

A woman with dark hair and eyes is looking over a thick, horizontal orange brushstroke that covers the lower half of her face. The background is dark, and the brushstroke has a textured, painterly appearance.

# FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 27

24<sup>th</sup> APRIL – 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2025  
TEATRO NUOVO, VISIONARIO  
UDINE, ITALY

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# FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 27

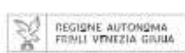
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24 April – 2 May 2025

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# FROM SOUTH KOREA WITH LOVE!

The World Premiere of *The Square*, the animated romantic masterpiece that will close the Far East Film Festival 27.

Two more World Premieres added to the line-up:  
the restored version of cult movie *The System*  
and from Indonesia, horror movie *Mad of Madness*.

Press release for 11 April 2025

UDINE – It will be a wonderful little **animated masterpiece** – South Korean love story *The Square* – that officially closes the **Far East Film Festival 27**. A true immersion in poetry and beauty which is coming to Udine for its **world premiere**, and which will happily play counterpoint to the second title of the Closing Night: *Ya Boy Kongming! The Movie*, an irresistible and anarchic musical *divertissement* which is presented out of competition. But the news doesn't end with the reveal of the title that during the press conference still bore the label "surprise film"...

Two more world premieres have in fact been **added to the line-up**: the restored version of gritty 1979 Hong Kong cult movie *The System*, directed by Peter Yung and absolutely impossible to find until today, and Indonesian horror movie *Mad of Madness*, where fear and politics and society look one another square in the face. Two **world premieres** that, obviously, change **all the numbers** of **FEFF 27**: the total number of titles goes from 75 to 77, the number of countries participating, including Indonesia, rises to 12, the world premieres become 8, the international premieres 16, the European premieres 20 and the Italian premieres 19. And finally, the number of titles in competition goes up to 49.

Speaking of numbers, let's also highlight the presence of **two short films**, *Once Upon a Time There Was a Mountain* and *Sweet, Sour, Bitter...*, both made in Hong Kong and both coming out of Camp that took place in Macau in 2024 (the **Asian Film Awards Academy International Film Camp**), plus we certainly mustn't forget the **12 titles** that make up this year's highly anticipated retrospective: *Yōkai and Other Monsters: from Asian Folklore to Cinema* (the screenings will be held at the Visionario). And one of the **major events of this edition** will also be dedicated to the Japanese mythological creatures known as *Yōkai*.

100 original pages of artwork, magazines, books, video documents and critical texts that reconstruct the universe of **legendary mangaka Shigeru Mizuki**: we're talking about *Mondo Mizuki*, *Mondo Yokai*, the exhibition curated by Canicola, Vincenzo Filosa and Mizuki Productions which **from 26 April to 30 August** will bring the creative universe of this giant to the **"Casa Cavazzini" Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Udine**. Organised on the occasion of **FEFF 27**, *Mondo Mizuki*, *Mondo Yokai* is the **first anthological event in Italy** and the **second in Europe** to celebrate one of the most important protagonists of this Japanese art.

Don't forget that you can still **purchase your accreditation online until 14 April** ([www.fareastfilm.com](http://www.fareastfilm.com)). From **today, 11 April**, it will also be possible to purchase tickets for the opening film online: *Green Wave*. An upbeat working-class comedy from **China** which will be followed on the Opening Night of **24 April** by unnerving supernatural **South Korean** horror movie *Dark Nuns*.

**24 April/2 May 2025 - Udine, Italy, Teatro Nuovo and Visionario**

# FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 27

## When the West Turns Its Gaze on Contemporary Asia

**75 titles from 11 countries examining time and society through cinema.**

**Sylvia Chang will be collecting the Golden Mulberry for Lifetime Achievement Award.**

**Opening title is Chinese comedy *Green Wave*, a story of hopes and mistakes.**

Press release for 2 April 2025  
For immediate publication/release

UDINE – If Asia is a galaxy, contemporary Asia is the planet upon which the **Far East Film Festival of Udine** rests its eyes – eyes that are as curious as they are enamoured. That's what it's been doing ever since its **very first edition in 1999**, and now that it's about to write the **27<sup>th</sup> chapter** of its long history, its eyes are looking more intensely than ever. And as well as being curious and enamoured, its eyes are also deeply attentive to the colours, nuances and pressures of current events. Even more than being a **journey** and an **accumulation of narratives**, the **FEFF** is a **gaze** - a gaze that graphic designer Roberto Rosolin has crystallised in the new official image that the festival will multiply through the **thematic trajectories** of the new line-up.

**75 titles** (48 in competition, 27 out of competition) from **11 countries**. More precisely, **7 world premieres, 15 international premieres, 20 European premieres and 19 Italian premieres**. A **vast selection of popular cinema**, which obviously also includes auteur movies and tributes to the past, through which to **observe today's Asia and its narrative close-up**. Very close-up. Never before, in fact, has popular cinema seemed so interested in **speaking about time and society** - without giving up its popular, mainstream and commercial vocation, but also without skimping on the food for thought. Food for thought that is sometimes trenchant. And from this point of view, the **box office of mainland China** certainly represents an emblematic case.

Chinese viewers loved ***Upstream***, which reflects upon the phenomenon of the **gig economy** (after being fired, its protagonist tries to get by with temporary work), and they loved **FEFF 27's opening film: *Green Wave***, which reflects on the phenomenon of ***tangping*** (young people metaphorically "lying down" in rejection of the ultra-competitive logics of career and success). And what is there to say about ***Her Story*** and ***Like a Rolling Stone***? Two directors, **Yihui Shao** and **Yin Lichuan**, with two great stories of **gender equality**. Stories that use different languages – the language of comedy and the language of the biographical journey - to address the crux of the issue of **female emancipation**: the right of women to decide for themselves, to rebel, and to fly with their own wings.

Held in Udine at the historic headquarters of the **Teatro Nuovo** theatre and in the spaces of the **Visionario** cinema, **FEFF 27** will close with a **surprise film** which is already destined to join the **grand family of Far East cult movies**: we're talking about the irresistible and highly anticipated ***Ya Boy Kongming! The Movie***, the live-action adaptation of a famous manga set during the **Music Battle Awards 2025**, a contest where Japanese record labels battle one another fiercely. It's hard to imagine a film which is more anarchic, or more allergic to being classified!

**From 24 April to 2 May** the festival will offer a **9-day full immersion** (with screenings from morning to night, talks, a daily live press review and stars walking the red carpet, without obviously forgetting the **Focus Asia** industry section, the journalistic itineraries of **Bambù** and the educational focus of the **FEFF Campus**) and will **transform the heart of the city into a vibrant Asian Zone** (there are over 100 **Far East Film Events** scheduled). A true **celebration of cinema** which is reflected in the words of the main sponsors, **Credifriuli** and **Amga Energia & Servizi - Commercial brand of the Hera Group**.

"For us," says **Luciano Sartoretti**, President of **Credifriuli**, "supporting the Far East Film Festival for the twelfth year in a row is not simply a question of tradition, but one of identity. We are a bank which is rooted in the local area and made up of people who believe in the value of culture and its power to create connections. The **FEFF** is much more than a festival: it's a bridge between Friuli and the world, just as we try to be for our community. Supporting events like this means investing in something that enriches all of us, and we will continue to do so with the same enthusiasm as always."

"The energy of **Amga Energia & Servizi Gruppo Hera**, with its solutions for sustainability and green mobility, is also at the service of the Far East Film Festival this year," says **Isabella Malagoli, CEO of EstEnergy Spa and Hera Comm Spa**, "and electric cars with our branding, which can be quickly and easily recharged at the Hera Ricarica recharging columns located in the Teatro Nuovo parking lot and throughout the city, will be available to the organisers and their international guests for the entire duration of the event. Our company is one of the historic supporters of the festival, which is undoubtedly one of the most important events for the city of Udine and for the entire Friuli Venezia Giulia region. The **FEFF** has the ability to anticipate cultural trends and has continued to attract the interest of the public for 27 years now. Its pioneering vision, open to the world and to new influences, reflects the values of innovation, sustainability and roots in the local area that are at the heart of the Hera Group's mission."

### SYLVIA CHANG: A QUEEN IN UDINE

In 2024 a king by the name of **Zhang Yimou** took the stage of the Teatro Nuovo and the **FEFF** awarded him the **Golden Mulberry for Lifetime Achievement Award**. This year, on the same stage, a queen will be collecting the **Golden Mulberry for Lifetime Achievement Award: Sylvia Chang**. Actress, singer, director, screenwriter, producer and radio DJ. If it weren't so overused, the word "icon" would be perfect for her - but to be honest, no word can really capture her greatness! **FEFF 27** will allow visitors to admire the **diva of yesterday**, with **Tsui Hark's** legendary **Shanghai Blues** (one of the gems of the restored classics section), and the **diva of today**, with splendid family drama **Daughter's Daughter**.

### THE CINEMATIC GEOGRAPHY OF FEFF 27

As we wrote at the beginning when talking about **mainland China**, never before has **popular Asian cinema** seemed so interested in telling stories of **time and society**, and this powerful **contemporary impulse** is the common thread that connects cities, metropolises and nations on the map of Asia, outlining the **cinematic geography** of **FEFF 27**. If **mainland China** talks to us about the **gig economy**, **tangping** and **gender equality**, Japan entrusts the Lynchian **Teki Cometh** with one of the most thorny and debated topics: **the ageing population**. A theme which authors and directors in its homeland have been tackling for some years now (remember *Plan 75*?). If **South Korea** sides with those left on the margins (there are a thousand ways to be discriminated against and to become an outsider, as titles like *Hear Me* or *Love in the Big City* remind us), the **Philippines** pulls out **Sunshine** and points the finger at the **criminalisation of abortion**: a dramatic descent into the darkness of Manila for one of the most powerful, and most beautiful, titles of this edition. And finally, if living in the **post-truth millennium** forces us to try and distinguish every day between **what is authentic and what is not**, from Thailand comes incredible debut film **The Stone** where - as in the case of the terracotta bowl around which the opening film **Green Wave** unfolds - concepts of "true" and "false" become absolutely tangible. The Thais believe that amulets bring good luck and protection: this is why they are more precious than gold and diamonds and why the market is dominated by violent power struggles...

### MONDO MIZUKI, MONDO YOKAI

100 original pages of artwork, magazines, books, video documents and critical texts to reconstruct the **universe of legendary mangaka Shigeru Mizuki**: we're talking about **Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai**, the exhibition curated by Canicola, Vincenzo Filosa and Mizuki Productions which **from the 26<sup>th</sup> of April to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August** will bring the creative universe of a true giant of the manga form to the "**Casa Cavazzini**" **Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Udine**. A giant who specialised in stories about *Yokai*, the creatures of Japanese mythology. Organised on the occasion of **FEFF 27**, **Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai** is the **first anthological event in Italy** and the **second in Europe** to celebrate one of the major protagonists of this Japanese art.

### A MONSTER OF A RETROSPECTIVE!

*Yokai* also feature in this year's **retrospective** (and **publication**): **Yokai and Other Monsters: From Asian Folklore to Cinema**. 12 films that will fill the **FEFF 27** screens with bizarre and disturbing "presences"! Japanese *Yokai* (sometimes very dangerous, like the fearsome Snow Woman) will alternate with Thailand's terrifying *Krasue* (flying head) and the almost analogous *Mananang-gal* from the Philippines, along with the leaping Chinese vampire known as the *Jiangshi* who is kept at bay not by garlic but... by rice. In short, a true embarrassment of riches to choose from. If Western horror cinema has always been nourished by folklore beliefs dating right back to Count Dracula, this retrospective intends to document how Asian horror-fantasy cinema has always plundered its own folklore, celebrating and redefining its own local monsters.

### RESTORED CLASSICS

A special mention goes to the **restored classics** section, which is packed with truly unmissable movies: from the European premiere of **Barking Dogs Never Bite**, the explosive directorial debut of Oscar winner **Bong Joon-ho**, and Filipino evergreen **Bona** by **Lino Brocka**, right up to Johnnie To's absolute masterpiece **PTU**. The **FEFF** has also

renewed its collaboration with the **Taipei Archive (Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute)** and will be presenting a three-film tribute to director **Pai Ching-jui** who, in 1961, managed to realise his dream and enrolled at the **Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome** where he studied Italian cinema and, in particular, neorealism.

### FEFF ONLINE

Supported as always by MYmovies, this year's **FEFF** will also offer a priceless **selection of titles online** for the entire duration of the festival: **22** films that Asian distribution houses have made available for streaming.

### THE JURY IS IN

If, as always, it is **the public and the public alone** who decide the **three films** that will climb the podium of the **Far East Film Festival 27** to claim the the **Golden Mulberry**, the **Silver Mulberry** and the **Crystal Mulberry**, it will instead be the job of the two specialised juries to assign the **White Mulberry for Best First Film** and the **Mulberry for Best Screenplay**: these are, respectively, **Megumi** (actress, singer, influencer), **Kim Yutani** (programmer of the Sundance Film Festival) and **Sakoda Shinji** (international film representative), and three jurors from the "**Sergio Amidei**" **Gorizia International Award for Best Screenplay**: screenwriter **Massimo Gaudioso**, screenwriter **Silvia D'Amico** and director **Francesco Munzi**.

### FEFF GOES GREEN

For a genuine **reduction of its environmental impact**, the **FEFF** last year started a **process of calculating its carbon footprint** in collaboration with TEC4IFVG and eFrame within the European project Capacity2Transform. This effort is part of the broader objective of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region to reach **carbon neutrality** by 2045.

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## ALL THE FILMS AT A GLANCE/FEFF27, 2025 LINE-UP

### COMPETITION SECTION [49]

#### CHINA [10]

*Clash*, JIANG Jiachen, *football in China: sports dramedy*, China 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Decoded*, CHEN Sicheng, *battle of wits: Cold-War grandiose drama*, China 2024, European Festival Premiere  
*Deep in the Mountain*, LI Yongyi, *half thriller, half comedy*, China 2025, International Premiere\*  
*Green Wave*, XU Lei, *comedy of hopes and errors*, China 2024, International Premiere – **OPENING FILM**  
*Her Story*, SHAO Yihui, *freedom-for-women comedy drama*, China 2024, International Festival Premiere\*  
*Legends of the Condor Heroes: The Gallants*, TSUI Hark, *super martial arts-action fantasy*, China 2025, International Festival Premiere  
*Like a Rolling Stone*, YIN Lichuan, *accidental-influencer-feminist-icon movie*, China 2024, European Festival Premiere  
*My Friend An Delie*, DONG Zijian, *a mysterious journey between long-lost friends*, China 2024, Italian Premiere\*  
*Successor*, PENG Damo & YAN Fei, *“Don’t tell my son we’re rich!!!”*, China 2024, European Festival Premiere  
*Upstream*, XU Zheng, *from salaryman to delivery man: social drama*, China 2024, European Festival Premiere

#### HONG KONG [7]

*Cesium Fallout*, Anthony PUN, *explosive disaster thriller*, Hong Kong 2024, European Festival Premiere  
*The Last Dance – Extended Version*, Anselm CHAN, *from weddings to funerals*, Hong Kong 2025, European Festival Premiere  
*Last Song for You*, Jill LEUNG, *when a song opens your old heart*, Hong Kong 2024, Italian Premiere\*  
*Montages of a Modern Motherhood*, Oliver CHAN, *powerful maternal drama*, Hong Kong 2024, European Premiere  
*Papa*, Philip YUNG, *blood of my blood fatherhood drama*, Hong Kong 2024, European Premiere  
*The Prosecutor*, Donnie YEN, *the kicks and the law*, Hong Kong 2024, European Premiere  
*The Way We Talk*, Adam WONG, *emotional sign language youth drama*, Hong Kong 2025, Italian Premiere

#### INDONESIA [1]

*Mad of Madness*, Eden JUNJUNG, *rural horror*, Indonesia 2025, World Premiere\*

#### JAPAN [11]

*Angry Squad*, UEDA Shinichiro, *quirky caper comedy*, Japan 2024, European Premiere  
*A Bad Summer*, JOJO Hideo, *chilling black drama*, Japan 2025, International Premiere  
*Cells at Work!*, TAKEUCHI Hideki, *comical trip inside the human body*, Japan 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Dollhouse*, YAGUCHI Shinobu, *beware-of-the-doll: jumpscare horror*, Japan 2025, Italian Premiere  
*Good Luck*, ADACHI Shin, *wimpy guy on the road meets strong woman*, Japan 2025, International Premiere  
*Lust in the Rain*, KATAYAMA Shinzo, *phantasmagoric manga trip*, Japan 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Rewrite*, MATSUI Daigo, *the time traveller and the would-be novelist*, Japan 2025, World Premiere  
*See You Tomorrow*, MICHIMOTO Saki, *the woman with the SLR camera*, Japan 2024, International Premiere\*  
*She Taught Me Serendipity*, OHKU Akiko, *offbeat love triangle*, Japan 2024, European Premiere\*  
*Teki Cometh*, YOSHIDA Daihachi, *Lynch-style surreal story*, Japan 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Welcome to the Village*, JOJO Hideo, *rural psychological thriller*, Japan 2025, Italian Premiere\*

#### MALAYSIA [1]

*Next Stop, Somewhere*, James LEE, Jeremiah FOO, *nostalgic lockdown drama*, Malaysia 2025, European Premiere\*

#### MONGOLIA [1]

*Silent City Driver*, Janchivdorj SENGEDORJ, *refined metropolitan revenge noir*, Mongolia 2024, Italian Premiere

#### PHILIPPINES [2]

*Diamonds in the Sand*, Janus VICTORIA, *a new country for a lonely soul*, Philippines/Japan/Malaysia 2025, International Premiere\*\*  
*Sunshine*, Antoinette JADAONE, *following the steps of a young woman in trouble*, Philippines 2024, Italian Premiere

#### SOUTH KOREA [8]

*About Family*, YANG Woo-seok, *grumpy grandpa’s change of heart*, South Korea 2024, European Premiere  
*Dark Nuns*, KWON Hyuk-jae, *women exorcists fight against the devil*, South Korea 2025, International Premiere  
*Dirty Money*, KIM Min-soo, *grimy detective crime story*, South Korea 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Hear Me: Our Summer*, JO Seon-ho, *delicate sign language romance*, South Korea 2024, Italian Premiere  
*The Land of Morning Calm*, PARK Ri-woong, *the fisherman and his soul*, South Korea 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Love in the Big City*, E.oni, *sophisticated urban romance*, South Korea 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Pilot*, KIM Han-kyul, *wild mission-impossible in the sky comedy*, South Korea 2024, International Festival Premiere  
*The Square*, KIM Bo-sol, *animation – love in North Korea*, South Korea 2025, World Premiere\* **CLOSING FILM**

#### TAIWAN [5]

*Daughter’s Daughter*, HUANG Xi, *three generations of three women*, Taiwan 2024, European Premiere  
*Family Matters*, PAN Ke-yin, *four chapters of a family drama*, Taiwan 2025, European Premiere\*  
*Gatao: Like Father Like Son*, YAO Hung-i, Ray JIANG, *the war between gangsters never ends*, Taiwan 2024, Italian Premiere  
*Organ Child*, CHIEH Shueh Bin, *bleak revenge thriller*, Taiwan 2025, International Premiere  
*The Uniform*, CHUANG Ching-shen, *falling in love with the same boy*, Taiwan 2024, European Premiere

**THAILAND [2]**

*Death Whisperer 2*, Taweewat WANTHA, *ghost hunting in the jungle*, Thailand 2024, International Festival Premiere

*The Stone*, Arak AMORNSUPASIRI, Vuthipong SUKHANINDR, *guns out for the amulet market*, Thailand 2025, International Festival Premiere\*

**VIETNAM [1]**

*Betting with Ghost*, NGUYEN Nhat Trung, *getting rich with a spirit*, Vietnam 2024, European Premiere\*

**OUT OF COMPETITION [28]****SPECIAL SCREENINGS [2]**

*The Scary House*, WATANABE Hirobumi, *horror in Otawara*, Japan 2025, World Premiere

*Ya Boy Kongming! The Movie*, SHIBUE Shuhei, *J-Pop Great Show*, Japan 2025, International Premiere - **CLOSING NIGHT**

**RETROSPECTIVE [12]****Yokai and Other Monsters: From Asian Folklore to Cinema**

*The Fox with Nine Tails*, PARK Heon-su, *fantasy*, South Korea 1994/remastered 2025

*The Great Yokai War*, MIIKE Takashi, *fantasy*, Japan 2005

*The Great Yokai War: Guardians*, MIIKE Takashi, *fantasy*, Japan 2021

*Green Snake*, TSUI Hark, *fantasy*, Hong Kong 1993/restored 2024

*Inhuman Kiss: The Last Breath*, Paphangkorn PUNCHANTARAK, *horror*, Thailand 2023

*Mr. Vampire*, Ricky LAU, *comedy*, Hong Kong 1985/restored 2018

*Pontianak – Scent of the Tuber Rose*, Shuhaimi BABA, *horror melodrama*, Malaysia 2004

*Shake, Rattle & Roll*, Ishmael BERNAL, Emmanuel BORLAZA and Peque GALLAGA, *horror omnibus*, Philippines 1984

*The Snow Woman*, TANAKA Tokuzo, *horror drama*, Japan 1968/restored 2024

*A Thousand Year Old Fox*, SHIN Sang-ok, *period fantasy*, South Korea 1969/remastered 2025

*The Woman in Unit 23B*, Prime CRUZ, *horror drama*, Philippines 2016

*Yokai Monsters: Spook Warfare*, KURODA Yoshiyuki, *fantasy*, Japan 1968/restored 2021

**RESTORED CLASSICS [9]**

*Barking Dogs Never Bite*, BONG Joon Ho, *black comedy*, South Korea 2000/restored 2024, European Premiere

*Bona*, Lino BROCKA, *drama*, Philippines 1980/restored 2024

*PTU*, Johnnie TO, *crime drama*, Hong Kong 2003/restored 2025, European Premiere

*Shanghai Blues*, TSUI Hark, *period dramedy*, Hong Kong 1984/restored 2024

*The Story of a Small Town*, LEE Hsing, *drama*, Taiwan 1979/restored 2024, World Festival Premiere

*The System*, Peter YUNG, *new wave drama*, Hong Kong 1979/restored 2025, International Premiere

**Tribute to PAI Ching-jui**

*Accidental Trio*, PAI Ching-jui, *comedy*, Taiwan 1969/restored 2024, World Premiere

*Good Bye! Darling*, PAI Ching-jui, *romance*, Taiwan 1970/restored 2024, World Premiere

*Lonely Seventeen*, PAI Ching-jui, *coming of age*, Taiwan romance, 1967/restored 2024, World Premiere

**DOCUMENTARIES [5]**

*Chinatown Cha-Cha*, Luka Yuanyuan YANG, China 2024, Italian Premiere

*Four Trails*, Robin LEE, Hong Kong 2025, International Premiere

*The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru*, FANG Li, China 2024, European Festival Premiere

*Suzzanna: The Queen of Black Magic*, David GREGORY, USA 2024, Italian Premiere

*Walking in the Movies*, KIM Lyang, South Korea 2024, Italian Premiere

**SHORTS [2]****Made in Hong Kong: A Pair of Shorts**

*Once Upon a Time There Was a Mountain*, TO Chun-him, Hong Kong 2024

*Sweet, Sour, Bitter...*, Frankie LEE Chak-hang, Hong Kong 2024

\*\*\*\*\*

**I NUMERI DEL FESTIVAL/FESTIVAL FIGURES**

Total films: **77**/Total countries: **12**

Total Short films: **2**

Total films in competition: **49**/Total films out competition: **28**

Female directors: **12** (**9 in competition** – **3 out of competition**)

\* White Mulberry Award for First Time Director: **10**

\* Mulberry Award for Best Screenplay: **5**

World Premiere: **8/ 3** (Competition) + **5** (Out of Competition)

International Premiere: **16**

European Premiere: **20**

Italian Premiere: **19**

**ONLINE SECTION**

Total films: **23** (all available in Italy)

## ALL THE FEFF STARS 2025

### CHINA

Luka Yuanyuan **YANG**, director, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Dian **SONG**, co-producer, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Cynthia **YEE**, actress, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Pat **CHIN**, actress, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Marleen **LUKE**, actress, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Jeanette **CHIN**, actress, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Shari **MATSUURA**, actress, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Dennis **TOM**, actor, *Chinatown Cha-Cha*  
 Li Yongyi, director, *Deep in the Mountain*  
 YU Xiyue, actress, *Deep in the Mountain*  
 CHENG MA Zhyuan, cinematographer, *Deep in the Mountain*  
 XU Lei, director, *Green Wave*  
 DONG Zijian, director and actor, *My Friend An Delie*  
 HUANG Yeqi, producer, *My Friend An Delie*  
 PENG Damo, director, *Successor*  
 YAN Fei, director, *Successor*  
 MA Chi, producer, *Successor*  
 WANG Yanan, line producer, *Successor*

### HONG KONG

Anthony **PUN**, director, *Cesium Fallout*  
 Jill **LEUNG Lai Yin**, director, *Last Song for You*  
 Natalie **HSU**, actress, *Last Song for You*, *Cesium Fallout*  
 Tony **LEUNG Ka-fai**, actor, *Legends of the Condor Heroes: The Gallants*  
 Oliver **CHAN**, director, *Montages of a Modern Motherhood*  
 Hedwig **TAM**, actress, *Montages of a Modern Motherhood*  
 Philip **YUNG**, director, *Papa*  
 Jo **KOO**, actress, *Papa*  
 Dylan **SO**, actor, *Papa*  
 KE Ding, music composer, *Papa*  
 Katherine **LEE**, restoration producer, *Shanghai Blues*

### INDONESIA

Eden **JUNJUNG**, director, *Mad of Madness*  
 Raihaanun, actress, *Mad of Madness*  
 Simhala **AVADANA**, actor, *Mad of Madness*  
 Ifa **ISFANSYAH**, producer, *Mad of Madness*

### JAPAN

JOJO **Hideo**, director, *A Bad Summer* and *Welcome to the Village*  
 AKIYAMA **Tomonori**, producer, *A Bad Summer*  
 Lily **FRANKY**, actor, *Diamonds in the Sand*  
 YAGUCHI **Shinobu**, director, *Dollhouse*  
 ENDO **Manabu**, producer, *Dollhouse*  
 ADACHI **Shin**, director, *Good Luck*  
 ADACHI **Akiko**, producer, *Good Luck*  
 MATSUI **Daigo**, director, *Rewrite*  
 OKADA **Naoki**, producer, *Rewrite*  
 MICHIMOTO **Saki**, director, *See You Tomorrow*  
 TANAKA **Makoto**, actress, *See You Tomorrow*  
 SHIGEMATSU **Risa**, actress, *See You Tomorrow*  
 ICHIHASHI **Koji**, producer, *See You Tomorrow*  
 YOSHIDA **Daihachi**, director, *Teki Cometh*  
 UTAGAWA **Yasushi**, producer, *Welcome to the Village*

**NUNOKAWA Hitoshi**, producer, *Welcome to the Village*  
**MUKAI Osamu**, actor, *Ya Boy Kongming! The Movie*  
**TAKAGI Yuka**, producer, *Ya Boy Kongming! The Movie*

**HARAGUCHI Naoko**, exhibition *Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai*  
**HARAGUCHI Tomohiro**, exhibition *Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai*

## PHILIPPINES

**Janus VICTORIA**, director, *Diamonds in the Sand*  
**Lorna TEE**, producer, *Diamonds in the Sand*  
**Antoinette JADAONE**, director, *Sunshine*  
**Maris RACAL**, actress, *Sunshine*

## SOUTH KOREA

**JO Seon-ho**, director, *Hear Me: Our Summer*  
**KIM Jae-joong**, producer, *Hear Me: Our Summer*  
**PARK Ri-Woong**, director, *The Land of Morning Calm*  
**E.oni**, director, *Love in the Big City*  
**KIM Bo-sol**, director, *The Square*  
**OH You-jin**, production designer, *The Square*

## TAIWAN

**HUANG Xi**, director, *Daughter's Daughter*  
**Sylvia CHANG**, actress, *Daughter's Daughter* and *Shanghai Blues*  
**Shiny FANG**, producer, *Daughter's Daughter*  
**PAN Ke-yin**, director, *Family Matters*  
**CHIEH Shueh Bin**, director, *Organ Child*  
**Moon LEE**, actress, *Organ Child*  
**CHUANG Ching-shen**, director, *The Uniform*  
**WANG Li-Wen**, scriptwriter, *The Uniform*  
**Buffy CHEN Yan-fei**, actress, *The Uniform*  
**David TANG**, producer, *The Uniform*

## THAILAND

**Arak AMORNSUPASIRI**, director, *The Stone*  
**Vuthipong SUKHANINDR**, co-director, *The Stone*  
**Surawut TUNGKARAK**, producer, *The Stone*  
**Paween PURIJITPANYA**, producer, *The Stone*

## GOLDEN MULBERRY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**Sylvia CHANG**, actress, *Daughter's Daughter, Shanghai Blues*  
**Tsui HARK**, director, *Green Snake, Legends of the Condor Heroes: The Gallants, Shanghai Blues*

## WHITE MULBERRY AWARD JURY

**MEGUMI**  
**SAKODA Shinji**  
**Kim YUTANI**

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# CONSULTANTS

**Roger GARCIA**

Senior Consultant/Strategic Advisor

**Maria BARBIERI**

Consultant for China

**Paolo BERTOLIN**

Consultant for Asian South-Est: Indonesia, Malaysia

**Anchalee CHAIWORAPORN**

Consultant for Thailand

**Anderson LE**

Consultant for Documentary section

**Darcy PAQUET**

Consultant for South Korea

**Maria A. RUGGIERI**

Consultant for China

**Mark SCHILLING**

Consultant for Japan

**Nguyen LE**

Consultant for Vietnam

**Don JUACIAN**

Consultant for Philippines

**Max TESSIER**

Senior Consultant for Philippines

**Tim YOUNGS**

Consultant for Hong Kong

# COORDINATORS

**Sanling CHANG**

Coordinator for Taiwan

**Hideko SAITO** con **Miyuki TAKAMATSU**

Coordinators for Japan

# Sylvia Chang

## Golden Mulberry Lifetime Achievement Award 2025



Sylvia Chang's journey began as a DJ and singer in Taiwan during the 1970s, but it wasn't long before she made the transition to film and television. Her natural talent and charisma quickly made her a star, and she became known for her ability to inhabit a wide range of roles. Chang's filmography includes some of the most iconic performances in cinema, including Raymond To's "Forever and Ever", Johnnie To's "All About Ah-Long" and Tsui Hark's "Shanghai Blues", among many others.

In the 1980s, Chang began with writing and directing, and quickly proved to be a formidable talent behind the camera as well. Her films have been celebrated for their sensitivity, emotional depth, and ability to capture the complexities of human relationships and experiences. As an actress, writer, and director, Chang's contributions to the film industry have been recognised with numerous awards and accolades, including awards in acting, directing, and writing. Chang's influence on the film industry extends beyond her own work as an artist. She has been a vocal advocate for greater diversity and representation in the industry, and has worked tirelessly to promote the work of other filmmakers, particularly women and artists from underrepresented communities. Her impact has been felt not just through awards and recognition but also through the way that her work has inspired and influenced generations of filmmakers.

But perhaps even more important than her individual achievements is the influence that Chang has had on generations of filmmakers and audiences. She has challenged conventions, broken down barriers, and created art that is both promising and thought-provoking. She has been a role model for not just women in the industry but also a symbol of the power of creativity and perseverance for every filmmaker.



## KUALA LUMPUR CALLING UDINE

# A renewed partnership joining the Malaysia International Film Festival and the Far East Film Festival!

Udine Far East Film Festival and the festival's partner MIFFest in Kuala Lumpur, have continued to deliver good news this year, with special screenings of Malaysian films and exchanges between filmmakers. Both festivals hope to continue to bring new sparks through the concept of "From East To West". In addition, MIFFest will continue to support local films, so that more people from all over the world can see the beauty and significance of Malaysian cinema together.

The festival director of FFFF, Sabrina Baracetti: "The first year of collaboration with MIFFest was a success and Udine Far East Film Festival had the chance to visit Malaysia. Through MIFFest, we learned more about the country as well as its culture and the movie industry. This is the fourth year of collaboration and our aim is to create a bridge between Malaysia and Europe by exchanging our cultures, which are the tools that will help us better understand the world."

The MIFFest president, Joanne Go: "Embarking on this journey with our beloved and long-time partner, the Udine Far East Film Festival, has been remarkable. I vividly remember our initial discussions about this partnership, and it's hard to believe that it's already been four years. We are truly delighted with the progress and committed to continuing our efforts to promote Malaysian cinema in Udine. Our goal is to further bridge the gap between Southeast Asia and Europe, embodying our motto 'From East to West' not only in geographical terms but as a cultural exchange. I always believe, as a film festival, we have the responsibility to foster and establish cultural partnerships with others, to position ourselves as the distributor for our nation's valuable cinematic arts and culture. For the fourth year, together with FFFF, we strive to enhance and empower both scenes in more effective and impactful ways."

**MIFFest has also confirmed that it will be held from July 19 to 27 this year.**

**For more information about the 8th MIFFest 2025, please visit [miffest.com.my](http://miffest.com.my).**

**For more information, please visit**  
[www.miffest.com.my](http://www.miffest.com.my) or email to [pr@mgga.com.my](mailto:pr@mgga.com.my)

*Far East Film Festival and Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia*

Within the programme **GO! 2025&Friends**

Present

# Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai

curated by **Canicola, Vincenzo Filosa and MIZUKI PRO, Tokyo**

The first Italian anthological exhibition of **Shigeru Mizuki**,  
one of the great masters of **Japanese manga**

**100 original art works**, many being **exhibited for the first time outside of Japan**,  
with **reproductions, magazines, books, video documents and critical texts**

to recreate the universe of the Japanese Master

Held on the occasion of the **Far East Film Festival**, the exhibition

is accompanied by

## **Il mondo delle fessure rotonde**

the first Western anthology to present stories from the seminal 'Garo' magazine

26 April - 30 August 2025

PRESS PREVIEW | Thursday 24 April 2025, 11.00 a.m.

Casa Cavazzini  
Via Cavour 14, Udine

**Udine, March 25, 2025. 100 original works**, many of which **exhibited outside Japan for the first time**, reproductions, magazines, books, video documents and critical texts to recreate the universe of **Shigeru Mizuki**, one of the greatest masters of Japanese manga. This is **Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai**, the exhibition **curated by Canicola and Vincenzo Filosa** which, from the **26th of April to the 30th of August 2025**, brings to **Casa Cavazzini in Udine** the creative universe of a Master without equal, a specialist in stories of yokai - the monstrous apparitions of Japanese mythology - and a scholar of the relative folklore, with all his unique and deeply personal style.

Organized on the occasion of **the twenty-seventh edition of the Far East Film Festival**, **Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai** is the first **exhibition in Italy**, and the second in Europe after the solo exhibition in Angoulême in 2022, to celebrate one of the greatest authors of Japanese sequential art: an initiative that allows manga-lovers - and everyone else - to lose themselves in a world of unforgettable masterpieces.

On the occasion of the exhibition, **Canicola** is publishing **Il mondo delle fessure rotonde: the first anthology in the West to present previously unpublished comic stories together with autobiographical writings and reflections on tkaphe language of manga by Mizuki**, published between 1966 and 1980 in the famous 'Garo' magazine, a reference point for the world of alternative manga, and a training ground for many experimental manga authors. The book is a tool for learning about creatures and legends of ancient times, which Mizuki translated into the depths of the great metropolises of modern Japan. Talking warts, ninja clones, waffling alchemists and flying capes populate these stories still unpublished outside Japan, presenting the Italian public with a glimpse into the mind and art of this unparalleled author.

The concept and realisation of Mondo Mizuki, Mondo Yokai are by the C.E.C. - Centro Espressioni Cinematografiche/Far East Film Festival (Udine) in agreement with Mizuki Pro (Japan) and with Canicola (Bologna).

In parallel with the exhibition, the Far East Film Festival 27 will dedicate a retrospective programme to the legendary creatures that populate Asian films, entitled Yokai and Other Monsters: From Asian Folklore to Cinema.

The exhibition is supported by the **Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia** and is part of the "Go!2025&Friends", the event programme linked to **GO!2025: Nova Gorica-Gorizia European Capital of Culture**, and Casa Cavazzini, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Udine) with the contribution of the Municipality of Udine - Department of Culture and the EU-Japan Fest Japan

Committee, and with the support of Credifriuli, Credito Cooperativo Friuli and the Chamber of Commerce of Pordenone-Udine and Amga Energia & Servizi - Commercial Brand of the Hera Group.

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## BY AGREEMENT OF

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## WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

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## WITH THE SUPPORT OF

Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia  
Comune di Udine – Assessorato alla Cultura  
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Camera di Commercio di Pordenone-Udine  
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The Exhibition is part of the Go!2025 & Friends programme.

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**FAR EAST  
FILM  
FESTIVAL**



IN COLLABORAZIONE/BY AGREEMENT OF

**MIZUKI PRODUCTIONS**

CON LA PARTECIPAZIONE DI/WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

**UDINE  
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CAVAZZINI**

SPONSORIZZATO DA/SPONSORED BY



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24 April/2 May 2025 - Udine, Italy, Teatro Nuovo and Visionario

# FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 27

## FEFF Campus to celebrate 11th edition! 11 aspiring film industry professionals welcomed into the global FEFF Family.

UDINE – The **Far East Film Festival Campus** initiative has moved into its second decade and as FEFF marks its 27<sup>th</sup> edition from **April 24 to May 2, 2025**, the FEFF Campus in turn will mark the 11<sup>th</sup> time it has gathered from across the globe 11 film industry hopefuls in Udine, Italy for a unique (and hopefully life-changing) experience.

Once again, a glance across the nations and territories these successful campus candidates will represent reflects just how popular Asian cinema - and FEFF - has become on a truly global scale.

FEFF is very proud to announce that this year's **successful Campus candidates** are: **Cecy Park** (South Korea), **Jane Wei** (China), **Jade Wong Lok-yiu** (Hong Kong), **Do Ha Lan** (Vietnam), **Daryl Cheong** (Singapore), **Maria Smirnova** (Ukraine), **Ruby Power** (Ireland), **Gijs Suy** (Netherlands), **Giulia Adami** (Italy), **Eliska Nodlova** (Czech Republic), and **Emma Mattiussi** (Italy).

They will now officially join the **FEFF family** across the course of this year's festival, travelling to Udine from around the world ready to engage in a programme that will help them chart a course into their future careers.

"The FEFF Campus was designed to help connect people from across the globe, and to provide them with a unique opportunity to explore the many joys Asian cinema – and an Asian popular film festival – can offer," said FEFF co-founder and president Sabrina Baracetti. "Our goal is also to help them along their career paths, while celebrating their love of Asian cinema, and there's no better place on earth to do that than FEFF."

The **FEFF Campus** programme was initiated with great success in 2015 and will this year continue its commitment to providing a unique opportunity for young film professionals to go "behind the scenes" at a film festival, while learning from the expertise provided by a line-up of media and film-industry veterans. This year's Campus will include special seminars related to film-specific subjects, such the art of writing reviews, how to report on cinema, how to get a film made, and how to find work in the film industry, while the successful candidates will also have the opportunity to interview a selection of the biggest stars in Asia, and the chance to have their work published on global media platforms.

They will also have direct access to the ever-popular FEFF Talks series of seminars and guest appearances. The "business of film" is also high on the agenda for 2025, and the Campus attendees will be able to gain a valuable insight into the inner workings of the industry through FEFF's "Focus Asia" and "Ties That Bind" industry sections.

Among the stars to take time to work with the Campus over the years have been Hong Kong legend **Johnnie To**, Oscar-winning Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Oscar-nominated **Derek Tsang** – and superstars **Sammo Hung**, **Brigitte Lin** and **Moon So-ri**.

The 11<sup>h</sup> edition of the **FEFF Campus** is being supported by the Asian film-industry platforms **Easternkicks.com**, **View of the Arts** and **Content Asia**, as well as by international platforms **Taiwan News**, **Japan Forward**, the **New Straits Times**, and **Telum Media**.

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# **BAMBÙ**

## **Asian current affairs at the FEFF**

**curated by Giulia Pompili and Francesco Radicioni**

### **BAMBÙ TALK – A DEBATE A DAY**

**From the 26th of April to the 1st of May at the Teatro Nuovo theatre**

Like every year, the Far East Film Festival will once again feature daily appointments with Giulia Pompili, journalist of the Asia desk of Il Foglio newspaper, and Radio Radicale correspondent Francesco Radicioni from Bangkok, who together will host Bambù Talks, an appointment that delves into current affairs in East Asia. A journey through the most relevant news from South Korea to the Philippines and from Hurricane Trump to artificial intelligence: emerging trends and possible future scenarios, with the contribution of experts and prominent figures from the region.

### **BAMBÙ – THE PRESS REVIEW**

**From the 26th of April to the 1st of May at the Teatro Nuovo theatre, at 9**

The Asian Press Review returns every morning at the FEFF: a tool for orienting oneself in the complex geopolitical panorama of Asia and better understanding the world we live in through the news from local and international newspapers.

# Focus Asia 2025

## A Global Hub for Film Professionals Worldwide in Udine

After the success of the 2024 edition, **Focus Asia**, the industry section of the **Far East Film Festival**, returns with the aim of expanding its horizons welcoming professionals from across the globe, exploring new territories, and forging unusual connections. There are still a few days to go until the announcement of the official selection for the **ALL GENRES PROJECT MARKET**, the “festival” of the films of the future suitable for co-production between Asia and Europe, and of **FAR EAST IN PROGRESS**, the only existing “festival” in Europe dedicated to the Asian films of the near future seeking international distribution and festival premieres.

Now in its **tenth edition**, **Focus Asia** has managed to build up an impressive network of international partners and once again **Udine will become a true global epicenter**, where business, cultural exchange, and industry knowledge converge in a uniquely crafted programme for over 200 industry participants coming from **Europe, Asia, Canada, Mexico, Chile and Brazil**.

From **training to networking and business development**, Focus Asia will build a bridge that connects professionals at every stage of their journey. By responding to the specific needs of its global partners, Focus Asia will solidify its role as a **key meeting point**, a place where industries intersect, new opportunities emerge, and the future of cinema takes shape.

The MiC confirms itself as the main supporter of Focus Asia, and furthermore, the **General Directorate for Cinema and Audiovisual of the Ministry of Culture**, with the organizational support of **Cinecittà**, will inaugurate the 2025 edition with a special reception set up on the opening night of the event and a special showcase of Italian producers.

In cooperation with **Cinema Chile, CCIDAHK (Hong Kong), FFA - German Federal Film Board, Netherlands Film Fund and Telefilm Canada**, delegations of producers will participate in exclusive tailor made labs designed to open doors to the Asian and European market. Through this initiative, participants will gain valuable insights and connect with key decision-makers, strengthening global collaboration and fostering new opportunities between Asia and the rest of the world.

For the third year running, **Focus Asia** and **Ties That Bind**, the historic workshop that has been bringing together producers from Asia and Europe in Udine for over 15 years, confirm the partnership with the **Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes** in order to shape a joint programme in two stages: the first at the end of April within Focus Asia and the second in Cannes as part of the *Spotlight Asia* initiative.

The team from **Europa Distribution**, the main European network of independent distributors, will also be back in Udine, together with over 15 European distributors who will be taking part in the third edition of the *Distribution Lab*.

At the same time, **Europa International**, the network of European Sales Agents, will join Focus Asia, marking the beginning of an exciting new partnership. As part of this collaboration, *Focus Asia* will host the *Sales Lab*, an exclusive initiative offering direct market access and valuable insights into sales strategies tailored to Asia's highly fragmented and dynamic industry.

Furthermore, thanks to the collaboration of the **FDCP - Film Development Council of the Philippines** and **VIPO - Visual Industry Promotion Organisation**, the *Project Market* and the *Far East in Progress* section will be able to count on direct support for the directors and producers of the projects and of the works in progress featured in this edition, in order to guarantee the physical presence of the greatest possible number of selected teams.

In summary, Focus Asia is not just a meeting point for film industries worldwide, it is a gateway for the films of the future. With a **record-breaking 160+ submissions for projects in development and post-production**, it stands as Europe's premier platform for fostering real collaboration between Asia and Europe. Over the years, Focus Asia has become one the most important **industry events dedicated to the future of Asian films** and has played a crucial role in championing and initiating successful film projects, including *Plan 75* by Chie Hayakawa presented at Focus Asia in 2018 and premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 2022, *Don't Cry Butterfly* by Dương Diệu Linh presented at Focus Asia in 2022 and premiered at Venice Film Festival last year and *Sunshine* by Antoinette Jadaone presented at Far East in Progress 2024, premiered at the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival, and had European premiere at the 2025 Berlinale (Generation 14plus section).

# TIES THAT BIND in Udine!

**The second workshop of the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of TIES THAT BIND will take place between April 27 – May 1, 2025, in Udine, in parallel to FOCUS ASIA, the Industry section of the Udine Far East Film Festival.**

TIES THAT BIND is the **leading training programme for European-Asian co-production** and it is targeted at **European & Asian producers focusing on feature fiction films project in development**.

The selected producers work with **top-notch industry professionals from both continents**.

The rich programme of the plenary sessions for the TTB workshop is prepared in **collaboration with FOCUS ASIA** and it will feature sessions focused on:

- remake rights
- AI
- script development,
- co-production between Asia and Europe,
- co-productions case studies,
- public and private financing in the two regions,
- pitching and communication skills,
- marketing and distribution

The participants, consisting of **5 European and 5 Asian producers** with feature fiction film projects, will be accompanied by **5 European professionals** interested in working with Asia, such as **sales agents, financiers, distributors, festival programmers, co-production market representatives**, or **European producers** who wish to focus on their career development.

**Individual meetings with TTB experts** will be moreover organised: script consultants **Clare Downs** (UK) will focus on developing their scripts and pitching consultant **Sibylle Kurz** (DE) will work on their presentation and communication skills.

For the very first time, Marketing and Focus Groups with AI will also be organized.

TTB graduates **Fran Borgia** (Akanga Film Asia ) and **Jonas Weydemann** (Weydemann Bros) will lead the group sessions dedicated to the selected feature film projects.

The participants will also have **individual meetings with key industry professionals at Focus Asia**, to foster new collaborations between European and Asian professionals.

TIES THAT BIND is organised by the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Audiovisual Fund, EAVE, Udine Far East Film Festival** and **TAICCA**, and supported by the **Creative Europe - MEDIA sub-programme of the European Union**.

The selected participants are:

- ★ **Mun Bel Choo**, Sixtymac Pictures, Malaysia  
Project: THE PASSPORT by **Ananth Subramaniam**
- ★ **Sam Weishi Chua**, Potocol, Singapore  
Project: MIDNIGHT BLUE SPRING by **Giselle Lin**
- ★ **Karolina Davidova**, 13ka, Czech Republic  
Project: INBETWEEN WORLDS by **Diana Cam Van Nguyen**
- ★ **Valérie Delpierre**, Inicia Films, Spain  
Project: SNOW COUNTRY by **Víctor Iriarte**
- ★ **Vassilis Economou**, Asphalt, Greece
- ★ **Vincenzo Filippo**, Lupin Film srl, Italy
- ★ **Soe Arkar Htun**, Kefka Film Production, Myanmar  
Project: MANGOES ARE TASTY THERE by **Sai Naw Kham**
- ★ **Olena Yershova**, TatoFilm, Turkey/Ukraine  
Project: BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW by **Jeffrey Wong**
- ★ **Dragana Jovovic**, Non-Aligned Films, Serbia  
Project: FORGET THE OCEAN, WHY NOT TRY SURFING THESE INSANE RIVER WAVES by **Marko Grba Singh**
- ★ **Agnieszka Pucilo**, New Europa Film Sales, Poland
- ★ **Maeva Savinien**, SWT | Stories We Tell, France
- ★ **Avantika Slingh Desbouvries**, Salt for Sugar Films, France  
Project: COLD ASHES CAN CAUSE FOREST FIRES by **Ashmita Guha Neogi**
- ★ **Daniel Tenné**, 70 STEPS, Germany
- ★ **Amanda Manyin Tseng**, ENLA Media, Taiwan  
Project: HONEY MILK by **Chien-Yu Lin**
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# FAR EAST FILM EVENTS

## FAR EAST MARKET

From Thursday the 24th of April to Sunday the 2nd of May from 10:00 to 20:00, Via Mercatovecchio

For the entire duration of the Festival, Via Mercatovecchio will be transformed into a crossroads between East and West as it hosts the Far East Market, the official market of the Festival. An unmissable event for those wishing to indulge their love of shopping while immersing themselves in the colours, aromas and atmospheres of the East between watching a film and attending an event in the city.

Just as the legendary Silk Road brought together cultures and traditions, the market will host stalls with many Made in Asia products: gastronomic specialties, crafts and objects inspired by Eastern culture.

## K-POP CONTEST

Friday the 25th of April at 3:00 pm, Loggia di San Giovanni

In collaboration with K-ble Jungle and Comicon

This year the Far East Film Festival introduces an explosive new event to its programme as it becomes an official stop of the K-Pop Dance Fight Fest.

K-pop (Korean Pop) is a musical genre born in South Korea which in recent years has taken Italy by storm, and this is an unmissable opportunity for all those fans who want to show their talent in front of a unique audience.

The Loggia di San Giovanni will become the stage where soloists and crews will challenge one another through dance, bringing the energy and spectacle of the K-Pop Dance Fight Fest to the heart of the FEFF. Soloists participating in the contest will have the opportunity to qualify for the grand final on the 21st of June at Comicon in Bergamo.

Up for grabs is funding to help with the trip to the final and exclusive FEFF 27 gadgets.

## COSPLAY CONTEST

Thursday the 1st of May from 15.00, Loggia di San Giovanni

One of the most eagerly-anticipated events of the Far East Film Festival, The Cosplay Contest celebrates its 15th edition and once again transforms Udine into the backdrop for a spellbinding mix of characters from manga, anime, comics, cinema, music and video games.

This edition will be bursting with musical entertainment! The Players, a band from Friuli that has got us dancing to the most famous cartoon theme songs in previous years, will be returning, while the big news this year is the presence of Pietro Ubaldi, one of the most beloved voices in Italian dubbing, famous for having given life to iconic characters such as Captain Barbossa (Pirates of the Caribbean) and Doraemon. Accompanied by Stefano Bersola, Ubaldi will be performing a concert entitled "A journey of souls": an exciting immersion in the universe of theme songs and animated cinema through the melodies that have captivated entire generations. During the jury's deliberation, Pietro Ubaldi will hold a talk on dubbing.

The show's host will be Giorgia Vecchini, historic cosplayer and godmother of the contest.

The various prizes up for grabs for those participating in the competition include a PlayStation 5 Pro offered by The King of Games.

## MONONOKE AND THE LEGEND OF THE YŌKAI GIRL

Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th of April at 11.00, Cinema Visionario

Music, sand, two artists, four hands, a light table and a projector. These are the simple ingredients that combine to create a new kind of engaging and unpredictable show, where spectators are encouraged to lose themselves in their own imaginations, only to then be drawn back into the narrative.

Sand Art is a purely analogical visual language based around invention, refined technique and rhythm. Rhythm that makes light (the light table) and shadow (the sand) bond, fall in love and dominate each other to create unexpected and deeply poetic images.

Using this technique, artists Massimo Racozi (illustrator and visual designer) and Fabio Babich (cartoonist and painter) perform an original piece created for FEFF27: their interpretation of female *yōkai* and how these can call social conventions into question.

## FEFFNIC

Sunday the 27th of April from 12.30 to 16.00, Giardino Loris Fortuna

On the occasion of the Festival, the Giardino Loris Fortuna will be the setting for FEFFNIC, a Japanese-style picnic offering the chance to socialise in the open air. SHI'S restaurant will be offering a special FEFF edition menu for the occasion, inspired by the tradition of the bento, the classic Japanese food box, which will also be available in a kids' version. Bentos can be picked up at the garden upon reservation.

To round out the gastronomic experience, the food box will also include artisanal ice cream from Gelateria Timballo - Fiordilatte, one of our local area's prime delicacies.

Andrea Gulli - Gullidanda - from the Dobialab cultural center will be providing background vibes with a special selection of Asian music from Luk Thung to Khmer Oldies.

## FEFF KIDS & TEENS

Saturday the 26th and Sunday the 27th of April from 10:00 to 17:00, Giardino Loris Fortuna

Project made possible thanks to the contribution of Fondazione Pietro Pittini

The little festival (within the festival) dedicated to children and families returns once again this year with a range of events for learning more about the East. In line with this year's retrospective, the programme takes as inspiration the theme of *yōkai*, the fascinating creatures of Japanese folklore. Themed workshops and activities will allow participants to discover their secrets through stories, games and artistic workshops.

From this year on there will also be workshops for teenagers who will be able to work alongside professionals to explore illustration techniques, especially those related to the world of manga. The FEFF Village - in the Giardino Loris Fortuna gardens - is a green hub of activities, snacks, games and shows: an opportunity to have a good time and learn more about Asian culture, but also a place to meet up and hang out in full FEFF style.

## YŌKAI'S CUISINE

Monday the 28th of April at 6.30 pm, Fondazione Friuli

Far East Food brings the authentic flavours of Asia to the Festival through cooking events, tastings and meetings dedicated to Asian gastronomic culture. A journey through tradition and innovation to discover ingredients, techniques and stories related to food.

This year's guests will include Sam Nazionale, known for his blog Pranzo a Konoha, in which he combines traditional Japanese cuisine with the world of anime. During the Festival, he will be offering a cooking demo inspired by this year's retrospective and dedicated to the cuisine of *yōkai*. A journey through flavours and folklore to discover dishes inspired by the legendary creatures of Japan.

## WELLNESS

Friday the 25th of April and Thursday the 1st of May from 10.00 to 18.00, Giardino Loris Fortuna

For two days, the Giardino Loris Fortuna gardens will be transformed into an oasis of relaxation dedicated to traditional Asian body and mental wellness activities. Under the guidance of various experts, festival-goers will be able to experience a range of relaxing activities such as *Tuina* massages, Gong Baths and meridian stretching, but above all will have the opportunity to engage with traditional Far Eastern wellness practices.

## FAR EAST GAMES

Friday the 2nd of May from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm, Piazza San Giacomo

For an entire afternoon, Piazza San Giacomo will be transformed into a space dedicated to traditional Asian games which is open to adults and children. There will be a range of board games like Go, Pokémon cards and *yōkai* role-playing games, as well as origami and giant chess boards which will fill the square.

Visitors will have the chance to challenge themselves while they enjoy the atmosphere of the FEFF.

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## BLOCK PARTY

Monday the 28th, Tuesday the 29th and Thursday the 1st, from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm. Via Asquini/Via Marinoni, Via Lovaria, Via Sarpi/Vicolo Pulesi and Piazza Marconi

The Far East Film Festival returns to bring the evening to life with a new format: the Block Party! An experience designed to keep Far Easterners entertained from aperitif time until late at night and which will transform three areas of Udine into venues.

Via Asquini/Marinoni, Via Lovaria, Via Sarpi/vicolo Pulesi and Piazza Marconi will come alive with DJ sets and exclusive events that create a vibrant FEFF atmosphere right in the city center. The events scheduled include a date at De Room with GinGin Mezzanotte, a drag queen of Taiwanese origin and protagonist of last year's Pink Night. GinGin will warm up the evening with an irreverent and magnetic show in pure queer cabaret style (9:30 pm) before making way for the DJ set by Libra.

## PINK NIGHT

Wednesday the 30th of April at 10.00 pm, Casa della Contadinanza

Pink, eros, sexuality: the watchwords of Pink Night! The iconic pink evening of the Far East Film Festival has always been inspired by the Japanese film genre *pinku eiga*, which is characterised by provocative erotic content. Adopting a transfeminist perspective, it questions the representation of bodies, exploring the different facets of eros through talks, performances, installations and DJ sets.

In this edition, vibrant pink energy will be transmitted by Betty Apple, an artist and performer from Taipei who has already captured the attention of Vogue Italia magazine.

An avant-garde artist raised in postcolonial Taiwan, Betty Apple combines music, media art and performance to explore the chaos of the consumerist era. Through erotic objects symbolising kitsch and consumer society, her work challenges aesthetics and conventions using language which is at times grotesque and provocative. She will be the undisputed protagonist of Pink Night, with an eclectic performance followed by a DJ set.

The theme of *pink* will also be explored at other events during the festival: on the 25th of April, musician and DJ Camilla Isola aka millacu will be creating a musical dialogue with Betty Apple's videos at the Teatro Palamostre in the room next to the Contatto bar, in collaboration with Udine Cocktail Week, while on the 29th of April the public will have the opportunity to meet artist Betty Apple and learn more about her work in a talk scheduled at 6:00 p.m at the Galleria Tina Modotti.

## CLOSING PARTY

Friday 2 May at 00.00, Casa della Contadinanza

The FEFF27 closing party will be brought to life by the music of Hiroko Hacci, a Japanese artist based in Milan. A multifaceted and chameleonic artist whose eclectic sound evolves fluidly, transforming the mood wherever she plays, Hiroko is currently resident DJ for Le Cannibale in Milan, and she also performs at music festivals, clubs and private parties around Italy. Her most recent release, *Yōkai Parade* EP, released on March 14, was born out of a collaboration with Volantis and blends references to ancestral Japanese spirits with contemporary electronic music. Inspired by a psychedelic experience lived in Kobe, where the sound of trains seemed to evoke supernatural presences, this musical journey in four tracks intertwines folklore and modern sounds through enveloping synthesizers and enigmatic vocals.

## CONCERTS AND EVENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH FAR EAST FILM

### SEXTO MEETS FEFF

Saturday the 29th of March at 7.00 pm, Teatro San Giorgio

Curated by Sexto 'Nplugged and in collaboration with CSS Teatro stabile di innovazione del Friuli Venezia Giulia

At this exclusive preview of Sexto 'Nplugged and the Far East Film Festival, the Teatro San Giorgio in Udine will be hosting a unique and unmissable event: a concert by Mui Zyu - talented singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and producer Eva Liu (vocals, guitar, piano) - who will be joined by musicians Deni Teo, Eloise Macdonald and Luciano Rossi.

British but with Hong Kong origins, Mui Zyu is undoubtedly one of the most interesting emergent voices on the international music scene. With an avant-garde sound that mixes electronic influences, ethereal melodies and references to Chinese traditions, Mui Zyu has won over audiences and critics with her unique and visionary style. Her intimate and poetic lyrics explore themes such as cultural identity, a sense of belonging and the search for oneself, taking listeners on an intense and engaging emotional journey.

Organized by Sexto 'Nplugged, the Far East Film Festival and CSS Teatro stabile di innovazione del Friuli Venezia Giulia – a contemporary creative cultural incubator, which is also hosting a special event this year, the result of a three-way collaboration in the spaces of the Teatro San Giorgio – the event represents an extraordinary joint preview of Sexto 'Nplugged and the Far East Film Festival, two world-class cultural events that combine cinema and music in a highly evocative setting.

Mui Zyu's concert anticipates the rich line-up of Sexto 'Nplugged, which for years has been bringing internationally renowned artists and young talents to the heart of Friuli.

### SHH... DIAM WILL PUNK YOU!

Saturday the 5th of April at 9:30 pm, Bu.chetto

Curated by Pordenone Docs Fest and in collaboration with Bu.chetto

One of the few openly queer bands in Malaysia, Shh... Diam! formed at a pool party in 2009, and have become a symbol of LGBTQ+ struggles in the country. With a punk sound and protest lyrics, the band challenges censorship and denounces discrimination, carrying their message through Asia and beyond.

The band will be in Italy for the first time on the occasion of the screening of the documentary "Queer as Punk" of which they are the stars. Yih Wen Chen's second feature film, "Queer as Punk" had its world premier at the 2025 Berlinale and invites the audience to enter the lives of the band members and the changing political landscape of Malaysia, a country that denies the rights of queer people.

The documentary will be screened on April the 4th at the Cinemazero in Pordenone, on the occasion of Pordenone Docs Fest. The live performance of Shh... Diam will follow on April the 5th at Buchetto (Ud). With their bold sound and contagious energy, Shh... Diam! are guaranteed to shake you up!

### FECS

Saturday the 26th of April at 6:30 pm, Parco Ardito Desio

Curated by Cas\*Aupa and in collaboration with Hybrida and The New Noise

On the occasion of the Far East Film Festival, Cas\*Aupa renews the event dedicated to musical connections with the Far East. The second edition of FECS represents an even deeper immersion in the contemporary sounds of artists whose work creates a bridge between ancestral roots and avant-garde musical languages. This year's international guests will be Mong Tong (live performance) and Dis Fig (DJ Set). Mong Tong is a psychedelic duo from Taipei (Taiwan) who draw inspiration from science fiction, occultism, Taiwanese superstitions and local folklore. The live performance will be followed by a DJ Set from producer, DJ and vocal artist Dis Fig, whose artistic approach is characterised by constant development and experimentation, pushing the boundaries of electronic music towards as yet unexplored territories. Dis Fig's discography boasts two collaborative albums with iconic artists The Bug and The Body.

Local artists - Letargia Morale and No-oN - who take an approach based on the structures and rhythms of Asian music will also be performing.

The event will be rounded off by Hybrida's iconic light show.

### UDINE COCKTAIL WEEK *Feff Edition*

From Friday the 25th of April to Friday the 2nd of May

Curated by Idea

Udine Cocktail Week is back with its fourth edition, remaining faithful to its DNA while always attentive to new trends. This year, the event dedicated to the art of mixology opens its doors to the world of no-alcohol and low-alcohol, expanding its offering with a wide selection of non-alcoholic or low-alcohol cocktails. But while on the one hand it embraces innovation, on the other its vocation for fusion remains strong, thanks to its now consolidated links with the Far East Film Festival.

A new feature this year is the preview of the event: on the 4th of April at the Fucine Bistrot, storytellers Francesco Scalettari and Giò Di Qual will accompany the public through the history of Japanese whisky with a unique format: Scalettari will narrate while Di Qual brings the words to life through projected illustrations, all accompanied by a guided tasting.

# #FEFF27 (FOLLOW US)

Wanna join our FEFF tribe? Find out all the digital places of the festival, fiercely run by our Social Media Team!

**Facebook** → [facebook.com/UdineFarEastFilm](https://facebook.com/UdineFarEastFilm)

With a tribe of 38.000 followers, this is Far East Film Festival's official page. If you love cinema, not necessarily Asian, this page is a must.

**Instagram** → [instagram.com/fareastfilm](https://instagram.com/fareastfilm)

All the photos – and the stories – from the festival, in stylish fashion. *What else?*

**Twitter** → [twitter.com/fareastfilm](https://twitter.com/fareastfilm)

Do not miss anything out: you only need one simple hashtag! **#FEFF27**

**Tumblr** → [fareastfilm.tumblr.com](https://fareastfilm.tumblr.com)

If you want an inside view of the festival, our Tumblr diary is the place to be: news, photos, videos, news, curiosities are provided day by day.

**Website** → [www.fareastfilm.com](http://www.fareastfilm.com)

Line-up, basic information and essays by our contributors to have the best time during the Festival. Plus, the previous editions' archive. The official site is the FEFF encyclopedia that everyone should take a look at!

**FEFF Events** → [events.fareastfilm.com](https://events.fareastfilm.com)

A programme of events and initiatives made in Asia!

**YouTube** → [youtube.com/user/visionariotube](https://youtube.com/user/visionariotube)

Trailers, videos, interviews, panels: everything you need to see about the festival directly brought on your screen.

# FEFF 27 INFO

## TICKETS

### Teatro Nuovo Giovanni da Udine and Visionario

▪ Morning shows (weekdays):	€ 6.00 per film
▪ Morning shows (public holidays):	€ 10.00 per film
▪ Afternoon performances (weekdays)	€ 8.00 per film ( € 12.00 for both films)
▪ Afternoon performances (public holidays and pre-holidays)	€ 10.00 per film ( € 16.00 for both films)
▪ Evening performances:	€ 10.00 per film ( € 16.00 for both films)
▪ Midnight show:	€ 6,00.

A daily ticket is available at a cost of € 25.00 that allows you to attend all performances on the day of issue.

### On sale at the ticket office at Teatro Nuovo G. Da Udine

from 8:30 a.m. until the beginning of the last screening of the day

### On sale at the ticket office at Visionario

Open from 8.30 am to 9 pm

The pre-sale of tickets for the following days is suspended during the starting times of the films.

[www.fareastfilm.com](http://www.fareastfilm.com) and [visionario.movie](http://visionario.movie)

## ACCREDITATIONS

- **Red Panda**
- **Red Panda Under 26**
- **White Tiger**
- **White Tiger Under 26**
- **Press**
- **Under 18**

All accreditations allow admission to the cinema, subject to prior reservation and availability. Accredited persons may book tickets for all films from 2 days to 15 minutes before the start of the screening. Opening and Closing Night screenings are excluded from the aforementioned booking methods. Accreditation is available online and at Visionario (until April 14) or at the accreditation desk at the Teatro Nuovo G. da Udine (from April 25). All accreditations are valid for festival screenings at the Teatro Nuovo and Visionario.

### RED PANDA / RED PANDA UNDER 26

The accreditation is valid for the entire Festival and lets you see up to 4 films each day that you choose. Along with your badge, you'll get a FEFF27 bag and a coupon to buy the 2025 catalog at a special discount.

#### Red Panda

- € 69.00 (until 14 April 2025)
- € 79.00 (price applied to accreditation during the festival)

#### Red Panda Under 26 (reserved for those under 26 years of age)

- € 49.00 (until 14 April 2025)
- € 59.00 (price if you buy the accreditation during the festival)

### WHITE TIGER / WHITE TIGER UNDER 26

Valid for the entire Festival, it allows entry to all films shown. Along with your badge, you'll receive the FEFF27 bag and a coupon to buy the 2025 catalog at a discount.

### White Tiger cost:

- € 79.00 (until 14 April 2025)
- € 89.00 (price if you buy the accreditation during the festival)

### White Tiger Under 26 (reserved exclusively for those under 26 years of age)

- € 65.00 (until 14 April 2025)
- € 75.00 (price if you buy the accreditation during the festival)

## PRESS

Reserved to journalists with professional ID or a letter from the editor-in-chief covering the festival. It is valid for the entire Festival and grants access to all the screenings\* (until seating capacity, pre-booking required). Along with your badge, you will receive the FFFF27 bag and a coupon with a special discount for the purchase of the 2025 catalogue.

### Cost of accreditation PRESS

- € 45,00

### UNDER 18 (reserved for persons between 16 and 18 years of age)

Valid for the entire duration of the Festival, it allows admission to films suitable for audiences under the age of 18. Together with the badge, the accredited person will receive the FFFF27 bag and a coupon to purchase a copy of the 2025 catalogue at a discounted price.

### Cost Under 18:

- € 35,00

## AUDIENCE AWARD

This is the prize that the festival awards each year voted by the audience on voting cards handed out at the entrance to each film.

## FFFF TALKS

The stars in Udine meet the public in the theatre (first floor) from 25 April to 2 May from about 10.30 a.m.  
Languages: Italian and English.

## BAMBOO PRESS REVIEW

Appointment with the reading of Asian newspaper headlines by Giulia Pompili and Francesco Radicioni every day at the Teatro Nuovo Giovanni da Udine.

## BAMBOO MEETINGS

Cultural meetings on topics concerning current affairs and Asian culture, directed by journalist Giulia Pompili, will be held daily in the theatre (first floor). Languages: Italian and English.

## INFO POINT

During the Festival info-point is set up inside the Teatro Nuovo.  
Hours: 8:30 - 22:30

## HOSPITALITY AND ACCREDITATION OFFICE

On the first floor of the New Theatre, an information point about hospitality and a space dedicated to collecting and signing up new accreditations.  
Opening hours: 8.45 - 20:00 (Wednesday 24 April only: 14:00 - 22:00).

## PRESS ROOM

A press room on the first floor of the theatre is available for accredited journalists.  
Open daily from Thursday 25 April with opening times 9:00 - 19:30.

## PROJECTIONS

All films are screened and/or broadcast in the original language, with English and Italian subtitles.

# GREEN INITIATIVES AT THE FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL

Sensitivity to environmental issues is one of the FEFF's characteristics. This sensitivity was initially expressed mainly in the cultural sphere through the organisation of meetings and environmental education initiatives for young audiences (this awareness was triggered by the FEFF's ongoing collaboration with ARPAFVG) and the many events characterised by a "green" approach.

The FEFF is now taking increasingly committed action to reducing waste, saving energy, using hybrid/electric cars, and encouraging the sustainable mobility of accredited guests and visitors. It privileges digital communication and prints only on certified paper. This year, the festival's classic canvas tote bag is available in a limited edition created from reused street banners and old FEFF bags by **community tailoring shop Fil of the Udine Caritas**. The t-shirts for staff and volunteers and those on sale are made using organic cotton.

Close attention is paid to the **materials used for the staging of the event** and their reuse in subsequent editions, as well as to the issue of waste management. In supplies, even in the food sector, **locally sourced products** are favoured and an increasing amount of space is being given over to vegetarian and vegan options.

From this year on, in addition to **Goccia di Carnia water in glass bottles**, the FEFF's collaboration with **CAFC** has led to the creation of **three water dispensing points where visitors can fill their own bottles and canteens**: at the Visionario cinema, at the Teatro Nuovo Giovanni da Udine theatre and at the Giardino Loris Fortuna gardens. This initiative, says **CAFC president Salvatore Benigno**, *"goes beyond the simple gesture of offering drinking water. At a time when there is increasing attention to environmental issues, the installation of water dispensers represents a concrete step towards a more sustainable future because it aims to raise awareness among participants of the importance of reducing plastic consumption and optimising the use of natural resources. Water as symbol of life and sharing,"* continues the President, *"thus becomes a vehicle for a message of ecological responsibility, which integrates perfectly with the mission of the Far East Film Festival to create an environment distinguished by inclusivity and awareness."*

For a further leap in quality and a real reduction of its environmental impact, the FEFF has also begun a process of **calculating its carbon footprint**.

This initiative is being carried out with the support of **TEC4IFVG** and **eFrame** as part of the **Capacity2Transform** European project, which aims at creating innovative green approaches in the creative industries.

In 2024 a large-scale analysis of the carbon footprint of the Far East Film Festival was begun. This effort is part of the broader goal of the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Region** to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

With the support of **TEC4IFVG** and **eFrame**, the FEFF is currently working on a roadmap that will help set new standards for the festival industry. This roadmap includes the introduction of innovative pilot actions starting from the 2025 edition of the Festival. These include the implementation of an emissions calculation model based on the data collected, the optimisation of procedures for collecting and managing environmental data, and the development of specific strategies to reduce the ecological footprint, with a particular focus on the logistics and materials sectors.