



asian world
film festival

2017

asian world
film festival

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c o u n t r i e s

Oct. 25 - Nov. 2



YOUR WINDOW TO THE ASIAN WORLD



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BUILDING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE

The Asian World Film Festival (AWFF) brings the best of a broad selection of Asian World cinema to Los Angeles in order to draw greater recognition to the region's wealth of filmmakers, strengthening ties between the Asian and Hollywood film industries.

Uniting through cross-cultural collaboration, our festival champions films from 50 countries across Asia spanning from Turkey to Japan and Russia to India.

All films that participate in the Festival will have a unique chance to be guided through the challenging awards season, showcasing their foreign films to the Oscar® Academy, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and all Guilds for enhanced exposure, media attention and awards consideration.

The Asian World Film Festival is organized under Aitysh USA, a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

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October 25, 2017

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Culver City, I am pleased to welcome the third annual Asian World Film Festival to our community!

Over the last two years, Culver City has been honored to host the festival and support its mission of bringing Asian cinema to the greater Los Angeles area. In that short time, the Festival has become a beloved cultural and community event that brings films from over 50 countries across Asia to Culver City. We salute the Festival's pursuit of showcasing Asian filmmakers through innovation and cross-cultural collaboration.

As Culver City celebrates its centennial, we are reminded that we began and continue to be a center of filmmaking, innovation and creativity. We look forward to an exceptional 2017 festival and the continued success of the Asian World Festival for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cooper
Mayor
City of Culver City

Dear Festivalgoers

I would, once again, like to warmly welcome everyone to our third Asian World Film Festival, here in the heart of downtown Culver City.

Last year's event was an unprecedented success with the Festival screening 21 Oscar and 16 Golden Globe submissions. This year we have another incredible line-up of Oscar and Golden Globe submitted films for you to enjoy along with special screenings such as the highly acclaimed Joy Luck Club and the first ever screening of a North Korean film in the United States.

I am extremely proud that this year the International Snow Leopard Global Summit was held in my home country of Kyrgyzstan and I am delighted to announce that our Festival has recently partnered with the Snow Leopard Trust to help raise awareness about the plight of the snow leopard. Honorees and award-winners at the Festival will be presented with a beautifully sculptured bronze snow leopard trophy designed by a Kyrgyz sculptor. The trophy represents the strong cultural connection and ecological dependence the entire region has on its mountain ecosystems and their guardian, the snow leopard.

I am also honored and privileged to welcome our new Presenting Partner, the Ha Phuong Foundation, which is dedicated to helping aspiring young singers fulfill their dreams.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank our friends at the Culver City Council and all of our sponsors, partners and silent donors for their invaluable contribution. Without their help and support this Festival would not be possible.

I very much hope that you will enjoy our selection of films this year. I look forward to seeing you all at the Festival!

Yours sincerely,

Sadyk Sher-Niyaz
Founder and Chairman of the Asian World Film Festival
Founder of Aitysh Film, Kyrgyzstan

Saradan Media and Philippe Martinez

Wish to thank the
Asian World Film Festival

for discovering and honoring
the work of talented Asian filmmakers.

Thank you, Georges!

We are proud to have
Finding Soraya
among your 2017 selections.



www.SaradanMedia.co.uk



Greetings Friends and Film Enthusiasts!

The Asian World Film Festival (AWFF) is about to celebrate its third year! Three is a lucky number in the Chinese culture and we are certain that this year our Festival will be more creative, inspiring and dynamic than ever before!

AWFF is not only about Movies, or simply being moved by a film. It is not even about being taken on a wondrous journey of discovery through distant worlds. The Festival is about human emotions, spirit, fellowship, sharing and, most importantly, Passion and Love!

AWFF is also, of course, about the celebration of Art and Culture, encompassing over 50 Asian Countries within a fascinating Continent which never ceases to amaze us! A Continent which can fuel our dreams, shatter our minds and touch our hearts beyond tears and joy.

We at AWFF pride ourselves on being the first Festival to open-up new horizons and experiences to American audiences. For example, we feel privileged to have presented for the first time in North America, movies from far away worlds such as Yakutia and Buryatia, and this year, courageously, we are screening for the first time ever in the USA, a movie from North Korea. We love challenges and adventures!

For our third edition, we have opened even more to the Asian-American Entertainment Community with our valued partnership with CAPE USA (Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment) and we will continue to work together hand in hand to bridge the gap that exists between Asia and the Asian-Americans.

As always, my dedicated Team and myself will be present at the Festival to welcome you with open hearts and open arms and to share with you these exciting moments.

Let us proudly Celebrate Asia which continues to provide us with some of the most amazing Film-makers and talent in the world! Let us celebrate our Passion for the Seventh Art together! Now, more than ever, let Cinema be the language of Peace!

The Asian World Film Festival is where Dreams really can, and do, come true!

Together we can make a difference!

Yours cinematically,

Georges N. Chamchoum
Executive & Program Director



HE CAN DO SHE CAN DO
— WHY NOT ME —

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the Films submitted to the 2017 AWFF!

You represent the finest that Asia has to share
with the world through the window of film.

May God bless you always!

Celebrate Every Living Breath as if it were your
last!

He Can Do, She Can Do, Why Not Me!



Dear Friends and Colleagues in the Asian Film World:

The existence of the Asian World Film Festival means the world to me! Without doubt it is a much needed event, and the warm and wide reception the Festival has received throughout both Asia and the United States over the past few years is clear evidence that it fills a niche in the market.

Life has blessed me in many ways and when one is so fortunate, I believe you have a mandate to give back. I have therefore been doing this through my Foundation for a number of years. Supporting the AWFF is now one of those ways, and I am thrilled to be the Festival's Presenting Partner this year.

I would have supported the Festival even if I did not have a film to offer this year. But I do, and I am very proud of my first English-language starring role as Julie Chamonix in my first feature film, Finding Julia, a character-driven, suspense drama. I was able to draw upon many experiences of my earlier life in Vietnam when co-writing the screenplay. It is also my first producing role. The fact that the film has been selected to be shown at the Festival as a World Premiere is extremely encouraging. I would very much like other Asian directors, producers, actors, crew members and everyone else involved in the Asian filmmaking industry to have the same opportunities to present their works to the world.

My hope for the future of AWFF is that it will continue to demonstrate to American audiences and people throughout the world how creative, hard-working and talented Asian people are, and how important our contributions are to the entertainment industry. I also wish for the AWFF to continue forever so that Asian people have this important resource where we can all be mutually supportive of each other in this amazing industry that we all love so much.

One cannot ask for more!

Yours in unity,
Ha Phuong Chu Tran

Ha Phuong Foundation
findingjulia.net

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Dr. Tae Yun Kim
Founder & CEO
Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions
Ambassador to the Nations/AWFF
President of Advisory Board/AWFF



The Asian World Film Festival is delighted and honored to announce that this year the Festival has partnered with the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) to help raise awareness of the plight of the endangered snow leopard and its ecosystems in the high mountains of Asia. Honorees and award-winners at the Festival will be presented with a beautifully sculptured snow leopard trophy designed by a Kyrgyz sculptor. The trophy features the strong cultural connection and ecological dependence the entire region has on its mountain Ecosystems and their guardian, the snow leopard.

“This cat is one of Asia’s most iconic animals and an ambassador of the continent’s rich and diverse cultures,” says founder and chairman of the Asian World Film Festival and Kyrgyz public figure Sadyk Sher-Niyaz, “It’s a natural fit for our award and our festival!”

Festival Executive and Program Director Georges Chamchoum states that “AWFF has always been aware of the preservation of nature and animals, which goes hand in hand with our mission of diversity and championing the Asian Cinema. For us it is a ‘duty’ and pleasure to be both associated and partnered with the Snow Leopard Trust.”

SLT is the world’s oldest and largest conservation organization dedicated to protecting the endangered snow leopard. Despite its vast range, spanning twelve countries and over two million square kilometers, only between 3920 and 6390 cats are estimated to remain in the wild.

“The snow leopard is incredibly photogenic, yet so rare and elusive that only very little film footage of the cat exists,” says the SLT’s Executive Director Michael Despines. “It’s also endangered and faces a high risk of extinction. Through this partnership with the Asian World Film Festival, we hope to make audiences in Asia and the rest of the world more aware of this unique animal and its plight.”

This year the International Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Forum was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The Summit brought together heads and representatives of the Governments of the twelve snow leopard range countries as well as other interested nations with leaders from international institutions, donor agencies, conservation organizations and scientific institutions. This high-level event aimed to further strengthen the range countries’ ongoing effort to protect the snow leopard, and to galvanize international support for their ambitious plan of securing 20 snow leopard landscapes by the year 2020.

IAMARSAIKHAN “AMRAA” BALJINNYAM,
Actor/Producer (Mongolia)

PETER BELSITO,
International Film Consultant and Producer

JOAN CHEN,
Award-Winning Actress

ROSALIND CHAO,
Actress

MARGARET CHO,
Comedienne/Actress/Writer/Producer

FRITZ FRIEDMAN,
Studio Publicist - Sony Studios, Co-founder of CAPE
(Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment)

HRH PRINCE GHARIOS OF GHASSAN,
Filmmaker and Heir of the Ghassanid Dynasty

DAVID HENRY HWANG,
Tony Award-Winning Playwright, Pulitzer Finalist,
Screen and TV writer, Co-Founder CAPE

MAYA IBRAHIM,
Lebanese Philanthropist

KEVIN JAMES,
Director and Chief Liaison, Mayor’s Office of Film
and Television Production, City of Los Angeles

MARIO KASSAR,
Executive Producer

KEN LEUNG,
Award-Winning Actor

LUCY LIU,
Screen Actors Guild Award-Winning Actress

LISA LU,
Award-Winning Actress

AMIN MAALOUF,
French/Lebanese Best-Selling Author, Member of
the Academie Française- one of the 40 immortals

RICK MARKOVITZ,
President, Weissman/Markovitz Communication

VLADIMIR MENSHOV,
Oscar Winning-Director (Russia)

BOBBY MORESCO,
Oscar-Winning Screenwriter & Director

GEORGE OVASHVILI,
Filmmaker from the Republic of Georgia, short-listed
for the Oscars.

HON. ROY PAUL,
Judge for the Superior Court of Los Angeles
County in California

HARRY SHUM Jr.,
Actor

SRILA SINGH,
Philanthropist & Arts Mentor

STEVEN SEAGAL,
Actor

DAVID SEIDLER,
Oscar-Winning Screenwriter

AMY TAN,
Author of The Joy Luck Club

LAUREN TOM,
Obie-Winning Actress

TAMLYN TOMITA,
Award Winning Actress

JEAN-MARC VALLEE,
Director of Oscar Nominated DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA,
Former Mayor of Los Angeles.
Running for Governor of California

FERRIS WEHBE,
Community Leader and Co-Founder of the
Hollywood Schoolhouse

MURRAY WEISSMAN,
Chairman and Co-Founder, Weissman/Markovitz
Communications (In Memoriam)

MING-NA WEN,
Screen Actors Guild Award-Nominated Actress

JANET YANG,
Golden Globe & Emmy-Winning Producer and
Oscar Nominated Producer

NAN YING,
Musician, First Violinist

GRACE YOO,
Korean Activist and Public Figure

TEDDY ZEE,
Producer, Studio Executive

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HEATHER RAE,
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JAKE SEAL,
 Film Producer

THOMAS AUJERO SMALL,
 Writer and Vice Mayor of Culver City.

MICHELE SUGIHARA,
 Executive Director of CAPE USA (Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment)

LULU WANG,
 Award-Winning Director

YING YE,
 Producer & Distributor, Managing Director of Easternlight Films (Arclight)



ASIAN WORLD INDUSTRY FORUM

ASIAN WORLD INDUSTRY FORUM EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE **FILMMAKERS LOUNGE** IN THE PARISIAN ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF **THE CULVER HOTEL**

PRODUCING AROUND THE GLOBE: TAX INCENTIVES, CO-PRODUCTIONS & PRE-SALES

Tax Incentives, pre-sales and international co-production play an increasingly important role when deciding where to shoot a film. This panel will explore available incentives, subsidies and treaties as well as co-production opportunities around the world. Focus will also be given to the growth in digital media platforms as well as local language production, particularly in Asia.

Date: Thursday, October 26th
Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

PANELISTS:

Kilian Kerwin, *President of Production, Ivanhoe Pictures*
Kate Marks, *Executive Vice President, International Film, Ausfilm*
Sarah Platt, *Head of International Business Development, Wanda Studios*
Sophia Yen, *Partner, Entertainment and Media, Manatt, Phelps*

Moderator: Rick Ambros, *Partner at Lightsource Asia Media Group & Benchmark Studios*

FILMMAKER PANEL: FEATURING DIRECTORS ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S AWFF

Directors taking part in this year's Asian World Film Festival will discuss their films and the challenges, opportunities and future of filmmaking in their specific region.

Date: Saturday, October 28th
Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

PANELISTS:

Philippe Aractingi, *Director, Listen (Golden Globe Submission from Lebanon)*
Thomas Lim, *Actor/Director, Jury Member*
Xie Xiaodong, *Director, Nirvana (Golden Globe Submission from China)*

Moderator: Rick Ambros, *Partner at Lightsource Asia Media Group & Benchmark Studios*

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ITS IMPACT ON BREAKING INTO HOLLYWOOD

This panel will explore the impact of social media and how it can help talent from the US and abroad break into the US entertainment industry.

Date: Monday, October 30th
Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

PANELISTS:

Ryan Walker, *Founder of TSMA and Influencer*
Louis Giordano, *Influencer*
Shaine Griffin, *SAG-AFTRA*
Brittany Martinez, *Influencer*
Brian Tan, *Founder of Wrapal*
Doug Haley, *Casting Director and Actor*

Moderator: Inetra Brazil, *Actor and Social Media Expert*

CHINA – HOLLYWOOD: A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT LIES AHEAD IN FILM FINANCING & CROSS - CULTURAL COLLABORATION (SPONSORED BY EAST WEST BANK)

China remains of strategic importance to Hollywood. However, much has changed since the euphoria of the last few years. This panel will explore which collaboration models have worked and what the challenges are going forward. Topics will include content and IP, production, talent, financing, distribution including new digital platforms, investment, legal considerations and navigating China's censorship system and how to overcome cross cultural challenges.

Date: Tuesday October 31st
Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

PANELISTS:

Rong Chen, *Senior Vice President and CEO, Perfect World Pictures (US)*
Christina Chou, *Agent, Corporate Development, Creative Artists Agency*
Lindsay Conner, *Partner & Co-Chair, Entertainment & Media, Manatt, Phelps*
Tomas Jegeus, *President, Fox International Productions*
Bennett Pozil, *Executive Vice President, East West Bank*

Moderator: Rick Ambros, *Partner, Lightsource Asia Media Group & Consultant, Fox International Productions*



GEORGE TAKEI
Lifetime Achievement

Actor, director and author George Takei will be honored at this year's Festival with the AWWF Lifetime Achievement Award during the Award ceremony that precedes the screening of his film *Allegiance*.

In a distinguished career, George is best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the USS Enterprise in the television series *Star Trek*. He also portrayed the character in six *Star Trek* feature films and one episode of *Star Trek: Voyager*.

In 2012, he starred in the Broadway musical *Allegiance*, which he described as his legacy project. The show is based on his own experiences and research into the Japanese American internment of World War II. The screen version of *Allegiance* will be the Festival's Closing Night Film.

George also has a lengthy record of public service through his involvement with organizations such as the Japanese American Citizens League and the Human Rights Campaign. In 2004, the government of Japan presented him with the 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette', in acknowledgment of his contributions to US-Japanese relations. In addition, George is one of the founders of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and serves as a member of its Board of Trustees. In May 2015, the Museum honored him with the Distinguished Medal of Honor for Lifetime Achievement and Public Service.



George even has an asteroid named after him, 'Asteroid 7307 Takei'. Upon learning of the honor, George said, "I am now a heavenly body. I found out about it yesterday. I was blown away. It came out of the clear, blue sky - just like an asteroid."

Festival Director, Georges Chamchoum stated, "George Takei is an American actor, director, author, and activist. But above all he is an amazing human being, which is why we consider him the perfect candidate for our Lifetime Achievement Award".



**The Board, Staff, and Volunteers
of the Japanese American
National Museum
congratulate George Takei on his
Asian World Film Festival
Lifetime Achievement Award.**



MURAT ALIEV Cinematic Legacy Award

Murat Aliev, the renowned, multi-award-winning Kyrgyz Cinematographer will be honored with the Cinematic Legacy Award at this year's Festival.

Murat is best known for his outstanding work on the highly acclaimed historical epic-drama *Kurmanjan Datka Queen of the Mountains*, the 2015 Kyrgyz Oscar submission, which became the most popular and successful film in the history

of Kyrgyzstan. Murat also worked on the stunning Kazakh drama film *Kelin*, which was shortlisted for the 82nd Academy Awards.

AWFF Director Georges Chamchoum says, "I first fell in love with the haunting work of Murat Aliev a few years ago when I saw his film *Kelin* at the Monaco Charity Film Festival, where it won the Grand Prix. I was in awe with the stunning and bewitching cinematography. Then he shot the sweeping epic *Kurmanjan Datka Queen of the Mountains* and finally last year *Stranger*. Murat is like a painter who touches you deep within your soul. He truly possesses a magical eye.... and this is how we unanimously decided to choose Murat as our recipient for the 2017 Cinematic Legacy Award - the pure genius of Murat Aliev!"



SAREUM SREY MOCH Rising Star Award

Young Cambodian actress Sareum Srey Moch will be honored with the Rising Star Award at this year's Festival for her astonishing and moving leading performance in Angelina Jolie's powerful, highly acclaimed film *First They Killed My Father*.

Sereum, who was discovered in an EYC (Empowering Youth in Cambodia) charity school, stars as the young Loung Ung in an adaptation of Ung's best-selling memoir. Set in Cambodia in 1975, the film depicts the story of seven-year-old Loung who is

forced to become a child soldier while her siblings are sent to labor camps during Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime.

Festival Director, Georges Chamchoum said, "When I initially saw *First They Killed My Father*, I was struck by Sareum's large dark eyes - a look that shoots you straight through the heart. This wonderful little girl stole the movie! Furthermore, as the film progresses we see her grow and develop with her amazing and touching performance. Within a young and innocent child, we experience her tortured soul and witness all the pain of the universe inside her. I couldn't help but think - here is a young Star in the making. Her performance literally shatters the screen. A Rising Star is born!"

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LISA LU,
JURY PRESIDENT

Lisa Lu is an internationally renowned veteran of film, television and stage, working in the United States and China across a multitude of English and Chinese productions. A three time recipient of the Golden Horse award for Best Actress, she has shown great versatility in her style, allowing her to take on a large scope of productions ranging from modern drama to Chinese Opera and Southern Kun Qu. Her numerous famous roles include Disney's *The Joy Luck Club*, Bernardo Bertolucci's Academy Award winning *The Last Emperor* and the Shaw Brothers' *Empress Dowager*. Lisa was also featured in 100 Chinese Motion Picture Stars in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Motion Picture Making worldwide and recently named an honorary citizen of Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia. Her latest film, *Crazy Rich Asians*, will be released by Warner Brothers in 2018.



SERGEI BODROV,
OSCAR NOMINATED DIRECTOR

Sergei Bodrov is an internationally known Russian film director, writer and producer who enjoys working in remote locations, such as Namibia, Mongolia and Kazakhstan. Two of his films, *Prisoner of the Mountains* and *Mongol*, were nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Language Film category. He is a DGA, WGA and Academy member.



TUBA BÜYÜKÜSTÜN,
ACTRESS (TURKEY)

Tuba Buyukustun is a Turkish TV and film actress. She graduated from The Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts in 2004, with a degree in Stage and Costume Design. Through her various roles she has been able to reach a worldwide audience and she was the first Turkish actress to be nominated for an IEMMY at the 42nd IEMMY awards for her role in the TV Show *20 Minutes*. Since 2014 she has been a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and also acts as an Advocate for Children's Rights.



MICHAEL NOURI,
ACTOR

Michael Nouri has enjoyed a long career spanning film, television and theatre. He was most recently seen in Discovery Channel's mini-series *Manhunt* and will next be seen on TV in Ryan Murphy's *American Crime Series: Versace/Cunanan* and opposite Kevin Costner in *Yellowstone*. Nouri's film work includes *Flashdance*, *The Proposal*, *Invincible*, *The Terminal*, *Last Holiday*, starring Queen Latifah, Billy Crystal's *61**, *Lovely and Amazing*, *Finding Forrester*, starring opposite Sean Connery, *Easy Rider: The Ride Back*, *Goodbye Columbus*, *Black Ice*, *Fortunes of War*, *To The Limit*, and *The Hidden*, for which he won the Best Actor Award at the Avoriaz Film Festival.



THOMAS LIM,
ACTOR/DIRECTOR

Thomas Lim is a prominent filmmaker in the Macau film industry. Originally of Chinese-Singaporean descent, he is best known for writing and directing the Macau film *Roulette City* which was commercially released in theaters in Asia and garnered over 100 mainstream press reports. His second directorial feature film *Sea of Mirrors* (shot on iPhone) is currently in post production. Lim is also an acclaimed actor, playing leading roles in Chinese TV drama series such as *The Game*, which aired on national TV in China, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam. He resides in Los Angeles, California.



CADE CARRADINE,
ACTOR

Cade Carradine was born on July 19, 1982 in Los Angeles, California, USA as Cade Richmond Carradine. He is an actor, known for *Deadwood* (2005), *The Kid* (2013), *Seduced* (2016), *Prettyface* (2016) and *SuperHigh* (2017). Cade stars in the Festival's Opening Night Film, *Ayla: The Daughter of War*.



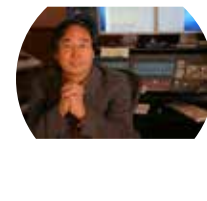
HA PHUONG CHU TRAN,
VIETNAMESE ACTRESS, SINGER AND PHILANTHROPIST

Ha Phuong is a highly successful Vietnamese singer as well as a producer and star of the film *Finding Julia*. Profoundly grateful for all her opportunities in life, Ha Phuong has been actively giving back to those in need, especially disadvantaged youth and orphans in the U.S. and Vietnam. She also generously supports the Arts and in 2005 created Ha Phuong Productions, a company that produces selected music and film projects. Another charity, the Ha Phuong Foundation, is dedicated to helping aspiring young singers fulfill their dreams. Ha Phuong has pledged that all profits from her film, music and other creative endeavors will be used to support the work of the Ha Phuong Foundation. Although Ha Phuong grew up in Ho Chi Minh City, she has lived in the United States for the past 15 years.



CAYLEE SO,
FILMMAKER & DIRECTOR OF CAMBODIA TOWN FILM FESTIVAL

In 2011 Caylee So was awarded the Zonta's Women in Film grant for Most Promising Young Filmmaker. In 2012 she received her MFA in Film Production from Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and also won prizes for Best Picture and Best Director at her school's Cecil Awards. Caylee was the winner of the Director's Guild of America's 18th annual Best Female Student Director award and the winner of the Linda Mabelot's New Directors/New Visions Award. In 2013 she co-founded the Cambodia Town Film Festival in Long Beach, California and currently sits on the honorary committee of the Cambodia International Film Festival in Phnom Penh. She is the writer, director and producer of upcoming films in the *Life of Music* and *DonutLand*.



NATHAN WANG,
MUSIC COMPOSER

Emmy-winning Nathan Wang is one of the most successful composers in Hollywood and Asian cinema. Prolific and versatile, he has written music for Jackie Chan films and Steven Spielberg documentaries as well as for Disney, DreamWorks and Sony live-action and animated works, many of his compositions having been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera and the Chicago Symphony. His most recent original film scores include *Kung Fu Panda* where he worked with Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer, and *Kung Fu Yoga*, starring Jackie Chan. He has just finished a 72 episode Chinese television series about the life of General Yue Fie.



NANCY WANG YUEN,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY & AUTHOR OF REEL INEQUALITY: HOLLYWOOD ACTORS AND RACISM

Nancy Wang Yuen is the author of *Reel Inequality: Hollywood Actors and Racism* (2016), the first book to examine the barriers actors of color face in Hollywood and how they creatively challenge stereotypes. She also pioneered the first study of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on television and the 10-year followup study, *TOKENS ON THE SMALL SCREEN: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on Prime Time and Streaming Television*. Dr. Yuen is an expert scholar and speaker on race and media, appearing on BBC World TV and NPR and in the Los Angeles Times and Washington Post. Dr. Yuen is an Associate Professor and the Chair of the Sociology Department at Biola University.



AYLA: The Daughter of War

OPENING NIGHT FILM

Official Submission for Best Foreign Language Film - Turkey

Genre: Drama

Country: Turkey

Year: 2017

Duration: 124 minutes

Director: Can Ulkay

Language(s): Turkish, English, Korean

Subtitles: English

Producer(s): Mustafa Uslu, Caglar Ercan

Screenplay: Yigit Guralp

Cinematographer: Jean-Paul Seresin

Editor: Mustafa Presheva

Sound: Cagdas Karagoz

Music: Fahir Atakoglu

Principal Cast: Çetin Tekindor, Ismail Hacıoglu, Kyung-jin Lee, Cade Carradine

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Can Ulkay was born in 1964 in İstanbul. He graduated from Marmara University Institute of Fine Arts Cinema and Television Department, and worked in TRT İstanbul Television between 1985 and 1994.

Since 1994 he shot thousands of commercials for Coca Cola, Turkish Airlines, P & G, Ford, Turkcell, Turk Telekom and KIA including hundreds of major brands.

In 2016, he started shooting his first movie *Ayla: The Daughter of War* which is the Official Entry from Turkey for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 2018 Academy Awards.

SYNOPSIS:

In 1950, amidst the ravages of the Korean War, Sergeant Süleyman stumbles upon a half-frozen little girl, with no parents and no help in sight. Frantic, scared and on the verge of death, this little girl captures the heart of Süleyman, who risks his own life to save her, smuggling her into his Army base and out of harms way. Not knowing her name and unable to communicate with her, Süleyman names her Ayla, in reminiscence of the moon on the fateful night during which they met. The two form an instantaneous and inseparable bond, and Ayla, almost effortlessly, brings an uncanny joy to the Turkish brigade in the grip of war. As the war comes to a close however, Süleyman's brigade is told that they will be returning home. Süleyman cannot bear abandoning Ayla, and does everything within his power to take her with him. After repeated failure, he is forced to give Ayla to an orphanage, but doesn't give up on the hope of one day reuniting with her. Will the two ever get back together?



THE FORTRESS

CENTERPIECE FILM



SYNOPSIS:

In 1636, during the Second Qing invasion of Korea, King Injo and the Royal Court find shelter inside Namhan Fortress outside the city as the Qing's large army continues to attack. The army quickly surrounds the fortress, leaving the king and the court stranded in a prolonged standoff. As a truce, the Qing General makes the humiliating proposal of sending the Crown Prince out as hostage. Unable to move forward or fight the outnumbering enemy, the people in the fortress start dying from cold and hunger. Between the Minister of Interior, who emphasizes the king's duty to protect the lives of his subjects regardless of humiliation, and the Minister of Rites, who maintains that they must fight to the death for the greater cause, the king must make a grave choice.

Korean Film Days

Followed by Q&A moderated by Terry McCarthy with Dir. Hwang Dong-hyuk

Presented by:



Genre: War, Epic, Drama
Country: Republic of Korea
Year: 2017
Duration: 139 minutes
Director: Hwang Dong-hyuk
Language(s): Korean
Subtitles: English
Producer(s): Jeong Tae-Sung
Screenplay: Hwang Dong-hyuk
Cinematographer: Kim Ji-Yong
Editor: Nam Na-Young
Sound: Choi Tae-Young
Music: Ryuichi Sakamoto
Principal Cast: Lee Byung-hun, Kim Yoon-seok, Park Hae-il, Go Soo

GEORGE TAKEI'S ALLEGIANCE

CLOSING NIGHT FILM



SYNOPSIS:

Allegiance illuminates one of American history's lesser known chapters as it tells the story of Sam Kimura, transported back nearly six decades to when his younger self and his sister Kei fought to stay connected to their heritage, their family and themselves after Japanese Americans were wrongfully imprisoned during World War II. An important story told with great resonance and intimacy, *Allegiance* explores the ties that bind us, the struggle to persevere and the overwhelming power of forgiveness and, most especially, love.

Followed by Q&A with Director Lorenzo Thione & Actor George Takei

Presented by:



Genre: Musical
Country: USA
Year: 2016
Duration: 130 minutes
Director: Lorenzo Thione
Language(s): English
Producer(s): Matt Hoffman, Matthew B. Wolff, Lorenzo Thione
Screenplay: Marc Acito, Jay Kuo, Lorenzo Thione
Editor: Eric Ingram, Lorenzo Thione
Music: Jay Kuo
Principal Cast: George Takei, Lea Salonga, Michael K. Lee, Telly Leung, Katie Rose Clarke

Allegiance Congratulates

GEORGE TAKEI

on his Lifetime Achievement Award from the Asian World Film Festival

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A TAXI DRIVER COMPETITION

BIRDSHOT COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

In this powerful and true story set in 1980, a down-on-his-luck taxi driver from Seoul is hired by a foreign journalist who wants to go to the town of Gwangju for the day. They arrive to find a city under siege by the military government, with the citizens, led by a determined group of college students, rising up to demand freedom. What began as an easy fare becomes a life-or-death struggle in the midst of the Gwangju Uprising, a critical event in modern South Korea.

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Republic of Korea

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Republic of Korea; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 137 minutes; **Director:** Jang Hoon; **Language(s):** Korean, English, German; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Park Un-kyoung, Choi Ki-sup; **Screenplay:** Eom Yu-na; **Cinematographer:** Go Nak-seon; **Editor:** Kim Sang-bum, Kim Jae-bum; **Music:** Jo Yeong-wook; **Principal Cast:** Kang-ho Song, Thomas Kretschmann, Hae-jin Yoo

SYNOPSIS:

Birdshot is a mystery/drama that tells the story of a young farm girl who wanders off into a Philippine reservation forest. Deep within the reservation she mistakenly shoots and kills an endangered and protected Philippine eagle. As the local authorities begin a manhunt to track down the poacher of its treasured, national bird, their investigation leads them to an even more horrific discovery...

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Philippines

Genre: Mystery, Thriller; **Country:** Philippines; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 116 minutes; **Director:** Mikhail Red; **Language(s):** Filipino; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Pamela L. Reyes; **Screenplay:** Mikhail Red, Rae Red; **Cinematographer:** Mycko David; **Music:** Teresa Barrozo; **Editor:** Jay Halili, Mikhail Red; **Principal Cast:** Mary Joy Apostol, Arnold Reyes, John Arcilla, Ku Aquino



Presented by:



BREATH



SYNOPSIS:

Breath tells the story of a daydreaming little girl, Bahar, and her persistent efforts to discover the world and experience life with all its sweetness and bitterness in her own way. Bahar loves reading books and this makes the harshness of her life and the world around her easier to tolerate. She distorts the folk stories and mixes them up with real events; her life concurs with two turning points in the temporary history of Iran, the revolution and the war. Though these events are marginal in Bahar's imaginative world, the war, with its absolute certainty, imposes its harsh reality on the unruly imagination of the young girl.

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Iran

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Iran; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 110 minutes; **Director:** Narges Abyar; **Language(s):** Persian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Mohammad-Hossein Ghassemi, Abouzar Pourmohammadi; **Screenplay:** Narges Abyar; **Cinematographer:** Saed Nikzat; **Editor:** Sajad Pahlevanzadeh; **Sound:** Abas Rastegarpour, Arash Ghassemi; **Music:** Massoud Sekhvatdoust; **Principal Cast:** Sareh Nour Mousavi, Pantea Panahi Ha, Mehran Ahmadi, Jamshid Hashempour, Shabnam Moghadami, Siamak Safari, Gelareh Abbasi

BURNING BIRDS COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

In a small village in Eastern Sri Lanka in 1989, after her husband was abducted, tortured and murdered by a paramilitary group, 37 year old Kusum has to fight to look after her eight children and mother-in-law on her own. After a series of unsuccessful odd jobs, where she is constantly abused, physically and sexually, Kusum falls into prostitution. Before long she is arrested by the police in a brothel, the event adversely affecting her children's schooling. Her revengeful reaction unfolds thereafter...

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Sri Lanka; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 84 minutes; **Director:** Sanjeewa Pushpaumara; **Language(s):** Sinhalese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Antonin Dedet; **Screenplay:** Sanjeewa Pushpaumara; **Cinematographer:** Kalinga Deshapriya; **Editor:** Ajith Ramanayake, Katharina Wartena; **Sound:** Aruna Priyantha Kaluarchchi, Nicolas D'halluin; **Music:** R.Abaji, Philip David Sheppard; **Principal Cast:** Anoma Janadari, Mahendra Perera, Chandani Senavirathne, Samanalee Fonseka



BY THE TIME IT GETS DARK COMPETITION

CENTAUR COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

A shape-shifting narrative around memory, politics and cinema, the film weaves together the stories of several characters. We meet a young waitress serving breakfast at an idyllic country café, only to later find her employed in the busy dining room of a river cruise ship. We also meet a filmmaker interviewing an older woman whose life has been transformed by the political activism of her student years and the Thammasat University massacre of 1976. With her tender, unobtrusive filmmaking style, Suwichakornpong allows us to get to know these characters slowly and deeply. At the same time, we see how their beautiful country and its troubled history inform their actions and identities in ways both overt and subtle.

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Thailand

Genre: Drama; **Country:** France, Netherlands, Qatar, Thailand; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 105 minutes; **Director:** Anocha Suwichakornpong; **Language(s):** Thai; **Subtitles:** English; **Executive Producers:** Chayamporn Taeratanachai, Edward Gunawan, Pithai Smithsuth; **Producer(s):** Guillaume Morel, Maenum Chagasik; **Screenplay:** Anocha Suwichakornpong; **Cinematographer:** Ming Kai Leung; **Editor:** Lee Chatametikool, Machima Ungsriwong; **Sound:** Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr; **Principal Cast:** Arak Amornsupasiri, Apinya Sakuljaroensuk, Achata Suwan

SYNOPSIS:

Centaur, a quiet, modest man, lives in a village in Kyrgyzstan with his young son who has never spoken a word and his deaf-mute wife. Centaur believes that the people of Kyrgyzstan descend from centaurs, mythological half-human, half-horse creatures and that horses are the wings of mankind. In the past he was a horse thief, but nowadays he leads a respectful, peaceful life. However, one day he is challenged to steal the horse of a very famous man, making Centaur once again the center of attention. Centaur is an engaging tale about an individual's struggle against his own impulses, and also his efforts to contend with the historical, religious and social forces tearing at him and his community.

Followed by Q&A with Director Aktan Arym Kubat

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Kyrgyzstan

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Kyrgyzstan, France, Germany, Netherlands, Japan; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 89 minutes; **Director:** Aktan Arym Kubat; **Language(s):** Kyrgyz; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Altynai Koichumanova, Cedomir Kolar, Thanassis Karathanos, Marc Baschet, Denis Vaslin; **Screenplay:** Aktan Arym Kubat & Ernest Abdyjaparov; **Cinematographer:** Khassan Kydyraliev; **Editor:** Petar Markovic; **Music:** Andre Matthias; **Sound:** Gerben Kokmeijer; **Principal Cast:** Tursunkojev, Zarema Asanalieva, Aktan Arym Kubat, Taalaikan Abazova, Ilim Kalmuratov, Bolot Tentimyshev, Maksat Mamyrganov



DEAREST SISTER



SYNOPSIS:

Dearest Sister tells the story of a village girl from southern Laos who travels to Vientiane to care for her rich cousin who has mysteriously lost her sight, and yet somehow gained the ability to communicate with the dead. When the girl realizes that her cousin is receiving messages from spirits which help her to win the lottery, she has to choose between nursing her cousin back to health or keeping her sick in order to get rich herself.

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Laos

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Laos, France, Estonia; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 101 minutes; **Director:** Mattie Do; **Language(s):** Lao; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Mattie Do, Christopher Larsen, Helen Lohmus, Annick Mahnert, Sten Saluveer, Douangmany Soliphanh; **Screenplay:** Christopher Larsen; **Cinematographer:** Mart Ratassepp; **Editor:** Zohar Michel; **Music:** Sten Seripov; **Principal Cast:** Amphaiphun Phommapunya, Vilouna Phetmany, Tambet Tuisk, Manivanh Boulom, Yannawoutthi Chanthalongsy



FATHER AND SON



SYNOPSIS:

Moc is a rural river fisherman in Vietnam raising his son Ca in harmony with the land. Ca has a little yellow chick for a friend and everyday he enjoys running after airplanes in the sky, calling them 'birds from the city'. When Ca falls ill, Moc must make the harrowing journey to the city with his son in order to seek medical treatment.

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Vietnam

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Vietnam; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 90 minutes; **Director:** Luong Dinh Dung; **Language(s):** Vietnamese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Nguyen Chi Dung, Nguyen Thi Huong; **Screenplay:** Bui Kim Quy, Luong Dinh Dung; **Cinematographer:** Ly Thai Dung; **Editor:** Pham Thi Hao, Julie Beziau; **Sound:** Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr; **Music:** Lee Dong June; **Principal Cast:** Ngo The Quan, Do Trong Tan



HER LOVE BOILS BATHWATER



SYNOPSIS:

After her husband suddenly disappears, Futaba is forced to close her public bathhouse business. Shortly afterwards, she is diagnosed with terminal cancer and without telling her teenage daughter, who is being bullied at school, Futaba gives herself four important tasks to fulfill before she dies. Firstly, to reunite with her husband and reopen the bathhouse. Secondly, to make her daughter more independent. Thirdly, to introduce someone important to her daughter. The fourth is a secret she has been keeping for a very long time...

US Premiere

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Japan

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Japan; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 90 minutes; **Director:** Ryota Nakano; **Language(s):** Japanese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Makoto Fujimoto, Kazumi Fukase, Yusuke Wakabayashi; **Screenplay:** Ryota Nakano; **Principal Cast:** Rie Miyazawa, Hana Sugisaki, Joe Odagiri

HOW VIKTOR "THE GARLIC" TOOK ALEXEY "THE STUD" TO THE NURSING HOME COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

Viktor is a hard-drinking, belligerent, 27-year-old man-child who works in a factory in a dead-end Russian town. He has little time for his long-suffering wife and young child, instead spending his free time drinking to excess and having sex with his mistress. Fate intervenes when Viktor's long-absent, ex-convict father Alexey resurfaces. With his health failing, Alexey agrees to sign over his apartment to his estranged son, on condition that Viktor finds a nursing home for him. The nearest available home, however, is hundreds of miles away which means that the two must embark upon an eventful road trip across Russia's vast rural hinterlands.

Official Golden Globe Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Russia

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Russia; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 90 minutes; **Director:** Alexander Hant; **Language(s):** Russian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Vladimir Malyshev, Fedor Popov; **Screenplay:** Alexey Borodachev; **Cinematographer:** Daniil Fomichev **Principal Cast:** Yevgeny Tkachuk, Alexey Serebryakov



LISTEN COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

Despite living in a doomed country that hangs by a thread, Joud, a handsome sound engineer meets and falls in love with strong and free-spirited Rana. The young lovers, from completely different social and religious backgrounds, are drawn closer to each other, but a drastic turn of events comes between them and Rana suddenly slips away. As her parents forbid Joud from seeing her, the young man determined to see her again, finds new means of communicating with her by convincing Marwa, her sister, to download his voice messages and secretly play them to Rana...

Followed by Q&A with Director Philippe Aractingi

Official Golden Globe Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Lebanon

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Lebanon; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 104 minutes; **Director:** Philippe Aractingi; **Language(s):** Arabic; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Philippe Aractingi, Denis Carot; **Screenplay:** Mona Krayem, Philippe Aractingi; **Cinematographer:** Christopher Aoun; **Editor:** Deena Charara, Marwan Ziadeh, Julien Tavitian; **Sound:** Rana Eid; **Music:** Sandra Arsianian, Ranine Chaar, Samer Saem Eldahr; **Principal Cast:** Hadi Abou Ayash, Ruba Zaarour, Yara Bou Nassar, Rafic Ali Ahmad, Joseph Bou Nassar, Lama Lawand

LITTLE GANDHI



SYNOPSIS:

Little Gandhi tells the heart-wrenching and tragic tale of iconic Syrian peace activist Ghiyath Matar. The story of Matar, dubbed "Little Gandhi" for his strict code of non-violent protest, takes audiences through the Syrian people's peaceful pursuit of freedom and democracy only to be met with live ammunition from the Syrian regime. While the documentary follows the journey of a young man dedicated to peaceful change, and the international attention his story received, it also reflects the plight of all Syrians in their long fight for freedom.

Followed by Q&A with Director Sam Kadi

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Syria

Genre: Documentary, Biography; **Country:** USA, Syria, Turkey; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 93 minutes; **Director:** Sam Kadi; **Language(s):** English, Arabic; **Subtitles:** English; **Screenplay:** Sam Kadi; **Principal Cast:** Robert Ford



MAD WORLD

COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

A former stockbroker, suffering from severe bipolar disorder, is released from a psychiatric hospital into the custody of his estranged truck-driver father. He moves into the older man's cramped, claustrophobic bedsit and tries to reconcile himself with his troubled upbringing...

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Hong Kong

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Hong Kong; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 101 minutes; **Director:** Wong Chun; **Language(s):** Cantonese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Derek Chiu, Heiward Mak; **Screenplay:** Florence Chan; **Cinematographer:** Zhang Ying; **Editor:** Wong Chun; **Music:** Yusuke Hatano; **Principal Cast:** Shawn Yue, Eric Tsang, Elaine Jin, Charmaine Fong

MUNABIA



SYNOPSIS:

Munabia depicts the story of a family's frustration, fury, sadness and eventual acceptance of a long term love affair between a widowed father and his mistress. The film is set in rural Kyrgyzstan, where the natural environment, local culture, traditions and political climate all play an integral part in the drama which unfolds.

Kyrgyz Film Days - North American Premiere

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Kyrgyzstan; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 111 minutes; **Director:** Taalaibek Kulmendeev; **Language(s):** Kyrgyz; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Farkhad Bekmanbetov, Gulmira Kerimova, Taalaibek Kulmendeev, Talantbek Tolobekov; **Screenplay:** Kazat Akmatov, Taalaibek Kulmendeev; **Cinematographer:** Mars Umarov; **Editor:** Eldiyar Madakim; **Music:** Murzali Jenbaev; **Principal Cast:** Meerim Atantaeva, Sakyn Karabayev, Ulan Sultangaziev, Gulzinat Suranchieva



NIRVANA



SYNOPSIS:

During his twenties when Fang was a rock singer, his father suddenly died from a heart attack during one of his concerts. Totally destroyed by the sudden death of his father, Fang left his band without telling anyone. Twenty years later and Fang is now a proxy driver. He and the other characters, just like many other middle aged people in the real world, are working on their daily routine. However, fate forces Fang back to the stage and his life is no longer the same as before...

China Film Days

Followed by Q&A with Director Xiao Dong Xie

Official Golden Globe Submission in the Foreign Language Category - China

Genre: Drama; **Country:** China; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 113 minutes; **Director:** Xie Xiao-dong; **Language(s):** Chinese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Tang K, Lin Lining, Liu Xiaoli, Jia Zhaoqiang; **Screenplay:** Xiaodong Xie, Zhang Xiaobei; **Cinematographer:** He Shan; **Editor:** Xia Tong; **Music:** Wang Lifu; **Principal Cast:** Qin Yong, Feng Bo, Qi Zhi, Cao Wei, Zhang Xuan-ming

POMEGRANATE ORCHARD

COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

Old and infirm, Shamil is now unable to look after the large pomegranate orchard extending beyond the modest family homestead in rural Azerbaijan. His daughter-in-law Sara and her young son Jalal are unlikely to be able to help him care for the ancient trees in the future, so it seems that the family may have to give up their only real source of income. The lazy progression of sultry summer days is suddenly disrupted by the unexpected return of Shamil's son, Gabil, who fled the village without warning twelve years ago. The deep emotional scars he left on his father, his wife and their son cannot be erased and as this family drama unfurls, we gradually discover the reasons for Gabil's sudden departure. However, the wrongs of the past continue to simmer uneasily beneath the veneer of this innocent landscape, and it is only a matter of time before they break to the surface.

West Coast Premiere

Followed by Q&A with Director Ilgar Najaf

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Azerbaijan

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Azerbaijan; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 90 minutes; **Director:** Ilgar Najaf; **Language(s):** Azerbaijani, Russian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Mushfiq Hatamov, Ilgar Najaf; **Screenplay:** Asif Rustamov, Ilgar Najaf, Roelof Jan Minneboo; **Cinematographer:** Ayhan Salar; **Editor:** Elmir Hasanov; **Sound:** Teymur Kerimov, Stephan Konken; **Principal Cast:** Gurban Ismayilov, Samimi Farhad, Ilaha Hasanova



POP AYE COMPETITION

ROAD TO MOTHER



SYNOPSIS:

A chance encounter brings together a disenchanted architect and his long-lost elephant on the streets of Bangkok. Invigorated, he takes the elephant on a journey across Thailand in search of the farm where they grew up together.

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Singapore

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Thailand, Singapore; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 104 minutes; **Director:** Kirsten Tan; **Language(s):** Thai; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Anthony Chen, Wenhong Huang, Zhang Jianbin, Weijie Lia, Deng Li; **Screenplay:** Kirsten Tan; **Cinematographer:** Chananun Chotrungroj; **Editor:** Lee Chatametikool; **Music:** Matthew James Kelly; **Principal Cast:** Thaneth Warakulnukroh, Penpak Sirikul, Bong

SYNOPSIS:

Road to Mother follows the life of Ilyas, a young Kazakh boy, who finds himself separated at a young age from his mother and childhood sweetheart and who spends the rest of his life trying to find a way home. He shows incredible resilience of spirit, courage and unbelievable dedication as he experiences life in an orphanage and the horrors of war, capture and internment in a Soviet prison camp.

The story of several generations of a Kazakh family from the 1930s to the present time, the film traces the most momentous events in the history of Kazakhstan through war, separation and the determination of the clan to remain united.

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Kazakhstan

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Kazakhstan; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 130 minutes; **Director:** Akan Sataev; **Language(s):** Kazakh; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Aliya Nazarbayeva, Svetlana Korotenko; **Screenplay:** Timur Zhaksylykov; **Cinematographer:** Khassan Kydyraliev; **Sound:** Alim Zairov, Roman Wisniewskir; **Principal Cast:** Altynay Nogerbek, Adil Akhmetov, Aruzhan Dzhazilbekova

SAAWAN COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

Saawan is the story of a 9 year old Baluchistani boy, stricken by polio in Pakistan. He is rejected by his father, hated by society and harassed by his peers. He gets left behind in his village as the residents are forced to vacate the valley where they live. However, strengthened by memories of his mother, Saawan begins the journey to the city on his own, where he achieves self-rehabilitation, befriends a spirit living in the mountains and meets his new best friend, a three-legged dog. After rescuing four children from kidnappers, he is then pursued by them, with his father and a journalist, tracing his steps in search of him. As Saawan is close to finishing his journey, the kidnappers attack, killing 40 people...

Followed by Q&A with Director Farhan Alam

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Pakistan

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Pakistan; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 137 minutes; **Director:** Farhan Alam; **Language(s):** Urdu; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Mashood Qadri, Farhan Alam, Asma Qadri; **Screenplay:** Mashood Qadri; **Cinematographer:** Farhan Alam; **Editor:** Aseem Sinha; **Sound:** Justin Lebens; **Music:** Emir Isilay; **Principal Cast:** Saleem Mairaj, Syed Karam Hussain, Arif Bahalim

SAYAKBAY



SYNOPSIS:

In 1957, Chinghiz Aitmatov, a young Kyrgyz student from the Moscow Literature Institute, destined to become one of the great writers of our time, arrives at a Kyrgyz village to receive the blessing of Sayakbay Karalayev, the famous narrator of the epic poem *Manas*. Looking back upon his life, Sayakbay recalls a number of historical events which took place throughout Kyrgyz and Soviet history.

Kyrgyz Film Days

Official Golden Globe Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Kyrgyzstan

Genre: Biopic; **Country:** Kyrgyzstan; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 120 minutes; **Director:** Ernest Abdyjaparov; **Language(s):** Kyrgyz; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Samatbek Ibraev, Suyumkan Sulaymanova; **Screenplay:** Ernest Abdyjaparov; **Cinematographer:** Hasan Kydyraliev; **Editor:** Aizaada Omuralieva; **Sound:** Bakyt Niyazaliev; **Music:** Muratbek Begaliev; **Principal Cast:** Marat Janteliev, Eldar Aitmatov, Baktybek Nurmat uulu, Umot Doolotov, Tynara Abdrazzaeva



SCARY MOTHER COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

Manana is a 50-year-old housewife struggling to choose between her family life and a passion for writing which she has suppressed for years. Deciding to follow her dream, she plunges into writing a darkly erotic thriller, sacrificing herself mentally and physically. She initially hides the writing from her husband but tensions heighten after she lets him read an excerpt...

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Georgia

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Georgia, Estonia; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 107 minutes; **Director:** Ana Urushadze; **Language(s):** Georgian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Lasha Khalvashi, Tinatin Kajrishvili, Ivo Felt; **Screenplay:** Ana Urushadze; **Cinematographer:** Konstantin Mindia Esadze; **Editor:** Alexander Kuranov; **Sound:** Paata Godziashvili; **Music:** Nika Pasuri; **Principal Cast:** Nata Murvanidze, Dimitri Tatishvili, Ramaz Ioseliani, Avtandil Makharadze

THE CHILDREN OF GENGHIS



SYNOPSIS:

Filmed in the beautiful landscapes of Mongolia, the film tells the story of children who compete in horse races at the country's traditional festival of 'Naadam.'

Byambaa is an eight-year-old boy whose village deems him too young to compete in the races. Jealous of his elder brother, who is riding for another trainer, Byambaa convinces his father to train him to race against the older children. He soon learns that love, dedication and trust are all necessary qualities if he is going to win, and his hope leaves a lasting impression on everyone around him.

US Premiere

Followed by Q&A with Producers Angarag Davaasuren & Tzengle Davaasambuu

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Mongolia

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Mongolia; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 101 minutes; **Director:** Zolbayer Dorj; **Language(s):** Mongolian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Angarag Davaasuren, Altantsetseg Jarantai, Tsengel Davaasambuu; **Screenplay:** Zolbayer Dorj, Chimedtseren Ganzorig, Ganbold Buyantsogt; **Cinematographer:** Angarag Davaasuren; **Editor:** Gantulga Urtnasan; **Music:** Ulziibayar Shatar; **Principal Cast:** Brittany Belt, Ankhnyam Ragchaa, Batmend Baast, Dorjsambuu Dambii, Oyunzul Dash



THE DARK WIND COMPETITION

TURAH COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

After the engagement of Reko and Pero, the Islamic State attacks their Yezidi village in the Shingal region of Iraqi Kurdistan. At this time, Reko is working in another town. Some of the villagers flee, however others are taken captive or murdered. The terrorists sell Pero and other young girls at a slave market. When Reko hears about the attack, he searches for his beloved ones. His parents and Pero's family have found shelter in a refugee camp but Pero is missing. Eventually, Reko finds his fiancée in Syria. But after reuniting Pero with her family in the camp, it becomes apparent to everyone that Pero is deeply traumatized. The nightmare continues and the question remains: Will true love overcome 'The Dark Wind'?

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Iraq

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Iraq, Germany, Syria, Qatar; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 92 minutes; **Director:** Hussein Hassan Ali; **Language(s):** Kurdish; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Mehmet Aktas; **Screenplay:** Mehmet Aktas, Hussein Hassan Ali; **Cinematographer:** Touraj Aslani; **Editor:** Ebrahim Saeedi; **Principal Cast:** Rekish Shahbaz, Dimen Zandi

SYNOPSIS:

The harsh competition of life has defeated the people of Kampung Tirang. They are plagued by pessimism and overwhelmed with fear, especially towards Darso, the rich boss who has given them 'life'. Pakel, the sycophantic scholar in Darso's inner circle deviously makes the villagers mentally stunted. This situation makes it easier for him to reap more profits. However, a streak of optimism and a hope to break free from their powerless lives exist in two of the villagers, Turah and Jadag. A series of events occur, encouraging them to fight their acute fear and escape in order to no longer be remnants of human failure.

North American Premiere

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Indonesia

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Indonesia; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 83 minutes; **Director:** Wicaksono Wisnu Legowo; **Language(s):** Javanese, Indonesian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Ifa Isfanyah; **Screenplay:** Wicaksono Wisnu Legowo; **Cinematographer:** Fahim Rauyan; **Editor:** Kelvin Nugraha; **Sound:** Jantra Suryaman; **Principal Cast:** Ubaidillah, Slamet Ambari, Narti Diono, Yono Daryono



WHITE SUN COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

When his father dies, anti-regime partisan Chandra travels to his remote mountain village after nearly a decade away. Little Pooja is anxiously awaiting the man she thinks is her father, but she's confused when Chandra arrives with Badri, a young street orphan rumoured to be his son. Chandra must face his brother Suraj, who was on the opposing side during the Nepalese civil war. The two brothers cannot put aside political feelings while carrying their father's body down the steep mountain path to the river for cremation. Suraj storms off in a rage, leaving Chandra with no other men strong enough to help. Under pressure from the village elders, Chandra must seek help from outside the village to obey the rigid caste and discriminatory gender traditions he fought to eliminate during the war. Chandra searches for a solution in neighboring villages, among the police, guests at a local wedding, and rebel guerrillas...

Official Oscar Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Nepal

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Nepal, USA, Qatar, Netherlands; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 89 minutes; **Director:** Deepak Rauniyar; **Language(s):** Nepali; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Deepak Rauniyar, Joslyn Barnes, Tsering Rhitar Sherpa, Michel Merkt; **Screenplay:** Deepak Rauniyar, David Barker; **Cinematographer:** Mark O'Fearghail; **Editor:** David Barker; **Sound:** Jaap Sijben; **Music:** Vivek Maddala; **Principal Cast:** Dayahang Rai, Asha Magrati, Rabindra Singh Baniya, Sumi Malla, Amrit Pariyar

YELLOW COMPETITION



SYNOPSIS:

Shahab, Nahal, Hamed, Faramarz, and Nicki are members of a genius scientific team who have patented an invention and are trying to immigrate from Iran to Europe. Three days before their journey to Italy, the team are shocked when Hamed becomes comatose due to an unknown illness and needs an organ transplant. The crisis reveals layers of their past and present, leading to new decision-making and judgement.

North American Premiere

Official Golden Globe Submission in the Foreign Language Category - Iran

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Iran; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 93 minutes; **Director:** Mostafa Taghizadeh; **Language(s):** Persian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Kamran Majidi; **Screenplay:** Mostafa Taghizadeh; **Cinematographer:** Masoud Salami; **Editor:** Sajjad Pahlavanzadeh; **Sound:** Hosein Abolsedgh; **Music:** Masoud Sekhavatdoust; **Principal Cast:** Bahram Radan, Sareh Bayat, Mehrdad Sedighian, Bahareh Kianafshar, Shahram Haghghatdoust, Alireza Ostadi

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ZOSE Media(USA)

As an overseas expansion vanguard of ZOSE Group, ZOSE Media calls entertainment capital Los Angeles its home. The office of ZOSE Media is located in South Pasadena, a city rich with artistic culture. It inherits its superb work ethics from its parent company ZOSE Group and makes customized market plans for each and every client. ZOSE Media is supported by a strong design team and supplemented by the diverse market experiences of local American teams. ZOSE Media aims to provide clients with top-quality services of advertising, design and event promotion.

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Hainan ZOSE Group was created in July of 1996. It is a large private enterprise group that engages in advertising, media, culture, real estate, entertainment, film, publishing, certified property, finance, and investment. The registered capital of ZOSE Group is ¥ 493 million (CNY). As of the start of 2017, Hainan ZOSE has 562 employees. ZOSE Group regards cultural-creative industry as the basis of their company and implements strategic resource integration, helping it to achieve leaps in development.

Zose Magazine



Services



SIGNATURE SCREENINGS



JOY LUCK CLUB



SYNOPSIS:

Through a series of flashbacks, four young Chinese women born in America and their respective mothers born in feudal China, explore their past. This search will help them understand their difficult mother/daughter relationships.

Genre: Drama; **Country:** USA, China; **Year:** 1993; **Duration:** 139 minutes; **Director:** Wayne Wang; **Language(s):** English, Mandarin, Cantonese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Ronald Bass, Jessinta Liu, Patrick Markey, Oliver Stone, Amy Tan, Wayne Wang, Janet Yang; **Screenplay:** Amy Tan, Ronald Bass; **Cinematographer:** Amir Mokri; **Editor:** Maysie Hoy; **Sound:** Tim Chau, Curtis Choy; **Music:** Rachel Portman; **Principal Cast:** Tamlyn Tomita, Rosalind Chao, Kieu Chinh

25th Anniversary

Followed by Q&A with Cast & Crew

Presented by:



FINDING JULIA



SYNOPSIS:

In Manhattan, Eurasian acting student Julia Chamonix is unable to enjoy the privileged life she shares with her doting father. Haunted by the tragic early death of her mother, a former star actress and singer in Vietnam, and also haunted by a secret desire she has to hide from the world, Julia struggles in her acting studies under renowned coach Igor. However, her ambitions to emulate her mother's success are thwarted by her severe difficulties with the English language. Julia's only confidante is her wise Vietnamese grandmother, but even with her, she limits what she confides. Meanwhile, Julia begins to experience recurrent nightmares in which she relives the car accident that killed her mother. Caught between two very different cultures, East and West, Julia questions if she will ever fit in anywhere. When an accident causes an unexpected death, Julia is brought to the edge of madness...

World Premiere

Followed by Q&A with the Director Igor Sunara and Executive Producer & Actress Ha Phuong; Screenwriter & Actress Kieu Chinh and Actor Richard Chamberlain.

Genre: Drama, Comedy; **Country:** USA; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 92 minutes; **Director:** Igor Sunara; **Language(s):** English, Vietnamese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Ha Phuong, Susan Batson, Luanne Chu, Derek Curl, Alan Ford, Roland Nguyen, Igor Sunara; **Screenplay:** Andrew Craft, Kieu Chinh, Minh Ngoc Nguyen, Ha Phuong; **Cinematographer:** Igor Sunara; **Editor:** John Scott Cook, Ha Phuong, David Van; **Sound:** Mike Silvestri; **Music:** Milosz Jeziorski; **Principal Cast:** Ha Phuong, Andrew McCarthy, Richard Chamberlain



THE BATTLESHIP ISLAND



SYNOPSIS:

As World War II nears its end, the small island of Hashima (nicknamed "Battleship Island") off the coast of Nagasaki is the site of a massive coal mine where 400 Koreans live in deplorable conditions as conscripted laborers. Tensions run high between the Japanese soldiers who maintain order with shocking cruelty and violence, and the Koreans who have been tricked or forced into coming there. Then, just as the island's dark secrets are revealed, the Koreans plot a dramatic escape.

Korean Film Days

Genre: War, Action; **Country:** Republic of Korea; **Year:** 2017; **Duration:** 132 minutes; **Director:** Ryoo Seung-wan; **Language(s):** Korean, Japanese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Kang Hye-Jung; **Screenplay:** Ryoo Seung-Wan, Shin Kyoung-Ill; **Cinematographer:** Lee Mogae; **Editor:** Kim Sang-Bum Kim Jae-Bum; **Sound:** Kim Chang-Sub; **Music:** Bang Jun-Suk; **Principal Cast:** Hwang Jung-min, So Ji-sub, Song Joong-ki, Lee Jung-hyun, Lee Kyoung-young, Kim Suan

FINDING SORAYA



SYNOPSIS:

An Afghan-born woman goes back to her native land after 20 years in London to find the spirit of the lost progressive ideas of Afghanistan's last Queen, Soraya. She explores the challenging conditions facing the women of Afghanistan today.

Followed by Q&A with Director Najia Khaan

Genre: Documentary; **Country:** Afghanistan, Italy; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 69 minutes; **Director:** Najia Khaan; **Language(s):** English, Farsi, Italian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Andrea Iervolino, Monika Bacardi, Philippe Martinez; **Screenplay:** Najia Khaan; **Cinematographer:** Luc Campeau; **Editor:** Letizia Caudullo; **Sound:** Theo Francocci, Gaetano Musso; **Principal Cast:** Najia Khaan

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MILLION LOVES IN ME



SYNOPSIS:

Inspired by a true story and a headline case in Hong Kong, *Million Loves in Me* begins when Katy, a 45-year old woman, is charged with animal cruelty after the police discover more than a hundred dogs and cats living in her apartment. Following her trial at court, the abnormal lives of Katy and her mother arouse the attention of a neighborhood reporter who starts to investigate their lives. When he discovers all the animals at their apartment, he discloses the matter to the public for the sake of justice. However, after seeing Katy being arrested by the police and devastated by the intense public criticism, he begins to doubt the morality of his own actions.....

Genre: Drama, Comedy; **Country:** Hong Kong, Malaysia, Canada; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 109 minutes; **Director:** Sampson Yuen Yun Hong; **Language(s):** Cantonese, Mandarin; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** John Y, Kenny Chan; **Screenplay:** John Y, Lim Tiong Wooi, Jeremy Tan; **Cinematographer:** Wong Tak Fung; **Editor:** Loo Chean Hoong; **Music:** David Koon; **Principal Cast:** John Y, Lo Koon Lan, Hiro Hayama, Wilson Lee, Ruby Yap, Joa James, Yunn Ru

SALT



SYNOPSIS:

The film is set in Kando (the northeast part of Manchuria) in the 1930s, when open warfare took place between the Japanese occupation forces, Communist fighters, and Chinese bandits. The story is about an unnamed mother of a family whose husband gets killed in the crossfire, whilst her son runs off with the Communists. The mother struggles to find her son and later joins a smuggler group, carrying heavy loads of salt across the snowy forests. Throughout her journey, she starts to understand why her son became a Communist party activist.

North American Premiere

Genre: Drama; **Country:** North Korea; **Year:** 1985; **Duration:** 92 minutes; **Director:** Sang-ok Shin; **Language(s):** Korean; **Subtitles:** English; **Principal Cast:** Eun-hie Choi



TWENTY TWO



SYNOPSIS:

An estimated 200,000 Chinese women were forced into prostitution by the Japanese army during World War II. Documentary *Twenty Two* looks at the stories and personal histories of the 22 'comfort women' survivors in China.

China Film Days

Followed by Q&A with Director Ke Guo

Genre: Documentary; **Country:** China; **Year:** 2015; **Director:** Ke Guo; **Duration:** 99 minutes; **Language(s):** Chinese; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Ke Guo, Xiangyong Zhan; **Cinematographer:** Tao Cai; **Editor:** Ke Guo, Chingsong Liao; **Sound:** Zhifu Chen, Weidong Kang;

MY HUSBAND'S WIFE



SYNOPSIS:

My Husband's Wife is a modern story about family values. A traditional Kazakh family seems to live in compliance with older values, but their illusory happiness can not last long. Bota, the main character of the film, devotes herself to social work, but slowly loses connection with her husband and daughters. Kairat, Bota's husband, seeks happiness instead through an affair with the pretty Kamilla, and opts out of understanding where he stands with both women, letting things unfold as they may. Kamilla, who gives birth to a baby boy, agrees to the role of 'tokal', or second wife. In the fight for the same man, Kamilla and Bota gain a true understanding of a woman's power, self-sufficiency, and freedom.

Followed by Q&A with Director Gia Noortas

Genre: Drama; **Country:** Kazakhstan, USA; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 101 minutes; **Director:** Gia Noortas, Eugene Cheltsoff; **Language(s):** Kazakh, Russian; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Gia Noortas, Kevin A. Foo, Armanzhan Baytasov, Steven J. Brown; **Screenplay:** Gia Noortas, Armanzhan Baytasov, Eugene Cheltsoff, Zhanbota Tuyakbaye; **Cinematographer:** Sergey Komarov; **Editor:** Laurent (Lohan) Buson; **Music:** Zhanbota Tuyakbayev; **Principal Cast:** Jackson Rathbone, Gia Noortas, Tungyshpai Zhamankulov, Janelle Makazhan

LORD OF SHANGHAI



SYNOPSIS:

Lord of Shanghai is a Chinese film about the power struggles involving the triads of Shanghai. It focuses on a woman who starts out as a lowly maid in a brothel where she captures the attention of the Lord of Shanghai. The relationship drags her into a brutal war where she has to learn to rise above the odds in order to survive.

China Film Days

Followed by Q&A with Producer Lianne Hu

Genre: Action Drama; **Country:** China; **Year:** 2016; **Duration:** 111 minutes; **Director:** Sherwood Hu; **Language(s):** Mandarin; **Subtitles:** English; **Producer(s):** Sherwood Hu, Lianne Hu; **Screenplay:** Sherwood Hu, Hong Ying, Pang Bei; **Cinematographer:** Andrzej Sekula; **Editor:** Ka-Fai Cheung, Xiaohong Chen; **Sound:** James Zhan; **Music:** Johnny Klimek; **Principal Cast:** Nan Yu, Jun Hu, Hao Qin, Rhydian Vaughan, Bai Ling

PATHS OF THE SOUL



SYNOPSIS:

A group of Tibetan villagers leave their families and homes in the small village of Nyima to make a Buddhist "bowing pilgrimage", laying their bodies flat on the ground after every few steps, along the 1,200 mile road to Lhasa, the holy capital of Tibet. An astonishing seven month journey of redemption, faith, and devotion.

China Film Days

Genre: Drama; **Country:** China; **Year:** 2015; **Duration:** 115 minutes; **Director:** Zhang Yang; **Language(s):** Tibetan; **Subtitles:** English; **Screenplay:** Zhang Yang; **Cinematographer:** Guo Daming; **Editor:** Wei Le; **Sound:** Yang Jiang; **Principal Cast:** Yang Pei, Nyima Zadui, Tsewang Dolkar, Tstring Chodron

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Kenny Chan
John Y
 (will be in attendance)
 Supporting Actress
Ruby Yap
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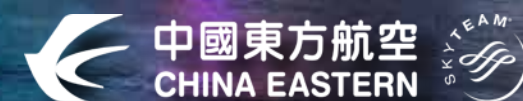
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