

**FAR EAST
FILM
FESTIVAL
25**

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FESTIVAL
25**

**Teatro Nuovo, Visionario
Udine, Italy**

**PRESS RELEASES
FILM STILLS & FESTIVAL PICS
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FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 25

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FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 25

All the diversity and all the multiplicity of Planet Asia in a story nine days long.

78 films, 14 countries, 9 world premieres.

Golden Mulberry Award for Lifetime Achievement to Baisho Chieko.

On the red carpet also Johnnie To, Watanabe Hirobumi and Jang Sun-woo.

Press release for the 5th of April, 2023
For immediate publication/release

UDINE – Apart from the pronunciation and a single vowel, English adjective “diverse” and Italian adjective “*diverso*” are identical twins: they indicate asymmetry and they indicate multiplicity. In other words, they contain the two words that best describe the **Far East Film Festival and its long international history**. A history which is certainly *diverso*, in fact, and which began to explore cinematic Asia when cinematic Asia was still an unknown quantity in Europe. It now has **24 editions under its belt and another one - the 25th – all set for take off: the most "diverse" FEFF ever!**

How many precious **cultural asymmetries** will be shown? How many priceless **artistic multiplicities** will be witnessed? From **the 21st to the 29th of April**, at the "**Giovanni da Udine**" **Teatro Nuovo** theatre and at the **Visionario** cinema, **FEFF 25** will travel into the future as a narrator of the Far East of yesterday and of today - of the colours of the past, through the anarchic, free-spirited gaze of packed retrospective **A/B side VIBES - Greatest Hits from the '80s & '90s**, and of the colours of the present, through the **42 films in competition (a total of 78 titles from 14 countries with 9 world premieres, 13 international premieres, 14 European premieres and 23 Italian premieres)** and a host of other **themed selections**.

Asymmetry and multiplicity, we were saying. So here's contemporary Asia investigated through **current affairs journalism (Giulia Pompili and Francesco Radicioni return to Udine with the international morning press review, the 4 episodes of brand new podcast *Bambù* and a series of talks), youthful cultural**

journalism (like that of the students of the **FEFF Campus**), **visual art** (the partnership with cartoonist **Vincenzo Filosa** is back), the "**Industry**" **connections between East and West** (under the banner of **Focus Asia**) and, of course, the unmissable **Far East Film Events** which will fill the centre of Udine (one event above all: the now legendary **Far East Cosplay Contest**, scheduled for **Monday the 24th of April**).

OPENING/CLOSING

The festival will be opening with the **first co-production between Singapore and South Korea**: He Shuming's ***Ajoomma***, the story of a middle-aged Singaporean lady who dreams of visiting the homeland of her beloved K-Dramas. It's a journey full of twists and turns and unexpected events and, given the obvious cultural and linguistic barriers between the two countries, also of misunderstandings... Bursting with humour and sentiment, it's a feel-good movie that just might become a little international hit! The second title of the **Opening Night** - the uncompromising ***Bad Education*** – is a completely different kettle of fish: a pitch black, cruelly hilarious comedy written and produced by Giddens, enfant terrible of Taiwanese cinema! 77 minutes that hit hard and whose first-time director is an old acquaintance of the **FEFF**: Kai Ko, the protagonist of *You Are The Apple of My Eyes*. The **Closing Night** will instead play host to **Zhang Yimou's** latest masterpiece: a deeply sophisticated period film which mixes mystery, humour and action. Inspired by the famous poetic patriotic text from which it takes its title, ***Full River Red*** is set in 1146 in the Chinese Song dynasty. Rapid-fire dialogue and a techno-rock soundtrack counterpoint sequences shot in the narrow streets of ancient villages... You shouldn't be surprised: **we're talking about Zhang Yimou**, after all!

LINE-UP

If, and it bears repeating, **the line-up includes 78 films (a FEFF record!) from 14 countries** (including **Mongolia**, present for the second time in the history of the Festival), it also certainly bears underlining that it includes **15 female directors** and **12 newcomers**. **The 2023 selection aims to showcase the immense complexity of Asia more than ever before**. A selection that seamlessly combines the recent past (the eighties and nineties of the retrospective) with today and its diverse communities (like the indigenous one which is the protagonist of Taiwanese film ***Gaga***), expectations and life choices, languages and dialects, politics, religions, habits, inclinations, beliefs, myths and legends and, last but not least, its diverse gender identities. A selection that shows in real time how the cinemas of East and South East Asia have re-emerged from the gruelling period of the pandemic, not all in the same way and not all with the same results. A continent – the Far East - which even from a geopolitical point of view has an ever greater impact on our daily life and on our ideas about the world. And whose importance is felt here too.

MADE IN HONG KONG

In the post-Covid and post-National Security Law (established June 2020) world of the less “crowded” Hong Kong (a million people are said to have left forever), local Cantonese-language films are once again popular in the truest sense of the word. One example: ***A Guilty of Conscience*** by Jack NG (who will be a guest at **FEFF 25** for the film's European premiere), released in January 2023, and earning the astronomical sum of 11 million euros, is the highest grossing Hong Kong film ever! And it's not a noir or an actioner, nor is it a Hollywood product. One in six people went to see it on the big screen (Hong Kong's population exceeds 6 million). What's happening in the former British colony is an authentic phenomenon: cinema attendance is through the roof, with even more people going to the cinema than before the pandemic. ***A Guilty of Conscience*** is a courtroom drama about a lawyer with a guilty conscience who ends up defending the underprivileged and the less fortunate. Cinema as bulwark of freedom?

FEFF 25 devotes ample space to HK cinema by bringing together, **with the support of CreateHK, HKIFF and HKTEO**, a selection of **6 brand new debut films** grouped under the trademark ***Making Waves - Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema***, to which are added ***Sunny Side of the Street***, the latest film from Anthony Wong (Golden Mulberry for Lifetime Achievement in 2019) after *Still Human*, and the **world premiere of *Everyphone Everywhere*** by Amos Why, an acute, tragicomic reflection on the use and abuse of the mobile phone and on what can happen if you accidentally leave yours at home.

MISTER HIROKI AND JAPAN

Just like every year, **Japan** is represented by a large number of first-run films, **a total of eight in competition** as well as **three special screenings** and **four titles in the retrospective**. Among the most eagerly-awaited guests is eclectic and prolific director **Hiroki Ryuichi**, a dear friend of the FEFF, who will be presenting **three of his films** (the brand new ***Phases of the Moon***, in competition, an exciting drama centred around the theme of reincarnation, ***You've Got a Friend***, out of competition, a dramedy about the sadomasochistic practices of a quiet middle-aged office worker and, in the retrospective section, his first commercial feature film: 1994's ***800 Two-Lap Runners***, a variation on the teen movie). Grabbing the limelight in the Japanese section is the international premiere of ***The Legend & Butterfly*** by established director Otomo Keishi, here grappling with a historical drama. A war story that turns into a magnificent sixteenth-century epic and a delicate and passionate love story. As always, there's no shortage of brilliant and bizarre films from Japan such as ***Yudo***, a heartfelt declaration of love for the *sentis*, those public baths which, though once popular in cities, fell into disgrace in the 1970s. On the "auteur" side, mention should be made of ***Egoist***, a beautiful and heartbreaking queer love story set in contemporary Tokyo, ***She is Me, I am Her***, a film in four episodes set in the Covid era and directed by director Nakamura Mayu, and a real surprise: ***December*** - in a country like Japan which has long prided itself on its cultural homogeneity, this gripping courtroom drama is directed by an Indian (naturalised Japanese) director: Anshul Chauhan.

CHINA + TAIWAN + SOUTH EAST ASIA + MONGOLIA + SOUTH KOREA

As well as the Chinese remake of ***Hachiko*** arriving from ***Beijing***, there are four titles from **Taiwan** (in addition to the aforementioned ***Bad Education*** and ***Gaga***), including hilarious supernatural comedy ***Marry My Dead Body*** and ***Day Off***, a touching portrait of a men's hairdresser. From **Thailand** comes the spectacular coming-of-age story ***You&Me&Me***, directed by the twin Hongvivatana sisters, while from **Malaysia** there are two opposite titles (an auteur story about two brothers on the margins, ***Abang Adik***, and ***Cost Guard Malaysia: Ops Helang***, a breathtaking actioner). On the blockbuster and entertainment front, **Indonesia** brings back to Udiine director Upi (***Sri Ashi***, a super-heroine story) and **Joko Anwar** (***Satan's Slave: Communion***, sequel to the blockbuster ***Satan's Slave***) with their most recent movies. Then comes **Mongolia** with truly surprising film ***The Sales Girl***, an irresistible comedy set among the shelves of a sex shop, and the **Philippines** with three films: horror movie ***Deleter***, by Mikhail Red, dark fable ***In My Mother's Skin***, Kenneth Dagatan's debut feature, and finally a beautiful comedy about scams and the dangers of the web: ***Where Is the Lie?*** by Quark Henares.

South Korea deserves a discussion of its own: one of the three most powerful cinematographic and audiovisual industries in the world, it **limped out of the pandemic** with audiences halved, cinemas transformed into gyms, dozens of films stuck awaiting a release date, and financial capital moving from cinema to TV. An unimaginable scenario, especially after *Parasite's* Oscar win. In Seoul, fear reigns, and national distributors aren't investing in cinema or its promotion. But it's clearly a passing phase that only represents a temporary setback: Korean cinema will soon be back, more powerful than ever! The signs are evident in the **seven brand new films** that are part of the **FEFF 25** selection: from wonderfully disturbing

horror *The Other Child* and spectacular costume drama *The Night Owl*, about palace intrigues revealed by a blind acupuncturist, to *Phantom*, a spy thriller directed by Lee Hae-young which will soon be released in Italy under the **Lucky Red** imprint.

BAISHO CHIEKO: GOLDEN MULBERRY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT 2023

Her filmography's a mile long. Her discography numbers hit after hit. Miyazaki, a great admirer, secretly modelled Sophie Hatter, the main character of *Howl's Moving Castle*, on her. After **Takeshi Kitano**, 2022's winner, this year's **Far East Film Festival Golden Mulberry Award for Lifetime Achievement** will go to **Baisho Chieko!** The famous Japanese actress and singer will be bringing to **FEFF 25** her latest film, **Hayakawa Chie's *Plan 75***, and two films that she has personally selected for the Udine audiences: the very first *Tora-san* film (1969) and *Where Spring Comes late* (1970).

Born in 1941, **Baisho Chieko** is extremely famous for having played, between 1969 and 1995, the role of Sakura in dozens of *Tora-san* films: beloved cult movies that were the result of a long-lasting artistic partnership with director Yamada Yoji. In 1980 she was awarded Best Actress at the Hōchi Film Awards for *Haruka naru yama no yobigoe (A Distant Cry of Spring)*, also directed by Yamada Yoji, and is a very busy voice actress. *Plan 75*, presented at the 75th Cannes Film Festival (*Caméra d'Or Mention Spéciale*) and at the 40th Turin Film Festival, is the powerful debut film of Japanese director Hayakawa Chie and **will be released in Italian cinemas on the 11th of May with distribution by Tucker Film**. A project that, let's remember, the director discussed right here at the **industry sessions of Focus Asia** of the 2019 **FEFF** (as well as presenting the collective film *Ten Years Japan*).

WATANABE BROS IN COLOUR!

The other highly anticipated special guest at **FEFF 25** is **Watanabe Hirobumi**, the cult director from the farming town of Otawara! During the completely digital edition of 2020, the Festival dedicated a special focus section to the cinema of the **Watanabe Bros** (**Hirobumi** forms a superlative artistic duo with his composer younger brother **Yuji!**) Now **Hirobumi finally comes to Udine** to present to the public **two world premieres: *Techno Brothers***, a Kraftwerk-esque road movie that pays homage to the ***Blues Brothers*** and **Aki Kaurismaki**, and the intimate and personal diary ***Way Of Life*** (which even mentions Udine!). The black and white aesthetic, the indie-punk style and the proverbial impassivity of the **Watanabe Bros'** cinema are this time put at the service of a stronger narrative. **And even more incredible, they're in colour!**

GREATEST HITS FROM '80s & '90s

Every story has a start date and the **FEFF's** is **the 10th of April, 1999**. Every story is born from a spark, and the spark that birthed the **FEFF** was the 1998 Udine Hong Kong Film. Every story and every spark, obviously, have their roots, and the **Far East Film Festival 25** has chosen to talk about its own... What happened in Asia between the end of the '80s and the dawn of the new millennium? What was the landscape of Korean cinema, today so popular with Western audiences, like back then? How did the fertile ground from which Japanese filmmakers sprouted take shape? In short: what was the **FEFF** like before the **FEFF** existed? This retrospective developed for the 25th anniversary, the largest ever seen at the Festival, will answer all these questions through a selection of **21 titles**. 21 artistic and geographical roots carefully selected from among the many milestones and masterpieces. **Those hidden masterpieces that have always shone in silence, like the B-sides of old 45s...** Some examples? In addition to Hiroki Ryuichi's aforementioned *800 Two Lap Runners* from 1994, Nonzee Nimibutr's seminal 1997 Thai gangster movie ***Dang Bireley's and Young Gangsters***, Park Chan-wook's 1997 crime comedy and second feature ***Trio***, Hsu

Hsiao-ming's *Dust of the Angels* from 1992 (produced by Hou Hsiao-hsien) and hilarious crime comedy *Teenage Fugitive* written by a Tsai Ming Liang who had just moved to Taipei from Malaysia.

PODCAST

From the economic crisis to Asia's great resurgence: here's the quarter of a century that did away with exoticism and consolidated the legend of a region grappling with tradition and modernity, rights and development... In the four anthological episodes of **brand new podcast *Bambù***, produced by the **Far East Film Festival** and **Chora Media**, **Giulia Pompili** and **Francesco Radicioni** take us on a journey inside a generation that changed Asia through an interweaving of lives on screen and those in the real world, discussing fictional characters and those who have changed history. A generation grappling with the dilemmas of sex and the problem of low birth rates amid messages on social networks that build democratic movements to demand more rights. A look at the politics hiding behind a plate of noodles, a portion of fried chicken or the origin of a fermentation technique, or where religion starts to seep into government buildings, and places where sects and cults strike a difficult balance between the promise of salvation and a threat to security. ***Bambù*** is available on all platforms.

MASTERCLASS

New to **FEFF 25** this year are the **four masterclasses with four giants of Asian cinema: Johnnie To**, who returns to Udine to celebrate the anniversary of the festival (and the festival dedicates to him the focus section entitled *Johnnie Without a Gun*), the aforementioned **Hiroki Ryuichi**, the highly acclaimed **Jang Sun-woo** (remember his *Lies*, in competition at Venice?) and author, director and editor **Po Chih Leong** who, in the 1980s, represented the quintessence of genre cinema across the board, from comedy to drama and horror.

In the decade before Bong Joon Ho, Park Chan-wook and other directors initiated a transformation of Korean cinema, **Jang Sun-woo** stood as the most innovative, provocative, unpredictable and controversial filmmaker working in the industry. In this year's **FEFF** we present three of his films based on cutting-edge novels of the 1990s. ***Road to the Racetrack*** (1991), starring the great actress Kang Soo-yeon (who tragically passed away last year), satirizes the intellectual class while anticipating in some ways the work of Hong Sang-soo. ***To You, From Me*** (1994) and ***Lies*** (1999), both heavily censored in their local release, explore the interplay between sex, art and power with unusual directness and force.

FEFF ONLINE

With the support, as always, of **MYmovies**, the **FEFF** will once again this year offer a precious selection of online titles for the entire duration of the festival: **22 films that Asian distribution companies have made available for streaming**. Subscription costs only €7.90 and will be available for purchase from the **6 th of April** on the **Mymovies ONE** digital platform.

THE JURORS

If, as always, it's the public and only the public who will decide the three films that reach the podium of the **Far East Film Festival 25**, it will be down to two specialist juries to assign the **White Mulberry for best first**

film and the **Mulberry for the best screenplay**: these are respectively **Ho Wi-ding, Sydney Sibilia** and **Fred Tsui** and several jurors of the "**Sergio Amidei**" of **Gorizia International Award for best screenplay**, namely **Massimo Gaudioso, Marco Risi, Marco Pettenello** and **Francesco Munzi**. And let's take the opportunity to remember that the collaboration between the **FEFF** and the **Amidei Prize** will continue over time and marks the first shared step in **GO! 2025**, the project that is being developed in Friuli Venezia Giulia and in Slovenia for Nova Gorica/Gorizia, European Capital of Culture 2025.

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ALL THE FILMS AT A GLANCE/ FEFF25, 2023 LINE-UP

COMPETITION SECTION [43]

CHINA [4]

Full River Red, ZHANG Yimou, *black humor-Machiavellian mystery*, China 2023, World Festival Premiere – **CLOSING FILM**

Hachiko, XU Ang, *the-most-famous-dog-in-the-world*, China 2023, World Festival Premiere

Hidden Blade, CHENG Er, *a vortex of passions in Sino-Japanese war*, China 2023, International Festival Premiere

Home Coming, RAO Xiaozhi, *escape-from-Arab-country action drama*, China 2022, International Festival Premiere

HONG KONG [8]

Everyphone Everywhere, Amos WHY, *don't forget your phone!*, Hong Kong 2023, World Premiere

The Sunny Side of the Street, LAU Kok-rui, *refugee social drama*, Hong Kong 2022, European Premiere*

Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema

A Guilty Conscience, Jack NG, *mega-hit legal drama*, Hong Kong 2023, European Premiere*

A Light Never Goes Out, Anastasia TSANG, *bittersweet neon sign nostalgia*, Hong Kong 2022, Italian Premiere*

Lost Love, KA Sing-fung, *domestic drama*, Hong Kong 2022, European Premiere*

Mad Fate, Soi CHEANG, *hysterical noir*, Hong Kong 2023, Italian Premiere

Vital Sign, CHEUK Wan-chi, *medical drama with action*, Hong Kong 2023, European Premiere

Where the Wind Blows, Philip YUNG, *lavish historical crime thriller*, Hong Kong 2022, Italian Premiere

INDONESIA [2]

Satan's Slaves: Communion, Joko ANWAR, *horror in the condominium*, Indonesia 2022, Italian Premiere

Sri Asih, UPI, *Indonesian female super hero epic*, Indonesia 2022, Italian Premiere

JAPAN [8]

December, Anshul CHAUHAN, *second chance court drama*, Japan 2022, Italian Premiere

Egoist, MATSUNAGA Daishi, *superbly performed gay love drama*, Japan 2022, European Premiere*

The Legend & Butterfly, OTOMO Keishi, *warring-couple and warring-armies period saga*, Japan 2023, International Premiere

Phases of the Moon, HIROKI Ryuichi, *reincarnated love?*, Japan 2022, European Premiere

She Is Me, I Am Her, NAKAMURA Mayu, *four stories in Covid time*, Japan 2022, International Festival Premiere

Techno Brothers, WATANABE Hirobumi, *quirky road movie with techno music*, Japan 2023, World Premiere

Your Lovely Smile, LIM Kah Wai, *offbeat portrait of indie director*, Japan 2022, Italian Premiere

Yudo, SUZUKI Masayuki, *elegant comedy on the Way of the Bath*, Japan 2023, European Premiere*

MALAYSIA [2]

AbangAdik, Jin ONG, *wild lives of two unlucky brothers*, Malaysia 2023, Italian Premiere*

Coast Guard Malaysia: Ops Helang, Pitt HANIF, *fiercer than John Wick is the Guard!*, Malaysia 2023, International Premiere*

MONGOLIA [1]

The Sales Girl, Janchivdorj SENGEDORJ, *bold & sexy coming-of-age story*, Mongolia 2022, Italian Premiere*

THE PHILIPPINES [3]

Deleter, Mikhail RED, *kill the video and run from the ghost*, The Philippines 2022, International Festival Premiere

In My Mother's Skin, Kenneth DAGATAN, *the darkest fairy tale of them all*, The Philippines 2023, Italian Premiere*

Where Is the Lie?, Quark HENARES, *trans identity and cruel surprises*, The Philippines 2023, European Premiere

SINGAPORE [1]

Ajoomma, HE Shuming, *romantically lost in Korea*, Singapore/South Korea 2022 European Premiere – **OPENING FILM***

SOUTH KOREA [7]

Ditto, SEO Eun-young, *time-crossing-fantasy romance*, South Korea 2022, International Festival Premiere
Killing Romance, LEEWon-suk, *flamboyant kill-your-husband comedy*, South Korea 2023, World Festival Premiere
The Night Owl, AN Tae-jin, *deceptions and murders period drama*, South Korea 2022, International Festival Premiere*
The Other Child, KIM Jin-young, *multilayeredghost and faith horror*, South Korea 2022, Italian Premiere**
Phantom, LEE Hae-young, *who's-the-spy? Thrilling action drama*, South Korea 2023, Italian Premiere
Rebound, CHANG Hang-jun, *young basketball team exploit*, South Korea 2023, World Festival Premiere
The Wild, KIM Bong-han, *atmospheric gangster thriller*, South Korea 2023, World Premiere

TAIWAN [6]

The Abandoned, TSENG Ying-ting, *socially relevant murder mystery*, Taiwan 2022, Italian Premiere*
Bad Education, Kai KO, *hyperviolent lost youths drama*, Taiwan 2023, European Premiere*
Day Off, FU Tien-yu, *hairdresser's sweet story*, Taiwan 2023, European Premiere*
Gaga, Laha MEBOW, *heartwarming glimpse into a Taiwanese indigenous people's world*, Taiwan 2022, European Premiere
Marry My Dead Body, CHENG Wei-hao, *explosive comedy with gay ghost*, Taiwan 2023, European Premiere
Untold Herstory, Zero CHOU, *prison drama in the White Terror era*, Taiwan 2022, Italian Premiere

THAILAND [1]

You & Me & Me, Wanwaew and Waewwan HONGVIVATANA, *beware of the twins!*, Thailand 2023, European Premiere*

OUT OF COMPETITION [35]

JOHNNIE WITHOUT A GUN – TRIBUTE TO JOHNNIE TO

Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema

Life Without Principle, Johnnie TO, *crime drama*, Hong Kong 2011

Office, Johnnie TO, *workplacemusical*, Hong Kong 2015

Sparrow, Johnnie TO, *elegant caper film*, Hong Kong 2008

TRIBUTE TO BAISHO CHIEKO

Plan 75, HAYAKAWA Chie, *dystopic drama*, Japan 2022

Tora-san, Our Lovable Tramp, YAMADA Yoji, *humanistic comedy*, Japan 1969

Where Spring Comes Late, YAMADA Yoji, *heartfelt melodrama*, Japan 1970

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Convenience Story, MIKI Satoshi, *sweetkinky fantasy*, Japan 2022, Italian Premiere

Emergency Declaration, HAN Jae-rim, *high altitude action*, South Korea 2022

Way of Life, WATANABE Hirobumi, *personallockdownmemories*, Japan 2023, World Premiere

You've Got a Friend, HIROKI Ryuichi, *SM world dramedy*, Japan 2022, International Premiere

DOCUMENTARIES

AUM: The Cult at the End of the World, Ben BRAUN, ChiakiYANAGIMOTO, USA 2023, Italian Premiere

Jiseok, KIM Young-jo, South Korea 2022, Italian Premiere

Kaidan. Strange Stories of Japanese Ghosts, Yves MONTMAYEUR, France 2023, World Premiere

RESTORED CLASSICS

Nomad (Director's Cut), Patrick TAM, *new wave masterpiece*, Hong Kong 1982/restored 2023, International Premiere

RETROSPECTIVE [21]

A/B side VIBES. Greatest Hits from '80s & '90s

2/Duo, SUWA Nobuhiro, *Amour Fou*, Japan 1997

800 Two-Lap Runners, HIROKI Ryuichi, *sex & sport & rebellion*, Japan 1994

Bloody Morning, Li Shaohong, *drama*, China 1992/restored 2023, International Premiere

Cure, KUROSAWA Kiyoshi, *horror*, Japan 1997/restored 2023

Dang Bireley's and Young Gangsters, Nonzee NIMIBUTR, *the Gangster Era*, Thailand 1997, Italian Premiere

Dust in the Wind, HOU Hsiao-hsien, *drama-romance*, Taiwan 1986/restored 2010

Dust of Angels, HSU Hsiao-ming, *gangsterdrama*, Taiwan 1992/2K restored 2021

Flowers in the City Jail, Mario O'HARA, *women prison melò*, The Philippines 1984/2K restored 2019
A Hot Roof, LEE Min-yong, *comedy*, South Korea 1995, Italian Premiere
A Moment of Romance, Benny CHAN, *action and heart*, Hong Kong 1990/restored 2022, International Premiere
Painting Soul, HUANG Shuqin, *drama-romance*, China 1994/4K restored 2018, International Premiere
A Separated Woman, Chito S. ROÑO, *feminist family drama*, The Philippines 1994/2K restored 2018
Swallowtail Butterfly, IWAI Shunji, *crime drama*, Japan 1996, Italian Premiere
Teenage Fugitive, CHANG Pei-cheng, *irresistible comedy*, Taiwan 1984, International Premiere/restored 2022
Trio, PARK Chan-wook, *comedy crime*, South Korea 1997

Tribute to JANG Sun-woo

Lies, JANG Sun-woo, *drama*, South Korea 1999
The Road to the Racetrack, JANG Sun-woo, *drama*, South Korea 1991
To You, From Me, JANG Sun-woo, *erotic drama*, South Korea 1994

Tribute to Po-Chih LEONG

Hong Kong 1941, Po-Chih LEONG, *war drama*, Hong Kong 1984, Italian Premiere
The Island, Po-Chih LEONG, *campinghorror*, Hong Kong 1985, Italian Premiere
Ping Pong, Po-Chih LEONG, *comedy-mystery*, UK 1986, Italian Premiere

I NUMERI DEL FESTIVAL/FESTIVAL FIGURES

Total films: **78**
Total countries: **14**
Total films in competition: **43**
Female directors: **11** in competition (26%) – **15 in total**
* White Mulberry Award for First Time Director: **12**
* Mulberry Award for Best Screenplay: **6**

World Premiere: **9**
International Premiere: **13**
European Premiere: **14**
Italian Premiere: **23**

ONLINE SECTION

Total films: **22**
(all available in Italy)

Locations:

@TEATRONUOVO
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ALL THE FEFF STARS 2023

HONG KONG

Amos WHY, director, *Everyphone, Everywhere*

Teresa KWONG, producer, *Every, Everywhere*

Jack NG, director, *A Guilty Conscience*

KA Sing-fung, director, *Lost Love*

LO Kim-fei, screenwriter, *Lost Love*

LAU Kok-rui, director, *The Sunny Side of the Street*

CHEUK Wan-chi(Vincci), director, *Vital Sign*

YAU Hawk-Sau(Neo), actor, *Vital Sign*

Po-Chih LEONG, director, *HK 1941; The Island; Ping Pong*

Johnnie TO, director, *Life Without Principle; Office; Sparrow*

JAPAN

Shogen, actor, *December, Your Lovely Smile*

Ryo MATSUURA, actress, *December*

Mina MOTOKI, co-writer and producer, *December*

MATSUNAGA Daishi, director, *Egoist*

OTOMO Keishi, director, *The Legend & Butterfly*

IMOTO Ryusuke, producer, *The Legend & Butterfly*

HIROKI Ryuichi, director, *Phase of the moon; You've Got a Friend, 800 Two-Lap Runners*

HAYAKAWA Chie, director, *Plan 75*

Jason GREY, producer & screenwriter, *Plan 75*

Eiko MIZUNO-GRAY, producer, *Plan 75*

NAKAMURA Mayu, director, *She Is Me, I Am Her*

Nahana, actress, *She Is Me, I Am Her; You've Got a Friend*

WATANABE Hirobumi, director, *Techno Brothers; Way of Life; Your Lovely Smile (actor)*

WATANABE Yuji, composer, *Techno Brothers; Way of Life*

LIM Kah-wai, director, *Your Lovely Smile*

SUZUKI Masayuki, director, *Yudo*

WAKAMATSU Hiroki, producer, *Yudo*

KOYAMA Kundo, screenwriter, *Yudo*

BAISHO Chieko, actress, *Plan 75; Tora-san Our Lovable Tramp; Where Spring Comes Late*

*Golden Mulberry Award for Lifetime Achievement

MALAYSIA

Jin ONG, director, *AbangAdik*

Julia FARHANA, actress, *Coast Guard Malaysia: Ops Helang*

Arie ZAHARIE, producer, *Coast Guard Malaysia: Ops Helang*

Azlan ZAHARIE, producer, *Coast Guard Malaysia: Ops Helang*

MONGOLIA

Bayartsetseg BAYANGEREL, actress, *The Sales Girl*

THE PHILIPPINES

Mikhail RED, director, *Deleter*

Louise DELOS REYES, actress, *Deleter*

Jaisen MORALES, producer, *Deleter*

Ian Alexander GUEVARA, director of photography, *Deleter*
Kenneth DAGATAN, director, *In My Mother's Skin*
EJ JALLORINA, actress, *Where Is the Lie?*
Maris RACAL, actress, *Where Is the Lie?*
Armi Rae CACANINDIN, producer, *Where Is the Lie?*

SINGAPORE

HE Shuming, director, *Ajoomma*
HONG Huifang, actress, *Ajoomma*
Anthony CHEN, producer, *Ajoomma*

SOUTH KOREA

LEE Jeong-eun, producer, *Ditto*
LEE Hae-young, director, *Phantom*
KIM Jin-young, director, *The Other Child*
CHANG Hang-jun, director, *Rebound*
KIM Eun-hee, screenwriter, *Rebound*
JEONG Jin-woon, actor, *Rebound*
Billy ACUMEN, producer, *Rebound*
LEE Hye Young, script supervisor, *To You, from Me*

JANG Sun-Woo, director, *Lies; The Road to the Racetracks; To You, from Me*

TAIWAN

TSENG Ying-ting, director, *The Abandoned*
TANG Tsai-yang, producer, *The Abandoned*
LIN Shiang-ling, co-producer, *The Abandoned*
Kai KO, director, *Bad Education*
Kent TSAI, actor, *Bad Education*
FU Tien-yu, director, *Day Off*
LahaMEBOW, director, *Gaga*
KagawPILING, actress, *Gaga*
CHENG Wei-hao, director, *Marry My Dead Body*
JIN Pai-lunn, producer, *Marry My Dead Body*

USA

Chiaki YANAGIMOTO, director, *AUM: The Cult at the End of the World*
Ben SCHWARTZ, director, *AUM: The Cult at the End of the World*

WHITE MULBERRY AWARD JURY

HO Wi-ding, jury member
Sydney SIBILIA, jury member
Fred TSUI, jury member

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

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

FEFF 25: BAISHO CHIEKO WILL RECEIVE THE GOLDEN MULBERRY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT!

The famous Japanese actress will be presenting *Plan 75*, in which she stars, in Udine, together with two cult titles: the first *Tora-san* film and *Where Spring Comes Late*.

Plan 75, Mention Spéciale at Cannes, will be released in Italian cinemas on 11 May under the Tucker Film banner.

Her filmography is a mile long. Her discography numbers hit after hit. Miyazaki, a great admirer, secretly modelled Sophie Hatter, the main character of *Howl's Moving Castle*, on her... After **Takeshi Kitano**, 2022's winner, this year's **Far East Film Festival Golden Mulberry Award for Lifetime Achievement** will go to **Baisho Chieko**! The famous Japanese actress and singer will be bringing to FEFF 25 her latest film, **Hayakawa Chie's *Plan 75***, and two films that she has personally selected for the Udine audiences: the very first *Tora-san* film and *Where Spring Comes late*.

"When I learned that I'd been invited to the **Far East Film Festival in Udine** and that I would be receiving an award," says Baisho Chieko, "I said to myself, 'Really? For *Plan 75*?'. But instead... What a surprise! The **Golden Mulberry Award for Lifetime Achievement** celebrates all the work I've done since I entered the world of cinema! I'm really happy that my work as an actress is also appreciated abroad: films are a wonderful thing... I want to sincerely thank all the FEFF staff and, of course, I promise that I'll continue to act with passion and dedication..."

Born in 1941, **Baisho Chieko** is very famous for having played the role of Sakura in dozens of *Tora-san* films between 1969 and 1995: beloved cult movies that were the result of a long-lasting artistic partnership with director **Yamada Yoji**. In 1980 she was awarded Best Actress at the Hōchi Film Awards for *Haruka naru yama no yobigoe* (*A Distant Cry of Spring*), also directed by **Yamada Yoji**, and as a very busy voice actress she has often lent her talents to the world of animation, in films like *Gundam*, *Kimba The White Lion* and, as we've already mentioned, *Howl's Moving Castle*.

Plan 75, presented at the 75th Cannes Film Festival (*Caméra d'Or Mention Spéciale*) and at the 40th Turin Film Festival, is the powerful debut film of Japanese director **Hayakawa Chie** and will be released in Italian cinemas on 11 May with distribution by Tucker Film. A project that, as some of you may remember, the director discussed at the industry sessions of Focus Asia of the 2019 FEFF (as well as presenting the collective film *Ten Years Japan*).

Japan, tomorrow. A government program, Plan 75, aims to stem what has now become a national emergency: the ageing of the population. On the one hand are the public costs of welfare. On the other, the possibility for the elderly to resort to state euthanasia in exchange for logistical and financial support. Living or dying is no longer an ethical dilemma: it's a matter of bureaucracy. All you need to be is 75 years old...

Following Michi, an old woman who is just trying to get by, Hiromu, a programme salesman, and Maria, a Filipino nurse, **Hayakawa Chie** gracefully and naturally orchestrates a rigorous social drama where dystopia, realism, moral inquiry and civil reflection converge. *Plan 75* sees the eternal talent of **Baisho Chieko** sparkle in the role of Michi: symbol of an old Japan trying to resist the shocks of time and of modernity.

WHITE MULBERRY AWARD: THE BEST DEBUT FILM IN COMPETITION

THE WINNER WILL BE AWARDED BY AN INTERNATIONAL JURY OF PROFESSIONALS

The **White Mulberry**, the new award that was created for the Festival's 20th anniversary, will be given to the best debut film in competition at FFFF 25. An international jury was summoned to choose the winner:

HO WI DING

Wi Ding Ho, born and raised in Malaysia, attended the film school at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, is currently based in Taipei.

His previous feature film *Terrorizers* world premiered at Toronto International Film Festival. The film was the Opening Film of 2021 Taipei Golden Horse International Film Festival, and garnered five nominations at the Golden Horse Awards. It was screened in various international festivals such as Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival and last year Far Fast Film Festival of Udine.

His second feature film *Cities of Last Things* world premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and won its Platform Award; it also won many awards such as Grand Jury Prize at Beaune International Thriller Film Festival. It was the Opening Film of 2018 Singapore International Film Festival and travels close to twenty international film festivals.

His first feature film *Pinoy Sunday* (funded and supported by NHK, Japan) also world premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Domestically *Pinoy Sunday* made headlines in Taiwanese cinema in 2010 by featuring a film whose main language was not Mandarin and which starred two non-Taiwanese actors, and led to Wi Ding winning Best New Director Award from Golden Horse Award. It has since been hailed as a classic of modern Taiwanese cinema.

Wi Ding was first noticed at Critics Week of Cannes with his short film *RESPIRE*, where it won two awards and later Best Fantasy Short Film at SITGES Fantasy International Award. Back in 2005, the film depicted a distant future where people were required to wear masks by law because of the air born virus. It frightening predicts the Covid-19 pandemic fifteen years later.

Sydney SIBILIA

An Italian film director, producer, and screenwriter (2014 - *I Can Quit Whenever I Want* ; 2020 -*Rose Island*)

Fred TSUI

With over 20 years of experience in Hong Kong's Media Asia Company and currently Moebius Entertainment's founder and CEO, works as consultant for Hong Kong and international companies; he is also script writer, translator and film critic.

Movies in competition:

The Abandoned

by TSENG Ying-Ting
Country: Taiwan
Genre: Crime, Thriller
Year: 2022
Italian Premiere

AbangAdik

by Jin ONG
Country: Malaysia
Genre: Social Issues, Human Rights
Year: 2023
Italian Premiere

Ajoomma

di HESHuming
Country: Singapore
Genre: Drama
Year: 2022
European Premiere

Bad Education

by Kai KO
Country: Taiwan
Genre: Crime
Year: 2022
European Premiere

Coast Guard Malaysia: Ops Helang

by Pitt HANIF
Country: Malaysia
Genre: Action
Year: 2023
International Premiere

A Guilty Conscience

by Jack NG
Country: Hong Kong
Genre: Drama
Year: 2023
European Premiere

A Light Never Goes Out

by Anastasia TSANG
Country: Hong Kong
Genre: Drama
Year: 2022
Italian Premiere

Lost Love

by KA Sing Fung
Country: Hong Kong
Genre: Drama
Year: 2022
European Premiere

The Night Owl

by AN Tae-jin
Country: South Korea
Genre: Thriller
Year: 2022
International Festival Premiere

The Other Child

by KIM Jinyeong
Country: Philippines
Genre: Drama, Thriller
Year: 2022
Italian Premiere

The Sunny Side of the Street

by LAU Kok-ruì
Country: Hong Kong
Genre: Drama
Year: 2023
European Premiere

You & Me & Me

by Wanwaew and Waewwan HONGVIVATANA
Country: Thailand
Genre: Coming of Age, Romance, Youth/Teen, Drama
Year: 2023
European Premier

THE MULBERRY AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY 2023

The **Far East Film Festival** of Udine and the “**Sergio Amidei**” **International Award for Best Screenplay** of Gorizia meet in the heart of Asia: this year, for the second time, we will be awarding the **Mulberry for Best Screenplay**, which will see the Amidei award jurors crown one of the titles in competition at FEFF 25.

The collaboration between the FEFF and Amidei will continue over time and marks the first shared step in **GO! 2025**, the project developed in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia around the upcoming European capitals of culture: Gorizia and Nova Gorica.

This is an important collaboration because it brings together two important artistic events, but it also offers valuable recognition because it involves a highly qualified Western jury examining Asian screenwriting, in particular that of genre films.

The four experts who will be voting are:

Massimo Gaudioso, scriptwriter and director
Marco Risi, director, scriptwriter and producer
Marco Pettenello, scriptwriter
Francesco Munzi, director and scriptwriter

Below are the nine candidates chosen by the Far East Film Festival selection committee:

Egoist

Director: MATSUNAGA Daishi
Scriptwriters: MATSUNAGA Daishi, INUKAI Kyoko
Cast: SUZUKI Ryohei, MIYAZAWA Hio, AGAWA Sawako
Country: Giappone

Day Off

Director: FU Tien-Yu
Scriptwriters: FU Tien-Yu
Cast: LU Hsiao-fen, FU Meng-po, SHIH Ming-shuai, Annie CHEN, Beatrice FANG
Country: Taiwan

In My Mother's Skin

Director: Kenneth Dagatan
Scriptwriters: Kenneth Dagatan
Cast: Angeli Bayani Arnold, Beauty Gonzalez, Felicity Kyle Napuli, James Mavie Estrella, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, Reyes Ronnie Lazaro
Country: Filippine

The Other Child

Director: KIM Jinyeong
Scriptwriters: KIM Jinyeong
Cast: PARK Hyo-ju, KIM Min-jae, CHA Sun-woo, KYUNG Da-eun, AN Ye-rim, PARK Jae-jun, KIM Ra-on
Country: Corea del Sud

The Sales Girl

Director: Janchivdorj SENGEDORJ

Scriptwriters: Janchivdorj SENGEDORJ

Cast: Bayarjargal BAYARTSETSEG, Oidovjamts ENKHTUUL

Country: Mongolia

Yudo – The Way of the Bath

Director: SUZUKI Masayuki

Scriptwriters: KOYAMA Kundo

Cast: HAMADA Gaku, HASHIMOTO Kanna, IKUTA Toma

Country: Giappone



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 FEFF, 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. For the second year, 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."

Kim Dong-ho has confirmed to chair MIFFest for another year. The president and founder of MIFFest, Joanne Goh: "A man who revolutionized Korean Cinema, he has gained multiple international accolades for his achievements to both the film business and the cultural growth of the Republic of Korea because of his amazing dynamism, his trust in film and his charisma. In the film industry, Kim Dong Ho's achievements are truly peerless and remarkable."

MIFFest has also confirmed that it will be held from July 23 to 29 this year.

For more information about the 6th MIFFest 2023, please visit miffest.com.my.

For more information, please visit
www.miffest.com.my or email to pr@mgsa.com.my

MAKING WAVES

Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema 2023

Making Waves - Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema ("Making Waves") is a touring film programme presented by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society and financially supported by Create Hong Kong. First launched in 2022, *Making Waves* has already travelled to 15 international cities, showcasing Hong Kong filmmakers whose works transformed film aesthetics and heralded unprecedented awareness of socio-political issues.

The 2023 edition of *Making Waves* will kick off in Udine in April with a programme highlighting the richness of Hong Kong's phenomenal filmmaking talents, featuring the latest releases, a restored classic, and a masterclass series with the legendary Johnnie To.

"We hope this programme can take you through Hong Kong cinema's evolution, celebrating its past success while offering insights into a new dawn built on resilience and creative innovation" (Hong Kong International Film Festival Society).

Making Waves 2023 will feature the following films in Udine:

- A Guilty Conscience (Jack Ng)
- A Light Never Goes Out (Anastasia Tsang)
- A Moment of Romance (Restored) (Benny Chan)
- Lost Love (Sing-fung Ka)
- Mad Fate (Soi Cheang)
- Vital Sign (Wan-chi Cheuk)
- Where the Wind Blows (Philip Yung)
- Life Without Principle (Johnnie To)
- Office (Johnnie To)
- Sparrow (Johnnie To)

FEFF ONLINE

22 titles from the 2023 line-up available in streaming for Italy. Passes on sale from April 6th on the platform Mymovies ONE.

The **Far East Film Festival** returned to its classic format and to the stage at the Teatro Nuovo and Visionario. But the **online experience** of the previous FEFFs isn't going away – quite the opposite, in fact: it's going ahead at full steam and is now a **regular part of the Festival**.

Supported, as always, by **MYmovies**, **FEFF online** will offer a selection of **22 titles from the 2023 line-up**.

The accreditation is on sale from April 6th on the platform of Mymovies ONE for the Italian country.

Don't forget, you can access the **28 films of FEFF online from the 22nd of April for the entire duration of the Festival** (giving you 24 hours to watch from the moment you first click).



**FAR EAST
FILM
FESTIVAL
25**

WONDERLAND AT THE FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 2023 IN UDINE

The now-historic media partnership between "**Wonderland**" and Udine's "**Far East Film Festival**" is back once again this year. A double appointment with "Wonderland" for all fans of Asian cinema: in the late evening of Tuesday the 18th of April there will be the presentation of the 25th edition of the Far East Film Festival with a line-up bursting with previews of the densely-packed programme, followed in May by the usual special edition of the show featuring the complete history of the FEFF, with interviews with this year's guests and insights into the films.

On air in the late evening every Tuesday on Rai4 (digital terrestrial channel 21) since 2011, "Wonderland" is a weekly RAI Culture magazine programme dedicated to current affairs and an in-depth analysis of the fantasy and crime macro-genres, with a transversal approach to media and forms of expression like cinema, TV shows, video games, comics and art, tackling both fiction and non-fiction. The programme's various sections range from the latest news to an anthological look at the past, always with a focus on the relationship between the realities of the real world and the imaginative worlds of the arts.

"Wonderland" has been participating in the Far East Film Festival since 2013 to promote new trends in action, thriller, horror and martial arts films coming out of the Far East. Over the years the show has interviewed directors, actors, writers and academics including Johnnie To, Jackie Chan, Donnie Yen, Anthony Wong, Ching Wan Lau, Francis Ng, Herman Yau, Erica Li, Ryou Seung-wan, Shinya Tsukamoto, Roger Garcia and many more.

The 2022-2023 season will close in July with a special dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the tragic death of **Bruce Lee**, the greatest Asian film icon of all time.

On the occasion of the 25th edition of the Far East Film Festival, which will take place from the 21st to the 29th of April at the Teatro Nuovo and at the Visionario cinema in Udine, Rai4 will dedicate part of its early and late evening programming to cinema from the Far East with its **Far East Week** season. This will be accompanied by a visual theme created by the Rai Communication Department Creative office which will also be shown before FEFF screenings at cinemas in Udine. The opening film, in the early evening of Saturday the 22nd of April, will be Lee Won-tae's memorable Korean thriller **The Gangster, the Cop, the Devil**.

"Wonderland" is a programme by Leopoldo Santovincenzo, Carlo Modesti Pauer, Andrea Fornasiero and Enrico Platania. Executive producer Sabrina La Croix, editing and production secretary Leonardo Fiore, directed by Alessandro Rotili. A Rai Culture and Educational Department production.

Wonderland

FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 25

The Forces of the FEFF Campus Unite!

Far East Film Festival welcomes 10 aspiring journalists into the global FEFF Family.

UDINE – The connection between **the cinemas of East and West** grows strong with each passing year and the **FEFF Campus** initiative plays its part each year. In 2023, once again we'll be hosting **10 aspiring journalists – five from Asia and five from Europe** – at this year's **25th edition of the Far East Film Festival** in Udine, Italy from **21 April to 29 April**.

And a look at the nations and territories they 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 **Olivia Popp** (Taiwan), **Sasha Han** (Singapore), **Eunyoung Kwak** (South Korea), **Jody Chan** (Hong Kong), **Federica Giampaolo** (Italy), **Dora Leu** (Romania), **Hannah Martinez** (Spain), **Will Rowan** (UK), **Viktor Toth** (Hungary), and **Mladen Pechevski** (Bulgaria).

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 has become an integral part of the FEFF family each year and we are thrilled to once again welcome 10 emerging talents from across the globe to Udine," said FEFF co-founder and president Sabrina Baracetti. "Our goal is 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 journalists 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 2023, 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 9th edition of the **FEFF Campus** is this year being supported by the Asian film-industry platform **Easternkicks.com** as well as by the likes of the **Taiwan News**, **Telum Media**, **Cineuropa** and **The New Straits Times**.

Focus Asia 2023

New ideas, new partners, new spaces

After the success of the 2022 edition, which was marked by the return to Udine of hundreds of industry professionals from all over the world, **Focus Asia** is back, with renewal as its catchword.

There are only a few days left before the announcement of the official selection of the *ALL GENRES PROJECT MARKET* - a section dedicated to projects in development suitable for co-production between Asia and Europe - and of *FAR EAST IN PROGRESS* - the first and only platform in Europe dedicated to Asian films seeking international distribution and previews at festivals – but there are already plenty of exciting new developments to reveal.

Now in its eighth edition, Focus Asia, the industry section of the Far East Film Festival, has managed to build up an extremely solid network of important international partners in order to launch an ambitious new programme that aims to unite the film industries of East and West more than ever.

For the first time, Focus Asia and *Ties That Bind*, the historic workshop that has been bringing together producers from Asia and Europe in Udine for over 14 years, is launching a partnership with the **Marché du Film-Festival de Cannes** in order to construct a programme based around two events: the first at the end of April as part of Focus Asia and the second in Cannes as part of the new *Spotlight Asia* project. The idea is to offer around twenty producers who have been selected and supported by the **British Film Institute, Canada Media Fund, Ciclic - Centre-Val de Loire, Luxembourg Film Fund, Norwegian Film Institute, Netherlands Film Fund** and **Polish Film Institute** a bespoke programme designed to highlight the real opportunities offered by the two continents and thus stimulate new forms of collaboration.

The team from **Europa Distribution**, the main European network of independent distributors, will also be back in Udine, this time accompanied by 20 distributors from over 16 European countries who will be taking part in the brand new *Distribution Lab*. The workshop will include case studies, group work and screenings and will be entirely dedicated to discovering and sharing best practices and innovative strategies for promoting the distribution of Asian cinema in Europe and vice versa.

But the reach of the Focus Asia 2023 partner network isn't confined to the West: numerous partnerships have been confirmed and initiated this year with the main funding and promotional entities in the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and Taiwan.

Once again this year **TAICCA - Taiwan Creative Content Agency** confirms its central role in planning all the industry activities of the Far East Film Festival, and after becoming the main Asian partner of Ties That Bind and having hosted the premiere session of the workshop in Taipei last November, introduces the **TAICCA/Focus Asia Co-production Award**, a prize worth €10,000 which will be awarded to the project with the greatest potential for co-production between Europe and Asia.

And in addition to the launch of this extremely important new award, thanks to its collaboration with **FDCP - Film Development Council of the Philippines, VIPO - Visual Industry Promotion Organization, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, IMDA - Infocomm Media Development Authority** and **TAICCA - Taiwan Creative Content Agency**, and the support of **ICE - Agenzia per la promozione all'estero e l'internazionalizzazione delle imprese italiane**, the Focus Asia programme's Project Market and the Far East in Progress section will in fact be able to count on the direct support of the directors and producers of the projects and works in progress at this edition, with the aim of guaranteeing the physical presence of the greatest number of selected teams.

And finally, this large-scale renewal in terms of content and collaboration also extends to the physical locations of the event itself. In fact, for the first time, all the activities dedicated to the industry public of Focus Asia, i.e. the circa 200 professionals from the international film industry who will meet in Udine from the 26th to the 28th of April, will be welcomed at the *Torre S. Maria* and the *Foresteria* of **Confindustria Udine**, a point of reference for local industry.

TIES THAT BIND IN UDINE!

The second workshop of the 14th edition of **TIES THAT BIND** will take place between April 24 – 28, 2023, in Udine, in **parallel to FOCUS ASIA**, the Industry section of the Udine Far East Film Festival.

The rich programme of the plenary sessions for the TTB workshop is prepared in **collaboration with FOCUS ASIA**. It will feature **three co-production case studies**, moderated by TTB Head of Studies **Christophe Bruncher**:

- **TTB graduates Bianca Balbuena and Bradley Liew** (Epicmedia Productions, PH), **Junxiang Huang** (Zhao Wei Films, SG) and **Stefano Centini** (Volos Films, TW) produced **IN MY MOTHER'S SKIN** by Kenneth Dagatan, which premiered in **Midnight Section at Sundance 2023** as the only non-English-language film and was sold to Amazon.
- **TTB graduates Jeremy Chua** (Potocol, SG) and **Bostjan Virc** (Studio Virc, SI) will elaborate on producing debut feature **LAST SHADOW AT FIRST LIGHT** by Nicole Midori Woodford. The film is coproduced by Shozo Ichiyama's Fourier Films (JP), in association with Purple Tree Content, 108 Media, cogitoworks, Nocturne Films, Hello Group, Prism Pictures, White Light Bangkok, VS Service, and True Colour Media.
- **Emilie Georges** (Paradise City, UK & Memento International, FR) will share her experiences on 4-country-co-production (FR-UK-GR-SG) **DRIFT** by Anthony Chen, shown in the **Premieres Section at Sundance 2023**. Sales are handled by **Memento International**.

Furthermore, the TTB participants will have the opportunity to receive **feedback on the distribution potential** of their projects from top-notch Asian and European distributors. Sales agent **Nicolas Brigaud-Robert** (Playtime, FR) will elaborate on the current trends of the **international market**. Additional sessions will provide insight into **working with private equity investors**.


Individual meetings with TTB experts will be organised on topics such as Asian films and festivals with **Roger Garcia** (HK) and sales opportunities with **Yasmine Talli** (mk2 films, FR). TTB's script consultant **Clare Downs** (UK) will focus on developing their scripts and TTB's pitching consultant **Sibylle Kurz** (DE) will work on their presentation and communication skills.


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:


 **Kristina Aschenbrennerova**, International Film Festival Rotterdam & Slovak Queer Film Festival, Slovakia


 **Ivry Braun**, Yilisoo Films, France/China
Project: ALMOST THERE by **Baer Xiao**


 **Ieva Cern**, Film Jam, Lithuania
Project: CHINA SEA by **Jurgis Matulevicius**


 **Antonio Ferreira**, Persona Non Grata Pictures, Portugal
Project: LAND OF HURRICANES by **Antonio Ferreira**


 **Josune Hahnheiser**, Black Forest Films, Germany


 **Pedro Hernández**, Aquí Y Allí Films, Spain
Project: KONBINI by **Pedro Collantes**


 **Chris Huang**, Roji Film, Japan
Project: OMIONNA by Koji Shiraishi


 **Celine Kao**, Ksana Films, Taiwan


 **Charlotte Lelong**, Trance Films, France
Project: SHE MAKES AND UNMAKES by **Jonas Bak**


 **Wilfredo Manalang**, Fusee, Philippines
Project: VIOLET FLOWER by **Jerome Zamora**

 **Tommaso Muffato**, BBC Studios, Italy/UK

 **Giancarlo Nasi**, Quijote Films, Italy/Chile
Project: CELESTIAL TWINS by **Niles Athala**

 **Xuan Trang Nguyen Thi**, Lagi, Vietnam
Project: CHA CHA CHA by **Do Quoc Trung**

 **Ivy Shen**, Betula Films, Taiwan
Project: THE LAST CHILDREN OF TOKYO by **Edmund Yeo**

 **Jeske Van der Slikke**, International Film Festival Rotterdam/Hubert Bals Fund, Netherlands

 **Aleksandra Zakharchenko**, Marché du Film –Festival de Cannes, France/Ukraine

For more information please contact:

EAVE Coordinator - Tanika Sajatovic: tanika@eave.org

www.eave.org, www.tiesthatbind.eu

BAMBÙ

Asian current affairs at Feff from Giulia Pompili and Francesco Radicioni

BAMBÙ – A DEBATE EVERY DAY

Monday to Friday, 17:30

There's more to Asia than films and TV shows, so from Monday to Friday the Feff will play host to an appointment with political and social current affairs. Journalists Giulia Pompili and Francesco Radicioni will talk to guests and experts in a daily show focusing on Asia and its place in the world. We'll dig into the debate on technology and the competition between superpowers like America and China, we'll go to Southeast Asia to find out how religion merges with populism and see positive examples of an increasingly important region on the international scene, we'll fly over those borders like the South China Sea, Taiwan and the 38th parallel that, as Philippine President Marcos put it, keep us up at night, and we'll try to analyse the histories of countries like Japan, Korea and China that continue to determine diplomacy and politics. And finally we will try to understand how Asia is portrayed in Italy, without sensationalism or exoticism.

BAMBÙ – THE PRESS REVIEW

From Monday to Friday, 17:30

How the media see Asia and how Asia talks about itself. Every morning from Monday to Friday, journalists Giulia Pompili and Francesco Radicioni conduct a press review of Asian news in local, international and Italian newspapers.

FAR EAST FILM EVENTS

21/04 > 29/04

SHOWS & GAMES

Once again this year, the atmosphere of Asia will flood Udine with dance and martial arts performances and fun events for all, including popular Asian games. There'll be demonstrations of Asian traditions in the streets of the centre, including the famous tea ceremony and the Chinese dragon dance, as well as Pokémon hunts, card games and giant Chinese chessmen.

COSPLAY CONTEST

24/04

H 16:00

Loggia del Lionello

The Cosplay Contest is one of the FEFF's most eagerly-awaited events! For one day, the historic centre of Udine will be overrun by characters from the world of manga, anime, comics, cinema, music and video games. There'll also be a ton of K-pop entertainment, namely dancing to Korean pop music by dance groups Olympus and Lightxy. The competition will be emceed by the legendary Giorgia Cosplay, and the many prizes up for grabs even include a trip to Japan!

The judges of the competition will be Louis Guglielmero (famous Jack Sparrow impersonator), Salvatore Carboni (co-founder of The King of Games), Silvio Franceschinelli (journalist and promoter of Japanese and Korean culture) and Alice Higurashi (cosplayer and organizer of cosplay events). To find out about the prizes and to register, consult the website events.fareastfilm.com.

TALKS

A series of events - conferences, book presentations and talks - focused on Asia, with experts on Asian culture tackling topics ranging from philosophy and religion to art and history in the spaces of the Tina Modotti Gallery and the bookshops in the centre of Udine (Tarantola, Odòs and Friuli).

WORKSHOPS

For those who prefer practice to theory, the FEFF workshops will allow you indulge yourself in applied arts and dozens of disciplines to express your creative, personal side. The many activities on offer include umbrella painting, haiku writing, *kurinuki* pottery, *kintsugi* gold repair, various kinds and uses of origami, *shibari* ropes, *kokedama* and *ikebana*.

KIDS

At the Far East Film Festival there's space for even the littlest ones to express themselves!

There'll be several events dedicated exclusively to children which will transport them to Asia through art, food and stories. Are you ready to pack your bag and set off with us?

Children will be able to create, play, discover... and ride their bikes as they follow the typical Japanese *Kamishibai* theatre. Older kids, on the other hand, will have an entire afternoon dedicated to immersing themselves in the world of Manga and learning to draw their favourite characters!

WELLNESS

The Giardini del Torso and the Loris Fortuna gardens will be hosting a range of outdoor activities where you can stretch and relax between FEFF screenings and look after your psycho-physical well-being. You'll be able to try various yoga techniques, tai chi, Chinese morning gymnastics, several types of massages, meditation, gong baths, reflexology and mindfulness.

FAR EAST FOOD

Food is an essential way of understanding cultures, and to explore Asia we offer you culinary insights in several locations around the city centre: the Vineria and La Botte in Via Manin and the Metropolis in Via Mercatovecchio. You'll be able to attend cooking

show demonstrations and participate in tastings of Asian flavours: fine teas, curry, Chinese dumplings, soups, spirits, matcha and kombucha. Is your mouth watering yet?

CASA RAMEN

21/04 > 29/06

Visionario

Renowned award-winning chef Luca Catalfamo has brought his famous "Casa Ramen" to the restaurant area on the first floor of the Visionario in Udine, where he will once again be offering aficionados ramen (a vegetarian version will also be available) in a menu inspired by Japanese *izakaya* that will also include traditional Japanese dishes, revisited with ingredients and raw materials from local producers. Ready to slurp down your Ramen while you wait for the films of the Far East Film Festival 25?

CASA GIAPPONESE

21/04 > 29/04

Teatro Nuovo

By Gastronomia Yamamoto

Aya Yamamoto's Gastronomia arrives at FEFF25 with a dedicated *conbini* corner (like the typical Japanese shops offering everything 24/7). Customers will be able to purchase various products from the land of the Rising Sun such as sakè or Japanese beers, and there will be delicious hot dishes cooked to order which can be eaten standing up while waiting for the next Festival screening.

FEFFNIC

25/04

H 12:00-16:00

Giardini del Torso

By Shi's, UdinElettronica

A blanket, a few friends and something nice to eat: that's all you need for a FEFF-style picnic! So you bring the friends and the blanket and leave the bento (the classic Japanese food box) to us. Or rather, to SHI'S, because the restaurant will be preparing a special FEFF edition menu for the occasion, which you can pick up - after having booked beforehand - at the Giardino del Torso. In the background there'll be atmospheric music from UdinElettronica, a collective of artists and musical aggregator from the Udine area working with sound experimentation. Four different live sets and four back-to-back DJ sets providing a constant flow of music during the event.

CONCERTI

24/04

H 20.30

Auditorium Zanon

Concerto Tim Hecker

By Cas*Aupa

Two decades into his career, Tim Hecker's ability to create evocative soundscapes has won him the hearts of music fans around the world. His music transcends genres and challenges conventions, fusing echoes of classical music, electronic noise and ambient experimentation. With his skilful use of synthesizers, guitars and samples, Hecker builds a three-dimensional sound space in which every note, sound and texture blend, creating a symphony of emotions.

PINK NIGHT

22/04

H 19.00-00.00

Casa della Contadinanza (Castello)

Curated by FEFF, Barbara Stimoli, and Frute

The Pink night is an evening inspired by Japanese film genre *pinku eiga* - films containing nudity and sexual content. Since the first edition, the Pink night has always focused on the representation of human bodies and explored the various aspects of eros

through talks, book presentations, performances, installations and DJ sets. This year, a performance of collective *Il mio filippino* offers a decolonial reading of Asian Filipino bodies, while the collection of the writings of female philosopher He-Yin Zhen focuses on Chinese anarcho-feminism. The evening's music is curated by Martina Ruggeri, aka Bunny Dakota, founding member of Roman performing and visual arts collective Industria Indipendente.

UDINE COCKTAIL WEEK FEFF EDITION

MASTERCLASS+DRINKS+PARTY+DJ SET+CONTEST

24>29/ 04

On the occasion of the FEFF, the second edition of mixed drinks event Udine Cocktail Week will be dedicated to the Far East. Through masterclasses, tastings and events, participants will be able to delve into Asian-style mixology and discover the secrets of *Omakase* - which means giving the chef carte blanche – and the fascinating world of Far Eastern spirits.

FAR EAST COCKTAIL CONTEST

The Far East Cocktail Contest sees several barmen facing off in the creation of an Asian-style cocktail exclusive to the bar they call home. How to take part? Simple, just try the drinks in the competition from the list below! How to vote? Point your phone at the QR code which is present in every room and "like" the one you've fallen in love with. The cocktail that collects the most likes will win the contest. Here are the bartenders in the competition:

Simone Maion - Mr. Simon (via Antonio Bardelli 4, Torreano di Martignacco)

Alex de Sabbata - Ginger (Via Poscolle, 5, Udine)

Max Beltrame - Liberty (Viale del Ledra, 56/b, Udine)

Gianmarco Pecoraro - Shi's (Largo dei Pecile, 15, Udine)

Matteo Comelli - BarLume (Via Mercatovecchio, 4, Udine)

Tristan Cabbai - Mo-Mart (Via Paolo Sarpi, 15/A, Udine)

Luca Fabbro - Le Fucine Bistrot (Via Nazionale, 54, Buttrio)

Giovanni Esposito - Piccolo Bar (Via Rialto, 2, Udine)

CLOSING PARTY

29/04

H 22.00-00.00

Casa della Contadinanza (Castello)

by Hiroko Hacci

The FEFF25 closing party will be soundtracked by Hiroko Hacci, a Japanese artist living in Milan where she is currently resident DJ at Le Cannibale. A multifaceted and chameleon-like artist, her eclectic sound fluidly transforms and evolves the atmospheres of the music festivals, clubs and private parties she plays. She is an integral part of electro/pop project "Omnine" with Gak Sato and in 2021 released the "Ombre" LP in collaboration with Tamburi Neri.

CINEMAESCAPE

26/04

H 20.30 - 22.00

Cinema Centrale

by XH STUDIO

Cinemaescape brings the playful experience of escape rooms to the cinema, transforming it into a 60-minute trap. To test people's wisdom, Chinese sage Liu Ming devised puzzles which allowed him to select his students. One of them, though, decided to go beyond the limits in the pursuit of knowledge so as to eliminate ignorance from the world. A deadly game, where only the smartest will survive - this is the movie you'll be playing. Will you be able to survive the Cinemaescape?

FAR EAST MARKET

20/04 > 29/04

10:00-20:00

Via Mercatovecchio

On the occasion of the Festival, Via Mercatovecchio, the street at the heart of the historic centre of Udine, is transformed into... Via Asia! How? By hosting the Festival's Far East Market, an unmissable experience for those who want to indulge in a bit of shopping between a film and an event, or let themselves be tempted by the aromas and flavours of Asian cuisine. Just as the Silk Road united East and West and favoured the exchange of goods and cultures, the market will host stalls selling Made-in-Asia products, from gastronomy to gifts and handicrafts. Ready to go shopping with one foot in the East and one in the West? We'll be waiting for you!

INFO

We've sorted the events into categories to make it easier to find them by type, or alternatively you can see the events planned for each day in the calendar section.

HOW CAN I TAKE PART?

Participation varies according to the event, and can be:

- > free and not requiring booking
- > free but requiring booking
- > not free and requiring booking

Booking and advance payment can be done:

- > online through the Far East Film **Eventbrite** channel (feff.eventbrite.it)
- > at the **Visionario** ticket office
- > at the ticket office in the **Teatro Nuovo** bookshop

CONTATTI

Infoline: +39 388 757 6783

events.fareastfilm.com

promozione@ce cudine.org

Eventbrite: feff.eventbrite.it

Facebook: Far East Events & Cosplay

Instagram: [fareastfilmevents](https://www.instagram.com/fareastfilmevents)

CASA RAMEN VISIONARIO

The pop-up restaurant in Via Asquini renews its gastronomic temptations for gourmet Fareasters!

The **Far East Film Festival 25** is coming to town: for nine days, **from the 21st to the 29th of April**, the international spotlight will be focused on the **Teatro Nuovo** theatre and the **Visionario** cinema. And while the **Visionario** is spending the time until the lights go down preparing its celebration of the beauty of Asian cinema, the countdown to **FEFF 25** has also officially begun at **Casa Ramen Visionario**, with **extended opening hours and lunch also being served**. In fact, when the festival starts it will be possible to book from 12:00 to 14:00.

Active since December, **Casa Ramen Visionario** (open from Tuesday to Saturday) allows its guests to sample the same experience offered by chef Luca Catalfamo's famous Casa Ramen in Milan, whose ramen (critics agree) is among the best in Europe. And just so you know who you're dealing with, Luca even won over the managers of the Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum in 2014 when he opened a pop-up restaurant in the world capital of ramen: Japan!

And remember: ramen are supposed to be slurped, not simply eaten. Yes, that might sound almost like a cartoonish caricature, but it's the truth: for the Japanese, the slurping is a ritual, almost sacred act: the proper way to savour ramen the way it's supposed to be savoured. So are you ready to slurp your way through the delicious dishes of chef Luca while we wait for the opening night of the **Far East Film Festival 25**?

For more information and bookings, go to www.visionario.movie.

24 April, 20:30
Zanon Auditorium, Udine

TIM HECKER

in concert

The 25th edition of the FEFF will be celebrated on the **24th of April** (at 8.30 pm) with an unforgettable musical experience at the Zanon Auditorium in Udine, featuring visionary ambient and electronic music genius **Tim Hecker**.

Hecker's work dissolves the boundaries between art and music in a flow of emotions and vibration, and two decades into his career his ability to create evocative soundscapes has won him the hearts of music fans around the world. His music transcends genres and challenges conventions, fusing echoes of classical music, electronic noise and ambient experimentation in a unique and exciting mix.

Each Tim Hecker live performance is a journey through a universe of sound and sensation - a profound listening experience that will envelop you and transport you to another world. Through skilful use of synthesizers, guitars and samples, Hecker builds a three-dimensional sound space in which every note, sound and texture blend perfectly, creating a symphony of emotions.

The only Italian date of the No Highs Spring EU Tour, organized by Cas'Aupa in collaboration with the Far East Film Festival 2023.

Limited number of seats available!

link: <https://dice.fm/event/ebv86-tim-hecker-casaupa-x-feff2023-24th-apr-auditorium-zanon-udine-tickets>

FEFF 25 INFO

LOCATIONS

Teatro Nuovo Giovanni da Udine
Via Trento, Udine

Visionario
via Asquini 33, Udine

TICKETS

Teatro Nuovo Giovanni da Udine

Morning shows (weekday): € 6,00 per film.

Morning shows (non-working day): € 10,00 per film.

Afternoon shows (weekday): € 8,00 per film (€ 10 for both).

Afternoon shows (non-working day): € 10,00 per film (€ 15 for both).

Night shows: € 10,00 a film (€ 15 for both).

Midnight show: € 6,00

Daily: € 25,00

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

Opening hours:

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

Visionario

All the shows (weekday): € 6,00

All the shows (non-working day): € 10,00

On sale at the ticket office at Visionario

Opening hours:

April 23th: from 1:30 p.m. until the beginning of the last screening of the day

PASSES

Everybody will be able to purchase an accreditation online or at the Visionario movie theatre in Udine (via Asquini 33). The White Tiger, White Tiger Under 26, and Black Dragon accreditations will give you access to all the online films as well as the in-person screenings at the Visionario and Centrale movie theatres. **Early bird prices available until 30 May.**

types of accreditation available:

- **Red Panda**
- **Red Panda Under 26**
- **White Tiger**
- **White Tiger Under 26**
- **Black Dragon**
- **Press**

RED PANDA / RED PANDA UNDER 26

It is valid for the entire Festival and grants access to 4 screenings* of your choice per day (until seating capacity, pre-booking required). Along with your badge, you will receive the FEFF25 bag and a coupon with a special discount for the purchase of the 2023 catalogue.

The Red Panda Under 26 is available for all people under 26 years old.

Red Panda price:

- € 59,00 (Early Bird price, available from 6 February to 6 March 2023)
- € 69,00 (from 7 March to 12 April 2023)
- € 79,00 (price if you buy the accreditation during the festival)

Red Panda Under 26 price:

- € 39,00 (Early Bird price, available from 6 February to 6 March 2023)
- € 49,00 (from 7 March to 12 April 2023)
- € 59,00 (price if you buy the accreditation during the festival)

In order to have the early bird price, accreditation has to be requested and paid by Monday, 6 March.

* Information on how to access the Opening Movie (21 April) and Closing Movie (29 April) will be available a few days before the start of the festival.

WHITE TIGER / WHITE TIGER UNDER 26

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 FEFF25 bag and a coupon with a special discount for the purchase of the 2023 catalogue.

The White Tiger Under 26 accreditation is available for all people under 26 years old.

White Tiger price:

- € 69,00 (Early Bird price, available from 6 February to 6 March 2023)
- € 79,00 (from 7 March to 12 April 2023)

- € 89,00 (price if you buy the accreditation during the festival)

White Tiger Under 26 price:

- € 59,00 (Early Bird price, available from 6 February to 6 March 2023)
- € 69,00 (from 7 March to 12 April 2023)
- € 79,00 (price if you buy the accreditation during the festival)

In order to have the early bird price, accreditation has to be requested and paid by Monday, 6 March.

* Information on how to access the Opening Movie (21 April) and Closing Movie (29 April) will be available a few days before the start of the festival.

BLACK DRAGON

It is valid for the entire festival and grants access to all the screenings* with a personal reserved seat** of your choice. Along with your badge, you will receive the FEFF25 bag and a copy of the 2023 catalogue.

Black Dragon price:

- € 200,00

Available from 6 February to 12 April 2023 without any price increase.

From January 25 to February 1 2023, 2022 Black Dragon badgeholders will be able to apply for a Black Dragon accreditation and confirm the reservation of the same seat as last year.

* Information on how to access the Opening Movie (21 April) and Closing Movie (29 April) will be available a few days before the start of the festival.

** Detailed information to access the screenings will be sent to you before 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 FEFF25 bag and a coupon with a special discount for the purchase of the 2023 catalogue.

PRESS accreditation price:

- € 45,00

Available from 6 February to 12 April 2023 and during the festival, without any price increase.

* Information on how to access the Opening Movie (21 April) and Closing Movie (29 April) will be available a few days before the start of the festival.

For more information about accreditations, please write to registration@cecudine.org

INFO POINT

@Teatro Nuovo an info point is available for information about the program and side events.

Opening hours: 08:30 a.m. > 10:30 p.m.

HOSTING/ACCOMMODATION IN UDINE

For all the info about accommodation in Udine during the Festival (hotels, B&B, affiliated restaurants, transportation and much more) please visit www.fareastfilm.com

GUEST RELATIONS OFFICE AND PASSES PURCHASE

All guest related information and passes pick up and purchase are handled by the office at **Teatro Nuovo G. da Udine**.

Opening hours: 8:45 a.m. > 08:00 p.m.

ONLY APRIL 21st : 1:00 p.m. > 10:00 p.m.

PRESS DESK

at **Teatro Nuovo G. da Udine first floor**

Opening hours: 9 a.m. > 7.30 p.m.

SCREENINGS

All movies are screened in their own original language, with English and Italian subtitles.

#FEFF25 (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

With a tribe of 35.000 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

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

Twitter → twitter.com/fareastfilm

Do not miss anything out: you only need one simple hashtag! **#FEFF25**

Tumblr → 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

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

A programme of events and initiatives made in Asia!

YouTube → youtube.com/user/visionariotube

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

FEFF 25 GOES GREEN!

The FEFF joins the AFIC network of Green Festivals and puts "green actions" in place.

The FEFF continues its commitment to its "green" mission by joining the AFIC Green Festival network and implementing "green actions" in the context of:

- sustainable mobility
- sustainable energy consumption (partly thanks to energy-saving systems and equipment)
- printing of materials (reduction of printed materials, use of certified paper)
- displays/stands etc. (reuse and adaptation of materials from past editions, recycled and certified materials)
- waste management (collaboration with Net, public and staff awareness, waste reduction)
- production of giveaway items (useful, long-lasting and sustainable, made with certified materials, ethical fashion)
- food sustainability (km0, low CO2 impact menu), incentives for the use of public water
- environmental culture and social sustainability (inclusive and trans-generational staff, local suppliers, accessibility)
- management of guests (with verification of accommodation facility characteristics)
- training and communication (workshops and meetings for schools on sustainability issues, events aimed at the public)
- assessment of the impact of the festival
- no greenwashing

To look at just one of these aspects - sustainable mobility - since the organisation of and participation in the event make it impossible to completely eliminate air travel, most of the films now use "digital delivery," while on a local scale low-emission vehicles are preferred, the use of public transport and bike sharing are promoted, the services that the city offers in terms of transport, electric car charging, bike sharing are highlighted, and guests are sensitised to walking and using public transport for their movements. Parallel events are organised in all the pedestrian areas of the city.

On the morning of the 26th of April, educational project *Together We Go Green* will also be presented inside the Teatro Nuovo Giovanni da Udine Theatre. The presentation will be carried out by students of the Uccellis International Chinese Scientific High School who are engaged in a cross-cultural journey to discover good practices and to raise awareness of a more sustainable lifestyle, carried out in collaboration with the Regional Laboratory of Environmental Education of ARPA FVG. The Video Documentation Laboratory of the course (in which students from the Tsinghua International School Daoxiang Lake in Beijing will participate remotely) is being managed by the Centre for Visual Arts of the Mario Quargnolo Media Library of the Visionario, with funding from the National Cinema Plan for Schools - CIPS for the academic year 2022-2023.