

21—29 APRIL 2023 / TEATRO NUOVO, VISIONARIO / UDINE, ITALY

FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL 25



CLOSURE REPORT

UDINE FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL

The Far East Film Festival (FEFF) is the largest festival for popular Asian cinema in Europe. It takes place every year in Udine, Italy, and is organized by a non-profit cultural organization, Centro Espressioni Cinematografiche (C.E.C.). The 25th edition of the Far East Film Festival is held at the Opera Theatre "Giovanni da Udine" with 1,200 seats (Via Trento, 4) and, at the art-house cinema "Visionario" (via Asquini 33). At the same time, MYmovies.it, the largest Italian website dedicated to quality cinema, welcomed back the online festival, providing a large range of films to its audience.

Besides film showings, the festival organizes several programs for film professionals and aspiring journalists, as well as collateral events around the city dedicated to Asian culture, such as cooking shows, dance performances, conferences, etc.

Every year FEFF screens more than 70 films from far East and South-East Asian countries, mainly as World, International or European premieres.

Filmmakers who have attended the previous editions include talents such as Jackie Chen, Johnnie To, Feng Xiaogang, Sammo Hung, Takashi Miike, Hideo Nakata, Joe Hisaishi, Albert Lee, Brigitte Ching Hsia Lin and many more.

THE NUMBERS

78 Films from 14 countries and regions

**12 debut features / 9 World Premieres / 13 International Premieres / 14 European Premieres / 23 Italian Premieres*

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

Online Section Total films: 22*

*(all available in Italy)

60,000 Spectators

10,000 participants to FEFF events and activities

200 Asian VIP Guests

3,000 Total Guests

200 Film Industry Professionals

1,600 Accreditations

More than 10,000 MYmovies ONE viewers

THE AWARD

The audience of Udine awarded the first prize, *Golden Mulberry Award*, as well as the *Black Mulberry Award* (audience award amongst the Black Dragon badge holders) to the Malaysian director Jin Ong's debut film *Abang Adik*. In second place, *Silver Mulberry Award*, the Korean drama *Rebound*, while the third prize, *Crystal Mulberry Award*, went to the Japanese drama-comedy *Yudo*.

The jurors for the best director debut film (Fred Tsui, the CEO of Moebius Entertainment Ltd., Hong Kong and the directors Ho Wi Ding, Taiwan, and Sydney Sibilia, Italy) confirmed the general enthusiasm for *Abang Adik*, awarding it the *White Mulberry Award*. The White Mulberry Juror also awarded as Special Mention *Lost Love* of director Ka Sing-fung.

Fu Tien-yu's *Day Off* received the Mulberry Award for Best Screenplay, selected by Francesco Munzi, Marco Pettenello, Marco Risi and Massimo Gaudioso, jurors of Gorizia's "Sergio Amidei" Prize.

Then MYmovies viewers chose Mongolian's *The Sales Girl* by Janchivdorj Sengedorj, as winner of the *Purple Mulberry Award*.

Another notable award, the *Golden Mulberry for Lifetime Achievement*, was presented to the Japanese actress Baisho Chieko, starring in Chie Hayakawa's *Plan 75*.

LEARN AT FEFF: PANEL, MASTERCLASS, BAMBÙ TALKS

PANEL – FEFF TALKS

15 panels

Friendly and relaxed panel discussion, for both professionals and public audience, to have the opportunity to listen to your thoughts on your film and Asian cinema.

MASTERCLASS

4 masterclass

The directors Po-Chih Leong, Jang Sun-Woo, Hiroki Ryuichi and Johnnie To, after the screening of their movies, talked about their career and thoughts on Asian Cinema.

BAMBÙ TALKS

5 bambù talks

A series of conversations among journalists, writers and academics, focusing on films and current affairs issues in Asian countries with Giulia Pompili (Il Foglio) and Francesco Radicioni (Radio Radicale).

Guests: Alessandro Aresu, Edoardo Siani, Emanuela Giordana, Eugenio Cau, Lisa Jucca, Lucrezia Goldin, Massimo Morello, Matteo Dian, Sara Perria, Serena de Marchi, Simone Pieranni, Yanagimoto Chiaki.

FAR EAST FILM FESTIVAL CAMPUS

The Far East Film Festival Campus is a program started in 2015 in order 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. In 2023 the FEFF Campus, under the leadership of the project coordinator Mathew Scott, hits its 9th edition. 10 aspiring journalists from Asia and Europe were hosted at FEFF to promote the exchange between East and West, reaching a total of 90 youth participants since 2015.

For FEFF Campus 2023 were selected: Eunyoung Kwak (South Korea), Jody Chan (Hong Kong), Olivia Popp (Taiwan), Sasha Han (Singapore), Dora Leu (Romania), Federica Giampaolo (Italy), Hannah Martinez (Spain), Mladen Pechevski (Bulgaria), Viktor Toth (Hungary) and Will Rowan (UK).

FEFF CAMPUS' NUMBERS

8 morning film discussion

4 lunch guests

14 panels

4 master classes

22 hours of classes

17 compulsory analyzed films

45 total interviews
over 140 watched films
8 guest speaker
10 reviews written and published in EasternKicks
10 articles written*

*2 published in *Taiwan News*, 2 published in *New Straits Times*, 2 published in *Japan Forward*, 1 published in *China Daily Hong Kong*, 1 published in *Content Asia*, 1 published in *Duart*, 1 published in *EasternKicks*

GUEST SPEAKER AND TOPICS

Bayartsetseg Bayangerel (actress) on *Acting and career in movie industry*, Darcy Paquet (film critic) on *Korean cinema*, Elizabeth Kerr (The Hollywood Reporter) *reviewing*, Ilaria Maria Sala (journalist) on *journalism in Asia*, Rita Chuang (producer) on *producing*, Roger Garcia (producer, programmer) on *Asian cinema and opportunities*, Tim Youngs (journalist) on *Hong Kong cinema*, Tom Vick (programmer) on *Curating and programming cinema*.

PRESS AND PROMOTION

FEFF maintained strong relations with media and press from around the world, welcoming to this hybrid event a great number of journalists from some of the most important film publications.

A good number of film reviews and articles on the festival selection and of interviews with filmmakers, appeared on *Variety*, *Screen International*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and many other trade outputs, both national and international.

The far-reaching use of social media, and the quality of contents, have allowed FEFF to expand and maintain an international audience of film enthusiasts and industry professionals alike.

Among other things, this may be a driving force for the continued growth of FEFF as the leading European platform for Asian cinema's visibility and promotion.

PRESS NUMBERS

30 press released (ita/eng)
31 available interviews during FEFF
more 700 articles collected (national and international press)
12 TV and radio reports
115 presence of national press reporters
52 international press reporters attendance:

SOCIAL MEDIA NUMBERS

37,662 Facebook followers
11,596 Instagram followers
674,155 reach
5,443 Twitter followers
309,000 Twitter reach

FURTHER SOURCES

[website](#) – [flickr](#) – [facebook](#) – [instagram](#) – [twitter](#) – [final press release](#)

FOCUS ASIA

After a very successful 2022 edition, the Far East Film Festival launched FOCUS ASIA 2023, one of the leading markets exclusively dedicated to film professionals from Asia and Europe keen to strength their industry and artistic connections.

Launched in 2016 the three-day industry event is now a unique platform where producers, sales agents, film distribution companies, television broadcasters, VOD platforms and Internet Player Companies from Asia and Europe have the opportunity to exchange views and further develop their relations.

Focus Asia was held from 26 to 28 April in Udine. With over 200 participants from 35 territories, 11 projects in development, 8 works in progress and 3 days of panels & case studies and over 200 one to one meetings, it confirmed its unique role in fostering artistic and production links between Asia and Europe.

Within this special edition, marked by a large series of new partnerships and reinvented initiatives, the first ever TAICCA/Focus Asia Co-Production Award, cash prize worth €10,000 awarded to the project with the greatest potential for co-production between Europe and Asia, went to the Singapore project *Amoeba*. The launch of this new award is part of a revamped international strategy based on a close long-lasting collaboration with a large network of Asian and European partners.

THE NUMBERS

Attendees: over 200 professionals from 35 countries

All Genres Project Market: almost 100 submitted projects / 11 selected projects from 9 territories

Far East in Progress: 8 selected works in progress from 7 Asian territories

Ties That Bind: 26 professionals / 10 selected projects

One-to-one meetings: over 200 meetings

TIES THAT BIND

Launched in 2009, this is an innovative workshop dedicated to co-productions between Asia and Europe, the only of its kind in the world.

For its 14th edition, this leading workshop programme connecting professionals from Asia and Europe, selected 26 participants including directors coming from 14 countries to work on their feature film projects in development, under the guidance of top-level experts from both continents. TTB takes place over a year through 2 workshops offering comprehensive knowledge of the European and Asian film industries and markets. The participants benefit from high-level development under the guidance of top-notch experts from both continents and have the opportunity to meet with key decision makers during the online edition of ATF - Asia TV Forum & Market (Singapore), and FOCUS ASIA, the Industry Section of the Udine Far East Film Festival (Italy).

OPENING NIGHT CEREMONY



1. HE Shuming, HONG Huifang, CHEN Anthony (*Ajoomma*); 2. WATANABE Hirobumi, WATANABE Yuji (*Techno Brothers*); 3. KO Kai, TSAI Kent (*Bad Education*); 4. LAU Kok Rui (*Sunny Side of the Street*); 5. Bayartsetseg BAYANGEREL (*The Sales Girl*); 6. LEE Jeong-eun (*Ditto*); 7. NG Jack Wai Lun (*A Guilty Conscience*)



8. JEONG Jin-woon, CHANG Heng-jun (*Rebound*); 9. SHOGEN, MATSUURA Ryo (*December*); 10. CHENG Wei-hao, LIN Hannah (*Marry my Dead Body*); 11. NAKAMURA Mayu, NAHANA (*She is Me, I am Her*); 12. Julia FARHANA (*Coast Guard Malaysia: Ops Helang*)

AWARD CEREMONY



Malaysian director Jin ONG's film *Abang Adik*
Golden Mulberry Award
Black Mulberry Award
White Mulberry Award



KOYAMA Kundo, screenwriter of the film *Yudo*
Crystal Mulberry Award
and Federico Pirone, jury member



FU Tien-yu's film *Day Off*
Mulberry Award for Best Screenplay



Baisho Chieko
Golden Mulberry for Lifetime Achievement



FEFF PANEL



Mikhail RED, director, *Deleter*, Kenneth DAGATAN, director, *In My Mother's Skin*, EJ JALLORINA, actress, *Where Is the Lie?*, KIM Jin-young, director, *The Other Child*



FU Tien-yu, director, *Day Off*

LEE Hae-young, director, *Phantom*
LEE Jeong-eun, producer, *Ditto*

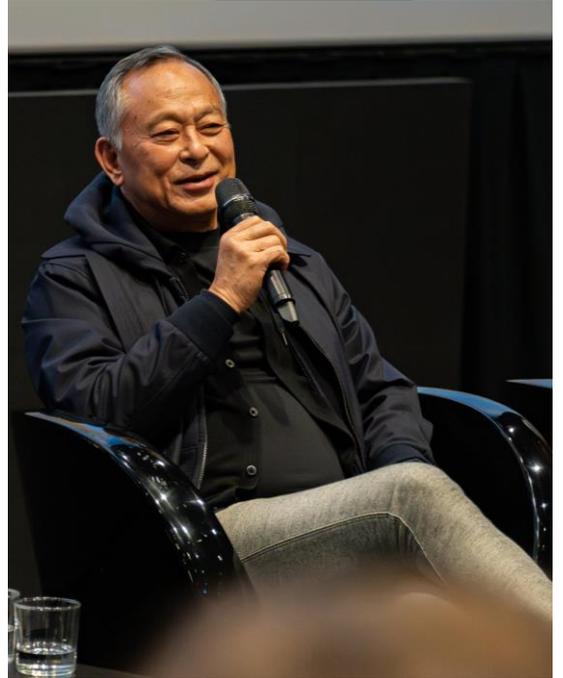


MASTERCLASS



HIROKI Ryuichi

Johnnie TO



JANG Sun-Woo



LEONG Po-Chih

INTERVIEWS



From left to right, up to down: HE Shuming, HONG Huifang, CHEN Anthony (*Ajoomma*), OTOMO Keishi (*The Legend & Butterfly*), TSENG Ying-ting (*The Abandoned*), LIM Kah-wai (*You're Lovely Smile*), NAHANA, NAKAMURA Mayu (*She is Me, I am Her*), CHEUK Vincci Wan-chi, YAU Neo Hawk-Sau (*Vital Sign*), CHENG Wei-hao, LIN Hannah (*Marry My Dead Body*), Mikhail RED (*Deleter*)

BAMBOO TALKS



Guests: Alessandro Aresu, Edoardo Siani, Emanuela Giordana, Eugenio Cau, Lisa Jucca, Lucrezia Goldin, Massimo Morello, Matteo Dian, Sara Perria, Serena de Marchi, Simone Pieranni, Yanagimoto Chiaki.

FEFF CAMPUS



MISCELLANEOUS



