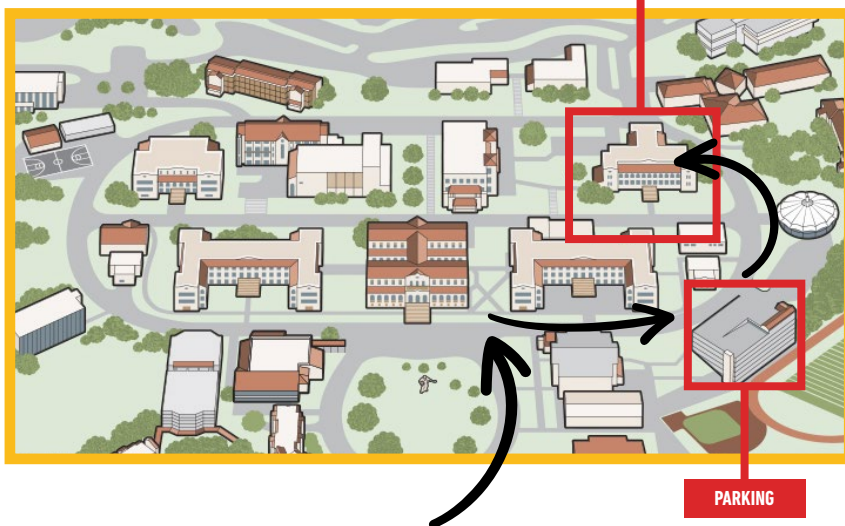
(NOT Clarence T.C. Ching Hall)

CONFERENCE PASS | \$125

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



<https://hiff.org/hifilm-conference/>



The Asian American Foundation is proud to partner with HIFF to celebrate authentic, diverse, and nuanced AANHPI stories.

TAAF The Asian American Foundation

Learn more about our work in Narrative Change

www.taaf.org | [@taaforg](https://twitter.com/taaforg)



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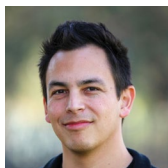
PROUD SUPPORTER OF

**HAWAII
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**
PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI



HIFILM INDUSTRY PANEL LIST

*PANELISTS CONFIRMED AS OF 09/18/26. PANELISTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

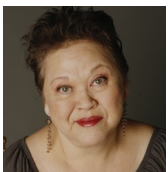


ADAM PIRON: Adam Piron, a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and a Kanien'kehá (Mohawk) descendant, directs Sundance Institute's Indigenous Program and programs short films for the Sundance Film Festival. He co-founded COUSIN, a collective supporting Indigenous moving-image artists, and previously served as Film Curator at LACMA. A USC graduate, he sits on Seen's Editorial Advisory Board and has contributed to numerous arts and film advisory panels.



ALEX TARRANT: Alex Tarrant is an Auckland-born actor of Māori, Samoan, and Niuean descent, best known for NCIS: Hawai'i and The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power. His international feature debut in NIGHT RAIDERS earned him a Vancouver Film Critics Circle Award nomination. His recent work includes the CBS sitcom DMV and the hybrid biopic SGT HAANE

(2026), further establishing him as a prominent Pacific screen actor.



AMY HILL: Amy Hill is an acclaimed actress, comedian, and performance artist whose career spans television, film, animation, and theater. She gained national attention as Grandma Kim on ALL-AMERICAN GIRL, and most recently starred as Kumu Tuileta throughout MAGNUM P.I.'s five-season run. Other credits include THAT'S SO RAVEN, LILO & STITCH: THE SERIES, AMERICAN DAD!, 50 FIRST DATES, and NEXT FRIDAY. A veteran of San Francisco's Asian American Theater Company, she created the one-woman shows TOKYO BOUND, REUNION, and BESIDE MYSELF.



ANNIE CUSICK WOOD: Annie Cusick Wood is a Scottish-born director, theatre creator, and producer with three decades of experience across the UK, Hawai'i, and internationally. Formerly Artistic Director of London's Polka Theatre, her acclaimed productions have toured across the globe. Since relocating to Hawai'i in 2006, she has created numerous works with Honolulu Theatre for Youth and expanded into film production, currently producing the upcoming Hawai'i feature film THE TOURIST CURSE.



BAO NGUYEN: Bao Nguyen is an award-winning Vietnamese American filmmaker and founding partner of EAST Films. He directed acclaimed documentaries BE WATER, THE GREATEST NIGHT IN POP, and Netflix's BTS: THE RETURN. His film THE STRINGER premiered at Sundance and earned four Emmy nominations. As a producer, his credits include THE DREAM IS A SNAIL, the first Vietnamese short selected in competition at Cannes. He is a member of BAFTA and AMPAS.



BRIAN YANG: Brian Yang is a producer whose latest feature, DRIFTER, directed by Sung Kang, is building a passionate global audience ahead of release. Drawing on the film's car culture connection, Yang has focused on grassroots engagement to create an audience-driven movement. His producing credits include LINSANITY, LATE LIFE, SNAKEHEAD, DEALING WITH DAD, and YANI TSENG: BEYOND THE SMILES. He is also known for his recurring role as Charlie Fong on Hawaii Five-0.



CHRIS LEE: Chris Lee, a graduate of 'Iolani High School and Yale, began at Good Morning America before rising from script analyst to President of Production at TriStar and Columbia Pictures—the first Asian American to run a Hollywood studio's production. He oversaw Oscar winners JERRY MAGUIRE, PHILADELPHIA, and AS GOOD AS IT GETS, plus hits like GODZILLA and THE PATRIOT. He returned home to found UH's Academy for Creative Media, building Film, Animation, Esports, and AI programs statewide.



CIARA LACY: Ciara Lacy is a Native Hawaiian filmmaker exploring social justice, representation, and Native Hawaiian cultural resilience through intimate storytelling and investigative journalism. A Yale graduate, she honed her craft in New York and Los Angeles before returning to Hawai'i. Her directorial debut, OUT OF STATE, premiered on PBS's Independent Lens. Her work has screened at Sundance and Berlinale, and appeared on Netflix, PBS, and Al Jazeera. She was the inaugural Sundance Institute Merata Mita Fellow.



DANA LEDOUX MILLER: Dana Ledoux Miller is a Samoan filmmaker, writer, producer, and showrunner behind key MOANA franchise milestones, including co-writing and co-directing MOANA 2, which surpassed \$1 billion globally, and serving as screenwriter on the upcoming live-action feature. With MOANA 2, she became the first Indigenous woman to direct a major studio animated feature. She also co-founded PEAK (Pasifika Entertainment Advancement Komiti), an organization expanding and redefining Pasifika representation across entertainment.



DESTIN DANIEL CRETTON: Destin Daniel Cretton is an acclaimed filmmaker born and raised in Ha'ikū, Maui, whose work spans independent dramas and global blockbusters, including SHORT TERM 12, THE GLASS CASTLE, JUST MERCY, SHANG-CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS, and SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY. He also co-created and directed Marvel's WONDER MAN series. Cretton founded Hisako Films and the nonprofit Hisako Film Lab, named after his grandmother, providing filmmaking education and mentorship to Maui youth.



GARY KING, JR.: Gary King, Jr. is an entertainment veteran with executive experience at major studios including Disney, Warner Bros., and Paramount. Working across formats, he's developed feature films, live-action television, animation, documentary and alternative programming, and scripted short-form content. Projects he's produced or led creatively have been distributed by Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV+, and Starz. Series he has overseen include CROSS, MURDERBOT, TRANSFORMERS: WAR FOR CYBERTRON, and IN THE BLOOD.



GEORJA SKINNER: Georja Skinner is Chief Officer of the Creative Industries Division at Hawai'i's DBEDT, where she has strengthened the state's creative economy since 2007. She began in Hollywood television, working on ALL IN THE FAMILY and THE JEFFERSONS, becoming the first woman nominated for an Emmy for sound mixing. After relocating to Maui in 1980, she became Maui's first Film Commissioner. She later launched the Creative Lab Hawai'i Accelerator, connecting local creatives with global industry opportunities.



GERARD ELMORE: Gerard Elmore is an EMMY® Award-winning producer, director, editor, and cinematographer based in Kāne'ohe. He serves as VP of Film at NMG Network and Executive Director of 'Ohina. A 2022 Sundance Institute Producer Intensive Fellow, his credits include KA HUAKA'I: THE JOURNEY TO MERRIE MONARCH, KĀLEWA, and OTHER PEOPLE. He is currently producing and serving as cinematographer on the upcoming feature THE TOURIST CURSE, and teaches at UH Mānoa and UH West O'ahu.



HENRY IAN CUSICK: Henry Ian Cusick is a Peruvian actor and director best known as Desmond Hume on *LOST*, earning him a Primetime Emmy nomination. His television credits include *THE 100*, *SCANDAL*, *THE PASSAGE*, and *MACGYVER*. Born in Peru to a Peruvian mother and Scottish father, he began in classical theatre before moving to film and television.

His short *DRESS* screened at HIFF, and he stars in *LOS VAMPIRES* (2026). He serves as President of SAG-AFTRA Hawai'i.

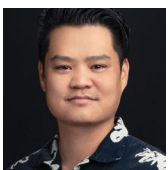


HOLT MCCALLANY: Holt McCallany is an acclaimed actor whose 30-plus-year career includes work with directors David Fincher, Guillermo del Toro, Clint Eastwood, Guy Ritchie, Michael Mann, and Brian De Palma. He is best known as FBI agent Bill Tench in Netflix's *MINDHUNTER*, with roles in *FIGHT CLUB*, *THREE KINGS*, *THE IRON CLAW*, and *LIGHTS OUT*.

Recent credits include *MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – THE FINAL RECKONING*, *THE AMATEUR*, and *THE LINCOLN LAWYER*.



IANETA LE'I: Ianeta Le'i is Senior Manager for the Sundance Institute's Indigenous Program, supporting emerging Indigenous filmmakers through labs, fellowships, intensives, and industry engagement. Raised in Wai'alua, Hawai'i, she previously worked at Pacific Islanders in Communications and served on the founding board of the Pasifika Entertainment Advancement Komiti (PEAK). She also runs Kaioe Consulting, LLC.



JASON CHEN: Jason Chen began his visual effects career at 17 on *AVATAR*, working with Weta Digital and Lightstorm Entertainment. That launched a career collaborating with leading filmmakers including James Cameron, Peter Jackson, Steven Spielberg, and J.J. Abrams, alongside Marvel Studios, Bad Robot, and Lucasfilm. He has contributed to *JOJO RABBIT*, *BUMBLEBEE*, and *THOR: RAGNAROK*. He now serves as CEO and Executive Producer of *DESERT ECLIPSE*, pioneering AI-driven animation and virtual production workflows.



JONAH FEINGOLD: Jonah Feingold is a filmmaker and founder of Romantical, Inc., a romantic comedy media company building an ecosystem across theatrical films, digital content, brand partnerships, live events, and community. A USC School of Cinematic Arts graduate, he has directed five features, including *DATING & NEW YORK*, *AT MIDNIGHT*, and *31 CANDLES*. His latest film, *BUSBOYS*, starring David Spade and Theo Von, debuted at No. 1 at the box office and later topped Hulu globally.



MIKI MAGASIVA: Miki Magasiva is a Samoan filmmaker born in Lefagaaoali'i and based in Aotearoa. His acclaimed feature *TINĀ*, which he wrote, directed, and produced, became a landmark for Pacific cinema, grossing over NZ\$6.49 million domestically and more than \$10 million worldwide. The film opened HIFF 2024 and earned audience awards at Palm Springs, Perth, and in Seattle. His previous work includes *USO*, *THE PANTHERS*, and *WE ARE STILL HERE*.



PETER BERQUIST: Peter Berquist is a Vice President at United Talent Agency (UTA) in the agency's advisory division. He joined UTA in 2022 and is based in the Los Angeles office. He specializes in corporate strategy and M&A advisory work within the media, entertainment, and advertising industries.



PHILIP W. CHUNG: Philip W. Chung is a writer and producer. He co-founded/co-directed the acclaimed Asian American theater Lodestone Theatre Ensemble, and served as creative director at YOMYOMF, founded by Justin Lin (*FAST & FURIOUS*). As a producer, he has developed projects for Comcast/NBCUniversal, Legendary Pictures, eOne,

Warner Bros, Disney, and PBS. His current work includes feature screenplays for Netflix and a TV pilot for Untitled Entertainment, alongside consulting for the Aspen Institute's Ideas Festival.



QUAN PHUNG: Quan Phung is a creative executive, producer, and media strategist with more than 20 years of experience developing premium scripted content and building global media ventures. Formerly SVP of Original Series at Topic Studios/First Look Media and a founding executive at Slingshot Global Media, he has developed and sold projects to Apple TV+, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Peacock, and Disney, with credits including *American Rust* and *Invasion*.



TARA ANSLEY: Tara Ansley is Co-Owner of FANGORIA, STARLOG, and GOREZONE, and founder of Wanderwell Entertainment. Since acquiring FANGORIA in 2020, she has helped transform the iconic brand into a multi-platform media company and film studio developing genre films for global audiences. A Sundance Institute alum, Ansley has produced films premiering at Sundance, SXSW, and festivals worldwide. She is also a longtime advocate for education and access in entertainment.



TAYLOUR CHANG: Taylour Chang is a filmmaker from Honolulu, Hawai'i. She serves as Director of Public Programs and Community Engagement at Bishop Museum and previously served as Curator of Film and Performance at the Honolulu Museum of Art and Director of the Doris Duke Theatre in Honolulu. She is also a Board Member of the

Arthouse Convergence, a coalition of independent exhibitors that connects, amplifies, and advocates for its community.



TY SANGA: Ty Sanga is an award-winning Kanaka Maoli filmmaker from Kalihi, O'ahu. He directs the PBS series *FAMILY INGREDIENTS*, winner of a 2014 Emmy. His short *STONES* was the first film directed by a Native Hawaiian to screen at Sundance and is now part of The Criterion Collection. He directed *HAE HAWAI'I*, winner of the HIFF Audience Award, and *HÖKŪLE'A: FINDING THE LANGUAGE OF THE NAVIGATOR*, winning Best Made in Hawai'i Feature at HIFF43.



WALTER HAMADA: Walter Hamada is the founder of 18Hz Productions, a horror-focused production company with an exclusive deal at Paramount Pictures. Previously, he served as President of DC-Based Film at Warner Bros. Pictures, overseeing *AQUAMAN*, *JOKER*, *THE BATMAN*, *THE SUICIDE SQUAD*, and *SHAZAM!*. Prior to DC, Hamada was

Executive Vice President at New Line Cinema, helping oversee *The Conjuring Universe* and *Stephen King's IT*, the highest-grossing horror film at the time.

HIFILM INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

CUT THE PROCESS, NOT THE CREATIVITY: DESERT ECLIPSE'S CREATIVE-FIRST APPROACH TO AI

Having worked alongside visionary filmmakers including James Cameron, Steven Spielberg, and Taika Waititi, Jason Chen has built a career at the intersection of technology and visual storytelling. Now, as CEO of Desert Eclipse, a next-generation production studio based on the Fox lot, Chen is bringing together film, animation, gaming, and emerging technology to rethink how stories are made. In this fireside chat, Chen explores how Desert Eclipse is integrating AI and emerging tools into the production pipeline—not to replace creativity, but to empower it. By accelerating visualization, streamlining time-intensive workflows, and reducing production bottlenecks, these technologies can give filmmakers more time and freedom to focus on storytelling. Chen will discuss a creative-first approach to AI that keeps artists firmly in control while making the filmmaking process faster, more efficient, and more filmmaker-forward.

THE AUDIENCE WAS ALWAYS THERE: TINĀ AND THE POWER OF BEING SEEN

Samoan Kiwi filmmaker Miki Magasiva explores TINĀ as a powerful example of Narrative Sovereignty—and what happens when Pacific Islanders see their families, language, humor, grief, and culture authentically reflected on the big screen. Following its world premiere at HIFF, TINĀ shattered expectations, securing the widest New Zealand release ever and becoming the fifth-highest-grossing local film in the country's history, earning over \$6.49 million domestically and \$10 million worldwide. Magasiva discusses protecting an authentic Samoan and Pasifika voice while pursuing a creative, à la carte approach to distribution, tailoring strategies to different territories and audiences, including working with Angel Studios for its North American release. The conversation examines how narrative sovereignty, underserved audiences, and unconventional distribution can work together—proving culturally specific films can achieve extraordinary commercial reach without compromising the communities and stories at their core.

CAPTURING THE ZEITGEIST: BAO NGUYEN ON CULTURE, MEMORY & CINEMA

How do you tell the story of an icon when millions of people already think they know it? Director Bao Nguyen has built a documentary career exploring the people and cultural moments that shape popular memory, from Bruce Lee in *BE WATER* and the making of “We Are the World” in *THE GREATEST NIGHT IN POP* to *THE STRINGER* and the global phenomenon of BTS in *BTS: THE RETURN*. In this career-spanning conversation, Nguyen discusses gaining access to high-profile subjects, working with archives, interviewing cultural icons, navigating music and intellectual property, and finding an intimate human story inside massive global phenomena. The masterclass explores how documentary filmmakers balance authorship, access, responsibility and entertainment while making nonfiction for an increasingly global audience.

BUILT-IN AUDIENCE: TURNING COMMUNITIES INTO BOX OFFICE, A CASE STUDY WITH PRODUCER BRIAN YANG & DRIFTER

How do you turn a passionate community into a theatrical audience? Using Sung Kang's *DRIFTER* (HIFF46's Centerpiece Gala) as a case study, producer Brian Yang and members of the film's creative and producing team break down their strategy for building momentum long before opening weekend. From car clubs and drifting

culture to grassroots events, social media, influencers, brand partnerships and experiential activations, the team is tapping into a global car community that already lives and breathes the culture represented on screen. The conversation offers a practical roadmap for independent filmmakers to identify, engage and empower their core audiences early, transforming authentic community connection into advocacy, word-of-mouth and, ultimately, box office.

LOVE IS THE BUSINESS: BUILDING THE 'ROMANTICAL' FLYWHEEL WITH JONAH FEINGOLD

Filmmaker Jonah Feingold is betting on the romantic comedy—and building an ecosystem designed to sustain it. After directing independent features that have premiered at major film festivals and been released through traditional theatrical and streaming platforms, Feingold is looking beyond the conventional model with *Romanticals*, his new rom-com-focused studio and community. This conversation explores his “flywheel”: producing short-form digital content to test ideas, develop characters and IP, grow an engaged audience, and ultimately convert that momentum into feature films and other projects. Rather than making a movie and hoping an audience finds it, Feingold is cultivating the audience first—and inviting them along for the journey. The session examines how independent filmmakers can use creator-economy strategies, community building, and direct audience relationships to develop IP, finance projects, and forge a sustainable path outside Hollywood's traditional gatekeepers.

INDIGENOUS STORIES, INDIGENOUS FUTURES: INSIDE THE SUNDANCE INDIGENOUS PROGRAM

The Sundance Institute Indigenous Program champions Indigenous storytellers through labs, fellowships, mentorship, creative development, and year-round support designed to advance Native artists and their projects. This panel explores how Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander filmmakers can access these opportunities and bring culturally rooted stories to a global stage. Kānaka Maoli and Hawai'i-based Sundance alumni will share firsthand experiences, offering practical insight into the application process, mentorship, community, and career pathways the program provides. The conversation will examine how Sundance can help NHPI creatives develop their voices, build industry relationships, and advance their work while maintaining cultural specificity and narrative sovereignty.

WAYFINDING NEW WORLDS: DANA LEDOUX MILLER ON CULTURE, CREATIVITY & THE FUTURE

Dana Ledoux Miller returns to HIFF to reflect on a career that has taken her from student filmmaking at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—and through the HIFF ecosystem—to some of the world's biggest screens. Miller traces her path from Aaron Sorkin's *THE NEWSROOM* to showrunning Netflix's *THAI CAVE RESCUE*, before entering the Disney universe with *MOANA 2* and the live-action *MOANA*. She'll also discuss co-writing Disney Animation's upcoming *HEXED*, a major original-IP bet positioned to introduce audiences to the studio's next breakout character and potential box-office franchise. Miller explores adapting between television, live action, and animation; bringing her Samoan heritage to global storytelling; and co-founding *PEAK* (Pasifika Entertainment Advancement Komiti), an organization dedicated to expanding opportunities, access, and representation for Pasifika creatives in entertainment. It's a homecoming conversation about cultural authenticity, creative leadership, and opening doors for the next generation.

THE WORKING ACTOR - HOLT MCCALLANY, HENRY IAN CUSICK, ALEX TARRANT & AMY HILL ON BUILDING A CAREER THAT LASTS

There is no single path to becoming a working actor, and getting the breakout role is only the beginning. Actors Holt McCallany, Henry Ian Cusick, Alex Tarrant and Amy Hill come together for a candid conversation about the life of the journeyman actor and what it takes to build a career across decades. From auditions, rejection and typecasting to supporting roles, television, studio films, independent productions—including student films—and career reinvention, the actors share the choices and persistence behind careers audiences often only see from the outside. For Hawai'i actors and emerging performers, the conversation offers a practical look at navigating the industry, building relationships, staying ready and, most importantly, continuing to work.

MINI-PANEL: HIFILM PRODUCERS LAB CHECK-IN

Meet the filmmakers of the 2026 HIFILM Producers Lab, an immersive program supporting Hawai'i-based producers with the creative, logistical, and strategic tools to move short films from concept to completion. Lab participants reflect on their experiences developing projects through mentorship, workshops, pitching, budgeting, financing, festival strategy, and building a more sustainable filmmaking community in Hawai'i.

FROM MAUI TO THE MULTIVERSE: A CONVERSATION WITH DESTIN DANIEL CRETTON

From making no-budget films to directing some of Hollywood's biggest franchises, Maui-born and raised filmmaker Destin Daniel Cretton Following SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY's record-smashing box office success, Cretton reflects on a remarkable journey from the deeply personal indies I AM NOT A HIPSTER and SHORT TERM 12 to the MCU with SHANG-CHI, WONDER MAN, and SPIDER-MAN. Beyond the blockbusters, he'll discuss staying connected to the values and creative instincts shaped by his Hawai'i roots and giving back through Hisako Labs, supporting emerging storytellers from the islands. From producing films like LUCKY LU and championing new filmmaking voices to what lies ahead, this intimate conversation explores creative evolution, mentorship, and how a local filmmaker can help open doors for the next generation.

808 STATE OF PRODUCTION: MAKING ACT 185 WORK FOR LOCAL FILMS

How can Hawai'i's expanded film incentive become a practical tool for Hawai'i filmmakers making Hawai'i films? This nuts-and-bolts session breaks down Act 185 through real-world case studies spanning short films to independent features, including THE TOURIST'S CURSE, currently in post-production. Producers and industry experts examine qualifying expenses, budgeting, financing, cash flow, documentation, and the additional 5% local-hire credit. Drawing from actual productions, the panel explores how filmmakers can leverage the incentive to stretch limited resources while investing in Hawai'i crews, locations, equipment, payroll, and post-production. More than an Incentives 101, this session follows the process from credit to camera, asking how Act 185 can help local productions reach the finish line—and ultimately strengthen a sustainable independent filmmaking ecosystem that keeps talent, jobs, and investment in Hawai'i.

FEAR HAS NO BORDERS — WHY SPECIFIC STORIES MAKE HORROR UNIVERSAL

The most powerful horror can be deeply local and completely universal. Tara Anasley of FANGORIA Studios, explore how culturally specific folklore, mythology, and lived experience can become an advantage in the global genre marketplace. Using FANGORIA Studios' SITORA as a case study, Anasley examines how the Malaysian creature feature draws from the mythology of the weretiger while tapping into universal themes of fear, transformation, and community. Anasley will discuss why authenticity matters, what makes culturally rooted horror resonate beyond its place of origin, and how independent filmmakers can embrace specificity rather than dilute it. How can filmmakers turn the stories, fears, and traditions they know best into horror that connects with audiences around the world?

THE BUSINESS OF FEAR: WALTER HAMADA ON HORROR, IP & THE BIG SCREEN

From New Line Cinema to DC Studios and now Paramount Pictures, Walter Hamada has built a career around franchise filmmaking, genre storytelling, and theatrical entertainment. In this fireside chat, Hamada reflects on his Hollywood journey, from helping shepherd modern horror phenomena including THE CONJURING and IT at New Line to overseeing DC's film slate. Now, as head of 18Hz Productions at Paramount Pictures, Hamada has returned his focus to horror, with this year's PRIMATE and PASSENGER part of a slate built around the genre's potential to generate sustainable IP, passionate audiences, and reliable theatrical returns. He'll discuss why horror continues to thrive on the big screen, what makes a concept franchise-ready, and how filmmakers can strategically develop original genre IP for an evolving theatrical marketplace.

WRITING HORROR THAT SELLS

What makes a horror screenplay stand out and get optioned/sold/made? Two producers/executives with deep genre experience, Walter Hamada (18Hz/Paramount) and Gary King (Paramount TV, WB, Disney), join this panel to examine what makes a horror script marketable, from a killer concept and strong hook to character, scares, budget, and audience. Drawing on recent success stories, the conversation also explores how writers can position their work through pitch materials, spec scripts, competitions, fellowships, labs, and platforms like The Black List. Learn what industry decision-makers look for and how to turn a terrifying idea into a script that gets read, championed, and produced.

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Pacific Island Film Festival (PIFF)



From
PIC...

Pacific Islanders in Communications

SUMMER 1992 ♦ VOLUME I ♦ NUMBER I

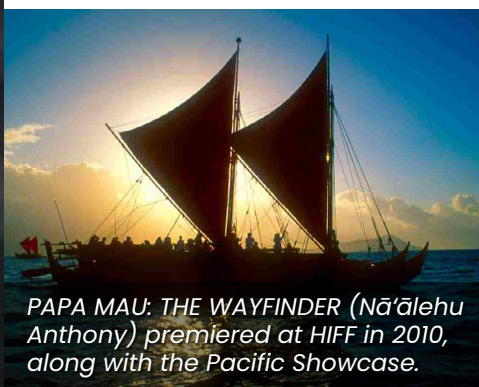


HEART OF THE SEA: KAPOLIOKA'EHUKAI
(Charlotte Largarde, Lisa Denker) won
Spirit of Hawai'i Award at HIFF in 2002.

1ST EDITION OF
STORYBOARD, PIC'S
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION!

P.I.C. OFFICE OPENS IN HONOLULU!

A DREAM BECAME REALITY in Honolulu, as "PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS (aka PIC)" recently opened its offices as recipients of funding from The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).



PAPA MAU: THE WAYFINDER (Nā'ālehu Anthony) premiered at HIFF in 2010, along with the Pacific Showcase.

PIC IS DEDICATED TO INCREASING THE AMOUNT of available film and video programming by and about Pacific Islanders for public broadcasting, cable, and international distribution. Pacific Islanders, including people and cultures from Hawai'i, Guam, the



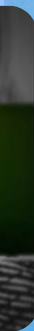
SUKUNDIMI WALKS BEFORE ME (Lachlan McLeod, Matasila Freshwater) will screen this year at HIFF.

Northern Marianas Islands, and American Samoa contribute greatly to the fabric of the American experience. PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS will, through its television programming and other community outreach efforts, seek to enhance public recognition and appreciation of these contributions and foster a deeper understanding of the merits and values inherent in Pacific Islander cultures.

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NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY THE VILCEK FOUNDATION

The New American Perspectives (NAP) program at HIFF shines a spotlight on immigrant and foreign-born artists and filmmakers, celebrating the powerful impact of diversity in contemporary cinema in the United States. Presented by the Vilcek Foundation in partnership with HIFF, the program centers the voices of immigrant and foreign-born artists through film screenings and special events available to festival attendees and the public.

2026 FILMS & EVENTS

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES - SPECIAL EVENTS

NEVER SAY DIE: A MEMOIR - BOOK TALK WITH KE HUY QUAN

1-NOV 11:30 AM | DA SHOP: BOOKS AND CURIOSITIES | 3565 HARDING AVE

Join Academy Award®-winning actor Ke Huy Quan at da Shop in Kaimukī for an intimate conversation celebrating his new book NEVER SAY DIE: A MEMOIR.

In this moving, candid, and often funny memoir, Quan reflects on his remarkable journey from childhood stardom to decades away from the spotlight, to experiencing one of Hollywood's most inspiring comebacks. A love letter to the movies and the cast populating Quan's own life, NEVER SAY DIE: A MEMOIR is a story of perseverance, resilience, and holding onto your dreams. This special book talk offers a rare opportunity to hear Quan reflect on his extraordinary life, career, and the lessons learned along the way.

INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

USA 1984 | ENGLISH | 131M

DIRECTOR: STEVEN SPIELBERG

1-NOV 2:00PM | KHL

Chasing fortune and glory, Indiana Jones escapes Shanghai and travels to India, where the emergence of a mysterious cult leads to one of the franchise's darkest adventures. Notorious for its gruesome imagery and outdated Orientalism, the prequel to RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK remains a rollicking blockbuster. Most iconic is Ke Huy Quan's unforgettable debut as Short Round, the film's precocious heart.

HIFF career achievement honoree and NAP featured filmmaker Ke Huy Quan joins HIFF's Master Class discussion following the screening.

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES: PANEL DISCUSSION

26-OCT 6:00 PM | HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT
3650 WAIALAE AVE

Join New American Perspectives guest filmmakers Henry Ian Cusick, Liz Sargent, Alex Tarrant, and Michelle Zhou for a lively discussion about their careers, creative journeys, and cross-cultural experiences. Together, these artists reflect on how immigrant, foreign-born, and Indigenous perspectives enrich the creative landscape, challenge Western narratives, and expand the evolving language of storytelling in the United States.

This panel discussion is supported in part by Honolulu Civil Beat, and will be held in its offices at 3650 Waiālae Avenue.

BIG LITTLE THINGS

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

HONG KONG SAR, UNITED STATES 2026 | MANDARIN, CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 104M

DIRECTOR: MICHELLE ZHOU

25-OCT 8:00PM | KHL • 28-OCT 3:30PM | KHL

Seeking to appease her seemingly perfect middle-class Chinese family, Lei brings a man home on New Year's Eve to pretend to be her boyfriend. The unexpected appearance of her real girlfriend shatters this carefully constructed facade, and Lei finds herself caught between familial obligation, cultural expectations, and the desire to live authentically.

SGT. HAANE

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

NEW ZEALAND 2026 | TE REO MĀORI, ENGLISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 89M

DIRECTOR: TEAREPA KAHİ

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

On April 19, 1943, Haane Manahi led the 28th Māori Battalion in a daring assault on the fortress of Takrouna in Tunisia, a feat that altered the course of the North African campaign during World War II. Though recommended for the Victoria Cross, the honor was never awarded. Starring Alex Tarrant as Haane Manahi, this powerful drama explores courage, sacrifice, and the enduring legacy of a Māori hero whose amazing story continues to inspire generations.

LOS VAMPIRES

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES 2026 | SPANISH, ENGLISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 105M

DIRECTOR: CRAIG MITCHELL

26-OCT 7:45PM | KHL • 27-OCT 4:30PM | KHL

Henry Ian Cusick stars in this meta horror set in 1930s Hollywood. Carlos Villarias (Cusick) is hired to play DRACULA in a Spanish-language production, filming overnight on the same soundstage as the English-language movie featuring Bela Lugosi. A string of murders on the lot begin to blur the line between performance and reality.

TAKE ME HOME

HAWAII PREMIERE

NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

UNITED STATES 2026 | ENGLISH | 91M

DIRECTOR: LIZ SARGENT

24-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 25-OCT 2:15PM | KHL

Rooted in the real-life experiences of filmmaker Liz Sargent and star Anna Sargent, TAKE ME HOME follows Anna, a Korean American adoptee caring for her aging parents in a Florida suburb. When a devastating heat wave disrupts their fragile routine, Anna, her sister, and father must confront an uncertain future. This intimate drama explores disability, family, and resilience with compassion and hope.

VILCEK FOUNDATION

The Vilcek Foundation raises awareness of immigrant contributions in the United States, and fosters appreciation of the arts and sciences. The foundation has partnered with HIFF since 2007 to present the New American Perspectives program, which serves as a platform to highlight the voices of immigrant and foreign-born filmmakers. The unique perspectives of these enterprising artists enrich cinema and bring forth new, inspiring narratives.

2026 NEW AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES – FILMMAKERS



FEATURED FILMMAKER: KE HUY QUAN

Ke Huy Quan has made one of Hollywood's most remarkable comebacks. After breakout roles in *INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM* and *THE GOONIES*, Quan stepped away from acting. He spent the next few decades working behind the scenes in film production and stunt choreography before returning to the screen. Quan's acclaimed performance as Waymond in *EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE* earned him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, a Critics Choice Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Supporting Actor. He has since appeared in Disney+'s *LOKI* and *AMERICAN BORN CHINESE*, Universal's *LOVE HURTS*, Netflix's *THE ELECTRIC STATE*, and Disney's *ZOOTOPIA 2*.

Quan shares his phenomenal journey in his new book, *NEVER SAY DIE: A MEMOIR*, available from Grand Central Publishing. Tracing his path from childhood refugee to Hollywood star, the book explores resilience, identity, reinvention, and an unforgettable second act.



HENRY IAN CUSICK

Henry Ian Cusick is an actor, director, and filmmaker known for his work across screen and stage. Born in Peru, raised in Trinidad and Scotland, and now based in Hawai'i, he stars in *LOS VAMPIRES*, presented as part of this year's New American Perspectives program.

Cusick trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and began his career as a classical theatre actor. In 2004, he joined the cast of *LOST* as Desmond Hume, receiving a Primetime Emmy nomination in 2006. His extensive television work includes starring roles in *THE 100*, *SCANDAL*, *THE PASSAGE*, and *MACGYVER*. Cusick's short film, *DRESS*, won Best Short Film at the Peace on Earth Film Festival and at HIFF33. Cusick will participate in a post-screening Q&A following the presentation of *LOS VAMPIRES* on OCT 26.



LIZ SARGENT

Liz Sargent is a Korean American adoptee whose award-winning filmmaking explores adoption, disability, and family. A writer and director with a background in choreography, she brings a unique visual and emotional sensibility to her storytelling, shaped by her experiences as the middle child of eleven siblings and her intersectional identity. *TAKE ME HOME* premiered in the United States in the U.S. competition section of the 2026 Sundance Film Festival, where Sargent received the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award. *TAKE ME HOME* debuted globally at the Berlin International Film Festival, where it was presented as part of the Perspectives Competition. Sargent will participate in a post-screening Q&A following the presentation of *TAKE ME HOME* on OCT 25.



ALEX TARRANT

Alex Tarrant is an Auckland-born actor of Māori, Samoan, and Niuean descent. A graduate of New Zealand's national drama school, Te Kura Toi Whakaari O Aotearoa, he stars in Tearepa Kahi's biopic *SGT. HAANE*.

Tarrant made his international feature debut in *NIGHT RAIDERS*. One of the Pacific's most recognizable actors, Tarrant is best known for his lead role as Kai Holman in *NCIS: HAWAII*, as Valandil in *THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RINGS OF POWER*, and for television roles across New Zealand and Australian. He will participate in a post-screening Q&A following the presentation of *SGT. HAANE* on OCT 23.



MICHELLE ZHOU

Michelle Zhou is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker whose work explores intimate relationships and shifting power dynamics. An accomplished writer and director, Zhou's short film *FISH EYE* won Best Short Film at the 46th USA Film Festival and her screenplay *UNDER THE SNOW* was a Sundance Screenwriters Lab semi-finalist.

Her debut feature, *BIG LITTLE THINGS*, premiered in the Orizzonti section of the 83rd Venice International Film Festival. It won the WIP (Work-in-Progress) Activator Market Potential Award at the 62nd Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival and was presented at the 2025 Far East Film Festival as part of Udine's Focus Asia section. Zhou will participate in a post-screening Q&A following the presentation of *BIG LITTLE THINGS* on OCT 25.

HIFF EDUCATION

HIFF is committed to offering enriching experiences that inspire and educate Hawai'i's students through the world of cinema through film screenings, Q&As with filmmaking industry professionals, career development for postsecondary students, and HIFF's annual 'Ōpio Fest that celebrates the next generation of storytellers. Thanks to our generous sponsors our programs are free to K-12 schools across Hawai'i.



YOUTH EDUCATION SCREENINGS

HIFF's Youth Education Screenings (YES) bring exceptional films and meaningful cinematic experiences to K-12 students across Hawai'i through both theatrical screenings and online classroom viewings. During the Festival, school groups can experience select films on the big screen at venues across Hawai'i. Our film selections are thoughtfully curated to introduce students to compelling stories, new voices, and diverse cultural perspectives from Hawai'i and around the world. Post-screening discussions and Q&As feature the director, cast, or crew, giving students the chance to ask questions and gain insight into the filmmaking process.



HIFF46 FILMS

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THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL
KEIKI SHORTS PROGRAM (SEE PAGE 40 FOR FILM LISTING)

HIFF 'ŌPIO FEST APRIL 22 - 25, 2027

HIFF's 'Ōpio Fest showcases the best films made by K-12 and higher-education students from across Hawai'i. Selected films will be presented in theaters as part of 'Ōpio Fest, with all films eligible for 'Ōpio Fest Awards. Beginning in 2027, HIFF's University Showcase will become part of 'Ōpio Fest, moving from its previous place in the Fall Festival to join the festival's celebration of Hawai'i's next generation of filmmakers.



'ŌPIOFEST THE FUTURE OF FILM

We're accepting student film submissions until January 19, 2027. Categories include: Junior Showcase (K-8), Next Gen Showcase (9-12), University Showcase, and Earth Day Showcase (K-12). For more info, visit: www.filmfreeway.com/hiffopiofest

Check out HIFF's Education Guide to learn more about our education programs at hiff.org/education



GUEST FILMMAKER PROGRAM

HIFF Education arranges local and visiting filmmakers of the Festival to guest speak in classrooms at schools across Hawai'i. Educators can request a free session at their school or organization for students to engage with an industry professional. Mahalo to these filmmakers for sharing their time and expertise.

Aaron Kandell

Aggy Tarrant

Aina Paikai

Alex Cantatore

Alexander Bocchieri

Anette Arinix

Annie Cusick Wood

Anne Misawa

Aubrey Meiling

Aukai Ligairi

Ben Proudfoot

Bryson Chun

Daniel A. Kelin II

Gerard Elmore

Henry Ian Cusick

Jana Park

Jason Chen

Jordan Kandell

Lauren Luke

Logan Alcosiba

Lucinda Tarrant

Mark Carpenter

Matt Yamashita

Nicholas Gianforti

Sung Kang

Tiffany Liu

Zilla Barbosa

NEXT GEN FILMMAKING FELLOWSHIP

An evolution of HIFF's Student Advisory Committee, the Next Gen Filmmaking Fellows is a group of emerging filmmakers—many alumni of HIFF's Education Programs—who share a passion for storytelling. Fellows receive mentorship from established filmmakers throughout the academic year as they develop independent film and media projects, culminating in works-in-progress presentations at 'Ōpio Fest.

HIFF INTERNSHIP

Interns at HIFF gain hands-on training and experience in festival operations and events, and education and industry initiatives. If you're a college student, passionate about making a positive impact through the arts, consider interning with HIFF!



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HONG KONG FILMMAKER IN PROFILE: STEPHY TANG 鄧麗欣



Stephy Tang is one of Hong Kong's most versatile actresses and recording artists. She first rose to prominence in 2002 as a member of the Cantopop girl group Cookies before launching a successful solo music career with her debut album Coloring Stephy in 2005. She soon became a leading romantic-comedy star before earning critical acclaim for increasingly adventurous dramatic roles. Her performance in THE EMPTY HANDS (2017) won Best Actress from the Hong Kong Film Critics Society and earned her a Hong Kong Film Award nomination, followed by another Best Actress nomination for MY PRINCE EDWARD.

Tang reached new commercial heights with the blockbuster TABLE FOR SIX and later appeared in TABLE FOR SIX 2, LOVE LIES and LITTLE RED SWEET. In 2025, she staged three sold-out concerts at the Hong Kong Coliseum. In 2026, she stars alongside Chrissie Chau and Anson Kong in the bowling drama SPARE QUEENS.

FEATURES



THE DATING MENU

HAWAII PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 100M
DIRECTOR: AMOS WHY, FRANKIE WANG-KIT CHUNG
28-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 1-NOV 4:00PM | KHL



FULL CONTACT

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 1992 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 98M
DIRECTOR: RINGO LAM
29-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 30-OCT 2:30PM | KHL



THE MAGE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 97M
DIRECTOR: OXIDE PANG, DANNY PANG
30-OCT 8:30PM | KHL • 1-NOV 8:30PM | KHL



MY PRINCE EDWARD

RETURN ENGAGEMENT
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2019 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M
DIRECTOR: NORRIS WONG
31-OCT 1:15PM | KHL



SPARE QUEENS

HAWAII PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 92M
DIRECTOR: TOMMY TOM
31-OCT 8:00PM | KHL



WE ARE BORN GOOD

UNITED STATES PREMIERE
HONG KONG SAR CHINA 2026 | CANTONESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 96M
DIRECTOR: LEUNG CHUEN YEUNG
29-OCT 5:45PM | KHL • 31-OCT 11:00AM | KHL

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SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN: A LOOK BACK AND TO THE FUTURE

HIFF's 2026 Spotlight on Taiwan looks across generations of Taiwanese cinema—honoring the artists who transformed its cinematic language while celebrating a new generation carrying that legacy forward in unexpected directions.

The program looks back with *THAT DAY, ON THE BEACH*, the landmark first feature from Edward Yang, whose perceptive observations of everyday life, relationships, and a rapidly changing society helped define the Taiwanese New Wave. That influence reverberates through *WILL YOU STILL BE MY FRIEND?*, Lu Po-Shun's contemporary Bildungsroman about growing up and finding one's place in the world, continuing a distinctly Taiwanese tradition of locating profound emotional and social truths within the intimate experiences of ordinary lives.

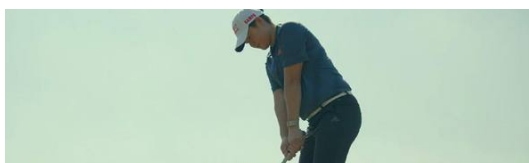
BEYOND THE SMILES: YANI TSENG turns its gaze toward a very different kind of coming-of-age, offering a candid portrait of the Taiwanese golf icon as she navigates fame, mental wellness, and the immense weight of representing a nation on the world stage.

Meanwhile, Nelson Yeo's *THE HOUSE ON THE MOON* points toward Taiwan's increasingly international future. Developed through Taiwan's expanding support for global filmmakers and co-productions—this particular film is a co-pro with Singapore, Germany and Indonesia—the film exemplifies how the island is building creative bridges across borders while championing artistic integrity and bold filmmaking.

That spirit of experimentation extends to shorts *AMATEUR IN THE MOON* by Pang-Chuan Huang and Chunni Lin and *PRAYING MANTIS* by Joe Hsieh, demonstrating the continuing excellence and creative permutations of Taiwan's short-film tradition.

Together, these films reveal a cinema simultaneously looking backward and moving forward—grounded in a remarkable artistic legacy while positioning Taiwan as an increasingly vital creative force in Asian and global cinema.

FEATURES



BEYOND THE SMILES: YANI TSENG

WORLD PREMIERE

TAIWAN ROC, UNITED STATES 2026 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 94M

DIRECTOR: FRANK W. CHEN

22-OCT 6:00PM | KHL • 24-OCT 2:30PM | KHL



THE HOUSE ON THE MOON

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

TAIWAN ROC, SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, GERMANY 2026 | CHINESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 99M

DIRECTOR: NELSON YEO

24-OCT 5:15PM | KHL • 28-OCT 2:30PM | KHL



THAT DAY, ON THE BEACH

HAWAII PREMIERE

TAIWAN ROC 1983 | JAPANESE, GERMAN, MANDARIN, SOUTHERN MIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 166M

DIRECTOR: EDWARD YANG

25-OCT 3:45PM | KHL • 27-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 29-OCT 1:15PM | KHL



WILL YOU STILL BE MY FRIEND?

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

TAIWAN ROC 2026 | MANDARIN, ENGLISH W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 166M

DIRECTOR: LU PO-SHUN

23-OCT 7:00PM | KHL • 26-OCT 8:00PM | KHL

SHORTS

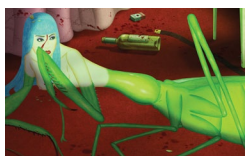


AMATEUR IN THE MOON

DIRECTOR: PANG-CHUAN HUANG, CHUNNI LI

EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS:

24-OCT 7:00PM | KHL



PRAYING MANTIS

DIRECTOR: JOE HSIEH

HORROR SHORTS:

30-OCT 6:15PM | KHL • 31-OCT 1:00PM | KHL

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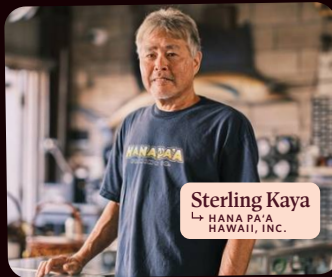
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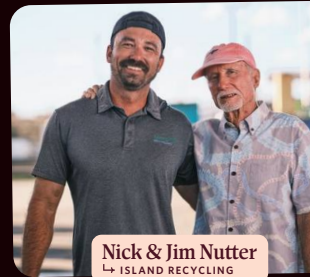
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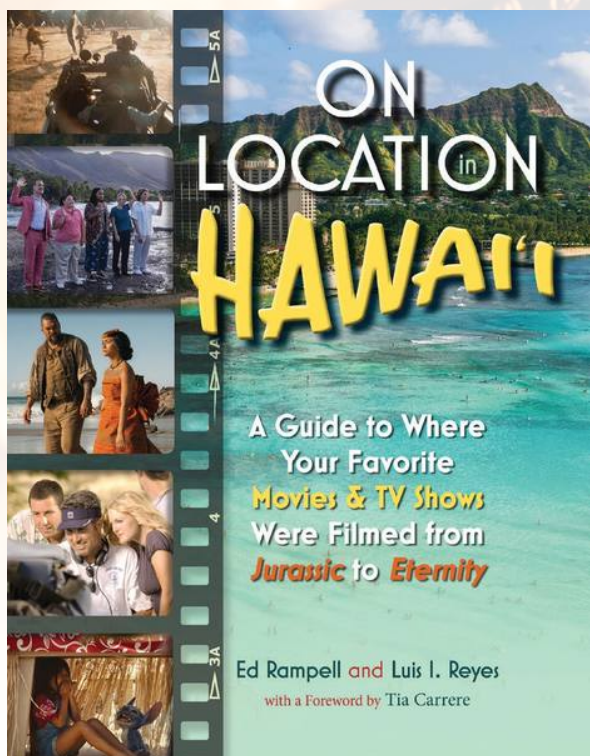
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Organized by Island, this new guidebook takes readers behind the scenes to dramatic coastlines, lush valleys, lava fields, and historic landscapes featured in iconic productions.

Packed with behind-the-scenes stories, trivia, location details, and then-and-now film stills, this guide invites movie fans and travelers to experience Hawai'i through the magic of the screen. Perfect for today's growing wave of film-inspired travelers—often called “set-jettlers”—this guide transforms any Hawai'i adventure into a cinematic journey.



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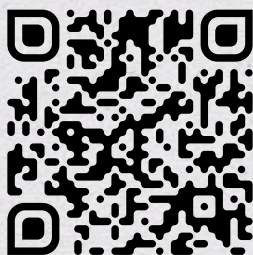
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