



The 30th Busan International Film Festival

F I N A L R E P O R T

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I . Overview

1. Basic Overview

- Festival Period: September 17 (Wed) – September 26 (Fri), 2025
- Screening Venues: 31 Screens in 7 Theaters
 - Busan Cinema Center, CGV Centum City, LOTTE CINEMA Centum City, KOFIC Theater, Dongseo University Sohyang Theatre ShinhanCard Hall, Busan Community Media Center
- ※ Community BIFF (MEGABOX Busan Theater, Catholic Center Space101.1, Nampo-dong BIFF Square)
- Selections: 328
 - Official Selection: 241 Films from 64 Countries
 - World + International Premiere: 99 Films
 - World Premiere: 90 Films
 - International Premiere: 9 Films
 - Community BIFF: 87 Films (Including Outdoor Screenings)

2. Total Attendance: 238,697

- Film Festival: 162,405
- Community BIFF: 5,636
- BIFF Everywhere: 7,848
- Program events and special events: 62,808

3. Program Events

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| ○ 13 Open Talk | ○ 19 Outdoor Stage Greeting |
| ○ 5 Special Talk | ○ 5 Master Class |
| ○ 5 Carte Blanche | ○ 4 Cine Class |
| ○ 4 Actors' House | ○ 323 Guest Visit (GV) |
| ○ 9 Talk-to-Talk | |



4. Asian Contents & Film Market Summary

- 30,006 participants (22,122 for exhibitions / 7,884 for industrial events (87))
- Market Badges: 54 countries, 1,222 companies, 3,024 participants
- Exhibitors: 31 countries, 289 companies, 113 booths
 - A total of 16 pavilions (including first-ever pavilions for India and Indonesia)
 - Nations newly participating as sales companies and content institutions include Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan
 - 38 companies joined as new participants
- Online Screening
 - Market screening: 18 countries, 51 companies, 179 projects (24 Market Premieres)
 - Festival official Selection: 97 films
- Market Conferences and Events: 87 events, 7,884 participants
 - Asian Project Market(APM) Meetings: 726 meetings with 127 companies
 - Busan Story Market(BSM) Meetings: 703 meetings with 145 companies
- Platform BUSAN Participants: 148 participants from 23 countries
- Producer Hub Participants: 154 participants from 25 countries

5. Busan International Film Festival Guests

- **Total Guests: 7,036**
 - Domestic Festival Guests: 2,186
 - International Festival Guests: 923
 - Domestic ACFM Guests: 1,208
 - International ACFM Guests: 1,816
 - Cinephile Guests: 903
- ※ Excluding visitors & press members
- ※ Based on badge registration



II . Final Report

1. Record-Breaking Audiences Across the Festival

The 30th Busan International Film Festival achieved a significant increase in audience numbers compared to the previous year. Despite fewer public holidays, total admissions reached 175,889—an increase of approximately 20,000—across 328 official selections, including 87 titles from Community BIFF. In addition, more than 63,000 participants attended diverse events held throughout Busan over ten days, including the resumption of Forum BIFF after a three-year hiatus. Festival merchandise also experienced strong demand, with most items sold out.

2. Elevating BIFF's Position as Asia's Leading Festival with the Launch of the Competitive Section

To commemorate its 30th edition, BIFF has established a new Competition section, selecting 14 outstanding Asian films. The Competition photocall ceremonies, held at the Busan Cinema Center Haneulyeon Theater, attracted substantial audiences, solidifying its place as one of BIFF's iconic events. Five categories of the Busan Award, adjudicated by the jury chaired by Na Hong-Jin and comprising Tony Leung Ka-fai, Nandita Das, Marziyeh Meshkini, Kogonada, Yulia Evina Bhara, and Han Hyo-joo, will be revealed at the Closing Ceremony on September 26 (Fri) at 19:00 KST, with a trophy designed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul in collaboration with SWNA. The Busan Award trophy embodies the festival's philosophy of 'seeing Asian cinema through the eyes of Asia', while symbolizing both its trajectory and its vision for the future.

3. Distinguished Guests and Enthusiastic Audiences

From Jafar Panahi, recipient of the Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award, Sylvia Chang, recipient of the Camellia Award, and Chung Jiyoung, honored with the Korean Cinema Award, to first-time BIFF visitors Michael Mann, Marco Bellocchio, Guillermo Del Toro, Sean Baker, and Maggie Kang, alongside Juliette Binoche, Tony Leung, Milla Jovovich, Shu Qi, and Nishijima Hidetoshi, as well as special guest LISA of BLACKPINK, the festival welcomed an unparalleled roster of distinguished guests. In particular, the appearance of Guillermo Del Toro and actor Shin Yeeun on the Opening Ceremony screen delighted audiences and generated considerable attention online.



4. Expanded Lineup of Events Featuring New Programs!

The festival enriched its offerings with new initiatives, including Carte Blanche and Cine Class - ranging from conversations with cultural figures to in-depth lectures - as well as outdoor events presented by Community BIFF at the Busan Cinema Center. A total of 67 events and 323 GV sessions animated venues through the festival's second week. Highlights included Actors' House with Lee Byung Hun, Son Yejin, Kim Youjung, and Ninomiya Kazunari; Carte Blanche with journalist Sohn Suk-hee, novelist Eun Huigyeong, actor Gang Dong-won, and director Maggie Kang; and Cine Class with Paul W.S. Anderson, Kogonada, Alexandre & Giorgi Koberidze, and La Frances Hui. Together with Open Talk, Outdoor Stage Greeting, and Talk-to-Talk, these events drew enthusiastic participation under Busan's late-summer sky.

5. Forum BIFF, 'Revisiting the Path of Asian Cinema'

After a three-year hiatus, Forum BIFF returned under the theme 'Revisiting the Path of Asian Cinema'. Across nine sessions, the forum examined the present and future of Asian cinema, spanning industry, policy, criticism, technology, and education. Timely issues such as international co-productions, the sustainability of Korean cinema, and the future of visual culture were discussed, offering insight and direction of the contemporary moment.

6. Enhanced Convenience Facility for Visitors and Guests

BIFF's cultural initiative p!tt marked the festival's 30th edition with a special collaboration with Post Office and IAB STUDIO, presenting interactive cultural experiences that celebrated BIFF's legacy while amplifying its public value. This provided a participatory cultural experience that bridged generations, expanding both the festival's historical significance and its popular appeal. For festivalgoers, the Korean Daily was published eight times (two more than last year), while the English Daily expanded to 21 issues across both online and offline platforms. To enhance convenience for both audiences and guests, the festival operated the B-Food Lounge with food trucks and Busan Complex Cultural Space Center for Children. Additional services included an offline help desk for the digitally disadvantaged, a medical booth supported by Inje University Busan Paik Hospital, and continued guest shuttle service from last year.



7. Community BIFF Celebrates Its 8th Year with Soaring Popularity

Marking its eighth edition this year, Community BIFF significantly raised its profile with a notably high occupancy rate. Through diverse collaborations, audiences ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens gathered at theaters to enjoy uniquely curated programs such as the audience-curated ‘Request Cinema’, blind screenings, real-time commentary, and post-screening debate sessions. The program also offered a wide array of events, including Q&As with international directors, live drawing, film concerts, poetry recital, and special merchandise giveaways. In addition, plaza talks, Filmmakers' Collection Auction, and Cinema Quiz Championship drew enthusiastic responses.

8. BIFF Everywhere Turns the Entire City into a Festival Stage

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, BIFF Everywhere expanded cinema and the arts into everyday life under the concept of ‘Wind Path’, presenting 39 screenings across 15 locations in and around Busan. Unique venues – including naval bases, children’s hospitals, racetracks, airports, and subway stations – hosted screenings, while collaborations with youth community groups added diverse programming. Recognized as a free-spirited film festival that reimagines the city, the program also achieved notable outcomes through the ‘Village Filmmaking Project’, where seven teams produced seven short films and three making-of documentaries, later screened at Community BIFF.

9. Asian Contents & Film Market Sets New Milestone with Innovative Programs and Record-Breaking Scale

Marking its 20th edition, the Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) took a significant step forward. Held over four days, the market welcomed a record 30,006 participants, solidifying its position as Asia’s premier global content business platform. Responding swiftly to the rapidly changing content industry landscape, ACFM introduced three new programs that clearly showcased its vision to lead future industry trends. With 1,222 companies from 54 countries participating, this year’s achievements go beyond quantitative growth, underscoring ACFM’s expanding influence as a central hub of the Asian content ecosystem within the global industry.



III. Program Report

i . CHANEL X BIFF Asian Film Academy

1. Program Report

- Dates: September 7 (Sun) – September 26 (Fri) (20 days)
- Key Participants: 3 faculty members, 8 instructors, 24 fellows, 3 alumni, 3 documentary crew, 4 JIMFA scholarship recipients
- Participating Nations: 17 countries (Armenia; Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Iran; Kazakhstan; Korea; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Taiwan; Thailand; Vietnam)
- Faculty
 - Dean: KIM Jeewoon (Director / Korea)
 - Directing Mentor: Mattie DO (Director / USA, Laos)
 - Cinematography Mentor: PARK Junghun (Cinematographer / Korea)

2. Main Programs

① Short Film Production & Screening

- The Basket | DCP | 6min | Color
- Bus Stop | DCP | 7min | Color
- Saranghae | DCP | 5min | Color
- Double Knot | DCP | 10min | Color
- Sambal Tteokbokki | DCP | 6min | Color
- The Old Man and the Grave | DCP | 6min | Color
- You Never Existed | DCP | 8min | Color
- An Exchange | DCP | 10min | Color

② Clinic & Mentoring

- Script Development (Script Doctor LEE Wonsuk)



- Directing Mentor Online Mentoring (Directing Mentor Mattie DO)
- Camera Hands-on Training (Cinematography Mentor PARK Junghun)
- Special Training on Set Equipment (Technical Supervisor CHO Heedae)
- Production Design Clinic (Production Designer KIM Jin-young)
- Editing Clinic (Editor Steve M. CHOE)
- Film Scoring Clinic (Film Composer HAN Jae-gweon)
- Sound Clinic (Sound Designer HAN Myung-hwan, Sound Designer & Foley Artist KIM Yong-kook)
- DI Clinic (Technical Supervisor CHO Heedae)
- 1:1 Screenwriting Mentoring (Script Doctor LEE Wonsuk)

③ Lecture

- Cinematography Lecture (Cinematography Mentor PARK Junghun)
- Editing Lecture (Editor Steve M. CHOE)
- DI Lecture (Technical Supervisor CHO Heedae)
- Directing Actors Lecture (Director Mattie DO)
- Production Design Lecture (Production Designer KIM Jin-young)
- Sound Lecture (Sound Designer HAN Myung-hwan)
- Foley Lecture (Sound Designer & Foley Artist KIM Yong-kook)
- Film Scoring Lecture (Film Composer HAN Jae-gweon)
- Screenwriting Lecture (Script Doctor LEE Wonsuk)

④ Faculty Film Screening

- Director KIM Jeewoon | A Bittersweet Life (2005)
- Director Mattie DO | A Long Walk (2019), A Sleeping Beauty (2025)
- Cinematographer PARK Junghun | The Villainess (2017)

⑤ Dean Master Class



- Director KIM Jeewoon Master Class

⑥ MPA-BAFA Film Workshop: Bridge to Hollywood

- Special Lecture: Carlos SALDANHA
- Film Project Pitch Workshop conducted in collaboration with Motion Picture Association (MPA)
- Film Project Pitch Workshop Judges: Stephen JENNER (Vice President, Communications, MPA APAC), Carlos SALDANHA (Director), Thomas KIM (Director)

⑦ CHANEL X BIFF Asian Film Academy Network

- Alumni Networking Dinner

3. 2025 CHANEL X BIFF Asian Film Academy Award Recipients

① CHANEL X BAFA Promising Filmmaker Award

- Recipient: Anastassiya PONOMARYOVA (Kazakhstan)
- Recipient: Nivitha MURALIKRISHNA (India)
- Special Mention: ZHANG YanCheng (China)

② MPA Award

- Recipient (1st Place): Amir ZARGARA (Iran)
- Recipient (2nd Place): Prabhat GURUNG (Nepal)

③ C-47 POST STUDIO Editing Award

- Recipient: Anahit BAGHINYAN (Armenia)



ii. Forum BIFF

Forum BIFF 2025, a special initiative by the Jiseok Film Institute, was successfully held under the slogan “Revisiting the Path of Asian Cinema.” Jointly organized by Dongseo University, the Korean Film Archive, the Korea National University of Arts School of Film, and the Busan Film Commission, the forum explored the trajectory of Asian cinema amid the rapidly evolving global film industry. Key agenda topics included the coexistence of OTT platforms and Asian cinema, collaboration and potential in international co-productions, and the achievements and challenges of Korean cinema over the past 30 years.

Filmmakers, producers, distributors, scholars, and critics from across Asia—including Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Thailand—gathered to engage in balanced discussions that bridged industry concerns with academic discourse. Active participation and questions from the audience further enriched the dialogue. Returning after a three-year hiatus, Forum BIFF proved itself not merely a space for expert-driven debate, but a public platform for collectively envisioning the future of Asian cinema.

1. Forum BIFF Overview

- Dates: September 18 (Thurs) – September 21 (Sun)
- Venue: Conference Hall, 11F, Busan Film & Audiovisual Industry Center
- Participation Scale
 - A total of 9 sessions held across 4 sections
 - Co-hosting institutions: Dongseo University, Korean Film Archive, School of Film, TV & Multimedia at Korea National University of Arts, Busan Film Commission
 - Section A: 2 sessions on Asian cinema topics (Host: Busan International Film Festival)
 - Section B: 2 sessions on Korean cinema topics (Host: Busan International Film Festival)
 - Section C: 3 sessions on new technologies and film education (Co-host: Dongseo University, Korean Film Archive, School of Film, TV & Multimedia at Korea National University of Arts)
 - Section D: 2 sessions sponsored by solidarity groups in the Korean film industry (Host: Film Festival Policy Network, Korean Filmmakers’ Solidarity)
 - Number of panelists: 74
 - Number of attendees: 725



2. Main Programs

- Section A - Exploring Solidarity in Asian Cinema
 - Asian Cinema: A New Chapter in Co-Productions
 - Is OTT Empowering or Undermining Asian Cinema
- Section B - Save the Korean Cinema!
 - Flashback to 1996: Gains and Losses of Korean Cinema
 - What Does Korean Independent Cinema Dream Of
- Section C - The Future of Cinema: Tech Innovation and Film Education
 - Re: Booting Korean Cinema
 - Envisioning the Global Future of Visual Culture from Local Contexts
 - Exploring the Present and Future of Film and Media Education in Asia
- Section D - Mapping the Future of Korean Cinema
 - Policy Shifts for the Future of the Film Festival Ecosystem
 - Endangered K-Movie: We Will Find a Way. We Always Have



iii. Community BIFF

2025 Community BIFF, a festival ‘made by audience’, showcased ‘Request Cinema’, ‘Master Talk’, ‘the Cinephiles Strike Back’, and ‘Happy-Go-Lucky-Night’, which played a huge contribution in building its popularity as an audience-participatory festival.

Meanwhile, it successfully attracted all range of audiences through partnerships with organizations including K-Arts School of Film, TV & Multimedia, Federation of Busan Science and Technology, Busan Council on Social Welfare, Directors Guild of Korea (DGK), Women Directors’ Network (WDN), Busan Youth Community, and Busan Technical High School Alumni. Community BIFF, aiming to be a platform for experimentation and exchange, broadened audience participation and strengthened connections with the local community in collaboration with institutions and organizations, reaffirming its potential.

In ‘Request Cinema’, 5,268 audiences took on the role of programmers to select and curate the films they wished to see again from past editions of BIFF. This resulted in a list of 13 titles including *The Duelist*, *The Shameless*, *Overman*, *Our Little Sister*, *The World of Us*, *All About Lily Chou-Chou*. Moreover, programs including live drawing, film concert, poetry recital, and merchandise gift offered audiences cinematic experiences.

Alongside filmmakers, musicians such as Balming Tiger, science communicators and best-selling novelists also joined to elevate the Festival. The program was followed by a one-hour meet-and-greet with fans, while signed books were showcased at the Festival’s merchandise store Cherish Storage.

With the support of Jung-gu District Government, eight Korean directors took part in the ‘Busan Filmmaker Residency in Jung-gu’, while Community BIFF Road programs enlivened the atmosphere with the 30th BIFF Eve and citizen filmmaking experience. PR and monitoring were supported by ‘BEE-Mate’ from College of Convergence Arts, Chugye University for the Arts, alongside growing research interest from Korean and international schools and universities. Through these initiatives, Community BIFF has grown into an inclusive festival with its own clear identity, offering a platform where audiences and guests come together to share memories and support the next generation.

1. Community BIFF Summary

- Dates: September 18 (Thurs) – 21 (Sun)
- Venue: MEGABOX Busan Theater, Catholic Center Space101.1, Nampo-dong BIFF Square



2. Main Program Events

○ Program

- Number of Films: 87 films (38 features, 39 shorts, including outdoor screenings)
- Number of Screenings: 43
- Guest Visits (GV): 30/ 3 Performances/ 6 Talk shows/ 3 Commentary screenings
- Guests: Approximately 330
- Audiences: 5,636 attendees

○ Community BIFF Road (Nampo-dong BIFF Square/BIFF Road Program)

- Number of Films: 10 (4 features, 6 shorts)
- Outdoor Screenings: 8
- Outdoor Events: 23 (5 Performances, 6 Talk shows, 6 Guest visits, 6 Stage greetings)
- Events: 3 (BIFF Eve, Live Streaming of Opening Ceremony, Nampo Finale)
- Experiential Booths: 12
- Participants: 17,348

○ Main Overview

- Screening Programs: Request Cinema, Community BIFF Collection, The Cinephiles Strike Back, Master Talk, Happy-Go-Lucky Night, K-Arts Project 30, and more
- Outdoor Programs: Outdoor screenings and events (performances, talk shows, GVs, stage greetings), BIFF Eve, Nampo Finale and more
- Experiential Programs: Im Kwon Taek College of Film & Arts at Dongseo University: Illusion of Movement! Stop Motion Atelier; Busan Council on Social Welfare: We Buy Your Worries; Busan Youth Community: AI Moving Photo Creation; Hitman 2: Shooting Range; Shinmyeong: Memory Game; Big Picture: Random Draw Gacha Shop; Le Grand Chef: Culinary Journey in Cinema; DEMON Dollster: DIY Doll Making; and Traditional Hwarang Martial Arts Archery Association & Ulsan Martial Arts Federation: Duel!!! Hwarang Battle Arena & Hwarang Traditional Korean Archery Experience



iv. BIFF Everywhere

BIFF Everywhere is a community-friendly festival that extends its venue across Busan's landmarks as well as daily life spaces. Marking its fifth year, the 2025 theme, "Wind Path" reflected the hope to lead those exhausted by their busy lives to the festival through 15 pathways. An outstanding achievement this year was the launch of various events, held in partnership with organizations to share the narratives tied to each venue.

Among the highlights were a fleet review with COMROKFLT, commemorating the 80th anniversary of Korean Navy; and a magic show and a simultaneous dubbing screening for children, sponsored by Korea Pediatric Cancer Foundation, at Pusan National University Children's Hospital, extending the Festival's reach to Busan-Ulsan-Gyeongnam for the first time. In partnership with Busan Transportation Corporation to celebrate its 40th anniversary, BIFF Everywhere also livestreamed the opening ceremony at Jeonpo Station and screened a short film themed around 'youth' at SPACE BYULIL, offering audiences a chance to capture their own youthful moments.

The 2025 BIFF Everywhere presented its most vibrant edition yet, with an emphasis on animation and music. Highlights included the team behind the syndrome of *Exorcism Chronicles: The Beginning*, the screenwriter, director and voice actors engaging in two candid conversations with fans, while *Heartspring: Teenieping of Love* screened with a luminous fountain show. In addition, Gimhae International Airport and Jeonpo Café Street hosted screenings of 10 animated films under each theme.

With barrier-free screenings and screenings with sign language, BIFF Everywhere helped break down barriers for audiences with disabilities at the Gori Sports and Culture Center, the Dadaepo Sunset Fountain of Dreams, and 168 The Deck. The festive spirit also reached Seoul, where the directors of some of the year's most acclaimed short films appeared at the National Assembly. As part of the 2025 Village Filmmaking Project, which promotes community-based film production and documentation, seven teams produced and showcased seven shorts and three making-of documentaries at Community BIFF this year.

1. BIFF Everywhere Summary

- Dates: September 17 (Wed) - September 26 (Fri), 10 days
- Venue: A total of 15 venues - 13 in Busan, 1 in Yangsa-si, Gyeongsangnam-do, and 1 in Seoul
- BNK Busan Bank, Nam-gu



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- Gori Sports and Culture Center, Gijang-gu (Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co., Ltd.)
- 168 The Deck, Dong-gu (Dong-gu Office)
- Gimhae International Airport, Gangseo-gu
- Dadaepo Sunset Fountain of Dreams, Saha-gu (Korea Tourism Organisation)
- Let's Run Park Busan (Korea Racing Authority)
- Millak Waterside Park, Suyeong-gu (Suyeong-gu Office)
- BIFF Square Stage (Jung-gu Office)
- Busan Eco Delta City, Gangseo-gu (K-Water)
- Jeonpo Station (Busan Transportation Corporation)
- Taejongdae Drive-in Theater, Yeongdo-gu (Busan Tourism Organisation)
- COMROKFLT, Nam-gu (Republic of Korea Navy)
- Pusan National University Children's Hospital, Yangsan-si, Gyeongsangnam-do (Korea Pediatric University Children's Hospital)
- National Assembly Member's Office Building, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul (National Assembly of South Korea)

2. Main Programs

- Programs
 - Total Selections: 36 (15 features, 20 shorts, 1 edited series)
 - Screenings: 39 (bundle screenings counted as one session)
 - GV, talk shows, performances and other events: 17 events
- Attendees: 7,848

3. Village Filmmaking Project

- Attendees: 7 teams of 3 - 10 people each ※ Excluding 7 mentor directors and 3 directors of making-documentary
- Dates: July - September, about 3 months
- Screenings: Twice on September 18 (Thurs), MEGABOX Busan Theater 2, GV of the participants



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and mentors

- Organizers: Busan International Film Festival BIFF Everywhere, Busan Cinema Center UNESCO Creative City of Film Busan
- Cooperation: Busan Immigration Office, Busan Cultural Foundation, Korea Housing Finance Corporation
- Programs:
 - Number of works: Total 10 films – 7 shorts and 3 making documentaries (4 at Busan International Film Festival, 6 at Busan Cinema Center)



V. 2025 Asian Contents & Film Market

The 2025 Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) successfully concluded its 4-day journey, further cementing its position as Asia's premier global business platform.

This year's edition set a new record with 30,006 visitors, marking a 13.5% increase from last year, underscoring its continued growth. The scale of participation also reached new heights, recording 1,222 companies and 3,024 industry professionals from 54 countries, reflecting a 14.37% increase compared to the previous year.

Celebrating its 20th edition, ACFM introduced three notable initiatives in response to the rapidly evolving content industry: InnoAsia, a platform exploring the convergence of cutting-edge technology and content; The A, a report and summit offering insights into the Asian film industry; and Doc Square, an international hub for the documentary ecosystem. These programs received enthusiastic feedback and wide acclaim from participants, offering new directions for the future of the content industry.

At the Producer Hub, which spotlighted Canada as this year's Focus Country, 154 active producers from 25 countries engaged in dynamic international networking. In addition, 289 companies from 31 countries showcased exhibition booths, representing the diversity and global reach of ACFM as a leading content marketplace.

1. Asian Contents & Film Market Summary

- Total Visitors: 30,006 (Exhibition Visitors: 22,122 / Event (87) participants: 7,884)
- Market Badges: 54 Countries, 1,222 companies, 3,024 participants.
- Sales Booths: 289 Companies from 31 Countries, 113 Booths
 - National Pavilions from 16 countries (India, Indonesia established their first pavilions)
 - Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Nepal, and others participated as sales companies and content agencies.
 - 38 newly joined companies.
- Online Screenings
 - Market Screening: 179 films from 18 countries and 51 companies (24 market premieres)
 - Official Festival Selections: 97 Films



2. Market Conference & Events

- 87 Events, 7,884 participants
- Market Conference (Partnership Session): 12
- The A Summit: 2
- Asian Project Market(APM): 3
- Busan Story Market(BSM): 4
- Networking & Receptions: 8

3. The A

- The A Report: Film Industry Report from 17 Countries Published, 713 Page Views
- The A Summit: 2 Programs including AFAN Spotlight, Asian Film Market Leaders' Summit

4. Asian Cinema Fund (ACF)

- 4 Asian Cinema Funds (Script Development Fund, Post-production Fund, Asian Network of Documentary (AND) Fund, Co-Production Support Fund), supporting a total of 15 works
- BIFF World Premiere screenings (4 Post-Production Fund and 2 AND Fund selections)
- Independent Feature Film, Supported by the Script Development Fund, winners of the APM 2025 Awards
 - Busan Award: *Black Star Angel*
 - Kongchak Studio Award, Sorfond Award: *Heaven Helps Us!*
- Newly Established ACF Co-Production Support Fund Project Sponsored by Hylife Group: YANG Hyo-joo (*Broken Night*)

5. Asian Project Market (APM)

- 30 official selections from 15 countries
- Business Meetings: 726
- Participants: 127 companies
- APM Awards: 13 Categories, 11 Awardees (2 newly launched awards)



○ The 28th APM Awards Winners

Award	Project	Director	Producer	Production Country/Region
APM Busan Award	Black Star Angel	Christine HAROUTOUNIAN	Christine HAROUTOUNIAN Maxwell SCHWARTZ	Armenia / United States
One Cool Award	The Funeral March	FUJITA Naoya	FUJITA Kanako ZOU Aiken ZOU Lin SHIINA Yasushi	Japan / China
CJ ENM Award	Gochi	YOON Eunkyoung	Stanley KWAK	Korea
VIPO Award	Wake Me up When the Mourning Ends	LAU Kok Rui	Soi CHEANG Stefano CENTINI WONG Kew Soon	Malaysia / Hong Kong, China / Italy / Taiwan
Red Sea Film Fund Award	Buy My Car	ZHANG Yaoyuan	KUNIZANE Mizue ICHIYAMA Shozo MO Zhulin	Japan / China
ArteKino International Award	Churching of Women	Darin J. SALLAM	Deema AZAR Ayah JARDANEH	Jordan
Songwon Award	Dance Dance Revolution	CHOI Hana	AN Boyoung	Korea
KB Award	Arrival of Water	JO Heeyoung	PARK Sejin	Korea / Japan
Kantana Award – Picture	Flying Cows	NGUYEN Pham Thanh Dat	NGUYEN Huu Thi Tuong Vi	Vietnam
Kantana Award – Sound	Gochi	YOON Eunkyoung	Stanley KWAK	Korea
Kongchak Studio Award	Heaven Helps Us!	Eve BASWEL	John TORRES Jules KATANYAG Danzen Santos KATANYAG	Philippines
TAICCA Award	Gilddong	PARK Riwoong	AHN Byungrae	Korea
Sorfond Award	Heaven Help Us!	Eve BASWEL	John TORRES	Philippines



			Jules KATANYAG Danzen Santos KATANYAG	
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6. Busan Story Market (BSM)

- Business meeting: 703
- Participating Company: 145
- Ongoing MOUs with Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA) and Korea Creative Content Agency (KOCCA)
- Participation by related domestic and international institutions (Taiwan Creative Content Agency, Visual Industry Promotion Organization (VIPO), Korea Creative Content Agency, Gyeonggi Content Agency, Jeju Contents Agency and more)
- Exhibition Booths including The Grimm Entertainment, INBOOK

7. InnoAsia

- Conferences: 6 conferences organized by ACFM (including one co-hosted conference), 5 partner sessions
- Boot Camp: 2 sessions
- WIP Showcase: 8 projects from 4 companies
- Inno Stage & Lounge
- Events: 19 rounds (Opening Luncheon, Happy Hour Included)
- Participants: 650 attendees

8. Producer Hub

- 25 countries, 154 participants
- Focus Country: Canada
- Institutional Partners: 13 institutes from 10 countries
- 9 sessions



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9. Doc Square

- ☐ 7 sessions
- ☐ WIP Showcase 13 selections
- ☐ Visitors: 273 attendees

10. Platform BUSAN

- ☐ 23 countries, 148 participants
- ☐ Partnership with 10 institutions from 8 countries
- ☐ 9 sessions



IV. Awards

1. KB New Currents Audience Award

[Winner] *On Your Lap* | Reza RAHADIAN | Indonesia / Saudi Arabia

2. NETPAC Award

[Winner] *Malika* | Natalia UVAROVA | Kazakhstan/Moldova/Ireland

Jury Comment: For the poetic language, striking delicacy, emotional impact and visual beauty in portraying the fragile age when a child senses the delicate nature of family bonds.

* Award Juries

Diana ASHIMOVA(Kazakhstan/Producer)

BAEK Jaeho(Korea/Chairman of the Association of Korean Independent Film & Video (KIFV))

TENG Lee Yein(Malaysia/Producer)

3. FIPRESCI Award

[Winner] *On Your Lap* | Reza RAHADIAN | Indonesia / Saudi Arabia

Jury Comment: *On your Lap* deals with the life of an Indonesian woman after the IMF crisis. It portrays the protagonist's social and economic situation in a balanced way, without romanticizing poverty or reducing it to mere misery. Using a very traditional narrative style, the film stands out for its classical aesthetics and lyrical quality in depicting life's hardships and hopes.

* Award Juries

Narendra BANDABE(India/Film Critic, Contributor (ABP Network))

Sofía FERRERO CÁRREGA(Argentina/Film Critic)

KIM Meehyun(Korea/Visiting Professor, Sungkyunkwan University)

4. Bangladesh July Memorial Prize

[Winner] *Kurak* | Erke DZHUMAKMATOVA, Emil ATAGELDIEV | Kyrgyzstan / Switzerland / Serbia / France / Luxembourg / Netherlands / Italy



Jury Comment: This film confronts the reality faced by women in contemporary Kyrgyz society and amplifies their voices as they struggle to preserve their lives against structures of violence and oppression. Moving from news footage of protests to the intimate stories of two young women, it makes human rights not just a theme but an urgent lived reality. With depth and artistic sensitivity, we are proud to honor this remarkable work tonight.

5. Bishkek International Film Festival-Central Asia Cinema Award

[Winner] *On Your Lap* | Reza RAHADIAN | Indonesia / Saudi Arabia

Jury Comment: We were profoundly moved by *On Your Lap*. The film speaks with extraordinary clarity and emotional force about one of the most difficult periods in Kyrgyzstan's history: the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union. During that time of deep economic crisis, it was women who bore the heaviest burden. They became traders, providers, and guardians, sustaining their families and, in many ways, the future of the country itself.

On Your Lap captures this struggle with both sensitivity and symbolic power. It is not only a story about survival, but also a tribute to the strength, sacrifice, and resilience of mothers who carried an entire generation through uncertainty. We felt that this film transcends national boundaries, offering a universal message about human endurance and the courage of women everywhere. For its artistic achievement and profound human resonance, we have chosen to award it this film.

6. Face of the Future Award

[Winner] *On Your Lap* | Reza RAHADIAN | Indonesia / Saudi Arabia

Jury Comment: *On Your Lap* invites us to the cinematic and poetic experiences I hardly found these days. The film takes us on a journey of hard life with lack of true love, though it's a beautiful moment of life that could be betrayed and hurt but still we have to move on living forward.

7. Hylife Vision Award

[Winner 1] *Tiger* | Anshul CHAUHAN | Japan

Jury Comment: For its heartfelt, nuanced portrayal of queer identity, family, and belonging, this film bravely explores one man's search for connection amidst rejection. With emotional depth and integrity, it challenges prejudice while honoring the quiet strength of those on society's margins.

[Winner 2] *If on a Winter's Night* | Sanju SURENDRAN | India



Jury Comment: This film realistically portrays the daily hardships and uncertainties of life in an unfamiliar city, while delicately capturing the friendships, music, and small joys that emerge. For its sensitive depiction of warmth and solidarity within everyday realism, we are delighted to present this award today.

8. International Film Festival of India - Vision Asia Award

[Winner] Black Rabbit, White Rabbit | Shahram MOKRI | Tajikistan / United Arab Emirates

Jury Comment: The International Film Festival of India – Vision Asia Award goes to *Black Rabbit White Rabbit*, an indie drama that delves into themes of duality, fate, and moral choice. Through fragmented storytelling and shifting perspectives, it portrays two characters tied to symbolic rabbits, embodying light and darkness. Surreal imagery blends with emotional realism, creating a dreamlike tone that questions identity and balance. The film meditates on love, loss, hope, and despair, offering a layered reflection on the fragile nature of human decisions and their lasting consequences.

9. Songwon Vision Award

[Winner] Shape of Momo | Tribeny RAI | India / Korea

Jury Comment: Through the small objects and relationships of everyday life, this film conveys both the weight and the beauty of existence. With its exquisite subtlety and sincerity, it represents a remarkable achievement. We offer our warmest congratulations and encouragement to the director.

10. Taipei Film Commission Award

[Winner] Shape of Momo | Tribeny RAI | India / Korea

Jury Comment: Tribeny Rai's debut feature is unforgettable because it doesn't depict the traditional Indian village we imagine, and Bishnu doesn't represent the traditional Indian woman. The film centers around her, skillfully interweaving her older sister and the marriageable men and women. It concisely and powerfully depicts the challenges of patriarchal India and the submissiveness of women. The delicate interpretation and use of shadows and light highlight the subtle interpretation and captivating imagery of Rai's female director.

11. Vision of Jiseok Award



[Winner] Kurak | Erke DZHUMAKMATOVA, Emil ATAGELDIEV | Kyrgyzstan / Switzerland / Serbia / France / Luxembourg / Netherlands / Italy

Jury Comment: With its original cinematic language, this film weaves women's lives and realities into a powerful narrative. By uniting diverse voices and fragmented experiences into a single tapestry, it achieves a remarkable accomplishment that expands the possibilities of cinema.

12. Actors of the Year

[Actor of the Year - Female] *The Gorals* | LEE Seung-yeon | Korea

Jury Comment: All the nominated actors in the selected films delivered confident and convincing performances, making it truly difficult to choose just one emerging talent. Notably, *The Gorals*, which vividly portrays the friendship and coming-of-age of teenage girls stigmatized as troublemakers on the verge of their college entrance exams, showcased rising actors who each brought distinctive and memorable performances. While the jurors wished to recognize all of them, as only one recipient could be chosen, the award is presented to Lee Seung-yeon for her spirited performance and her creative interpretation of the role in every scene.

[Actors of the Year - Male] *The Accordion Door* | MOON Woo-jin | Korea

Jury Comment: Actor Moon Woo-jin delicately unraveled the character Ji-soo through his natural, calm, and understated performance. His work conveyed a maturity and depth of insight far beyond his age, leaving a quiet yet profound resonance with its realism. He is an actor whose future growth is eagerly anticipated.

* Actor of the Year Juries

LEE Jung-eun(Korea/Actor)

YOO Teo (Korea/Actor)

13. DGK PLUS M Award

[Winner 1] *Coming of Age* | JEONG Seung-o | Korea

[Winner 2] *JOURNEY THERE* | KIM Jinyu | Korea

Jury Comment: The twelve films each carried their own unique charms, leading to thoughtful deliberation and differing perspectives among the jurors. In the end, we chose a film in which the



character lingers beyond the actor, and whose story continues to resonate long after the narrative ends. Above all, this award is presented in recognition of, and with encouragement for, the courage of a fellow filmmaker who remained steadfast in pursuing their vision to the very end.

*** DGK PLUS M Award Juries**

KIM Jungho(Korea/Director)

NAM Yeonwoo(Korea/Director)

SEO Yumin(Korea/Director)

14. CGV Award

[Winner] BEAUTIFUL DREAMER | LEE Kwang-kuk | Korea

Jury Comment: Lee Kwang-kuk's *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER* does not ask "why" in the face of death, but instead quietly reflects on a mother and daughter wandering through the absence of a loved one. Moving beyond the director's earlier structural experiments, the film portrays the boundary between reality and fantasy with newfound emotional depth. By steadfastly observing the anxiety and sorrow of those left behind, it delicately captures the anticipation of the serene slumber that will one day come. For these reasons, we are honored to present *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER* with this award.

15. KBS Independent Film Award

[Winner] JOURNEY THERE | KIM Jinyu | Korea

Jury Comment: Kim Jinyu's *JOURNEY THERE* accomplishes the profound task of contemplating both a 'good death' and a 'good life' within a single film. The camera accompanies a protagonist in the final stages of life with quiet steadiness and compassion, while also reflecting on how those left behind might find the strength to continue their own journeys. In a time overshadowed by solitary deaths and the melancholy of loss, Kim's thoughtful perspective offers audiences a solace both profoundly genuine and deeply moving. Congratulations on this award.

*** KBS Independent Film Award Juries**

KIM Bo-nyun(Korea/Programmer, Critic)

ROH Deok(Korea/Director)



AHN Goocjin(Korea/Director)

16. Critic b Award

[Winner] *The Observer's Journal* | LIM Junghwan | Korea

Jury Comment: Though it outwardly adopts the concept of a ‘traveler’ in an unfamiliar city, the film unfolds with a fluid energy through its branching and proliferating narratives and characters. Evoking the movements of early cinema, its three-part structure traces circular patterns that create layered rhythms. As observers, we wander through its closed circuits and encounter unfamiliar landscapes. We eagerly anticipate the next journey of director Lim Junghwan, who will continue to write a new journal of observation.

* Critic b Award Juries

PARK Inho(Korea/Critic)

LEE-Dongyun(Korea/Critic)

LEE Ha-neal(Korea/Critic)

17. CINE21 Award

[Winner] *The Accordion Door* | SON Kyeong-su | Korea

Jury Comment: *The Accordion Door* portrays the intense journey of a boy searching for his identity within a society steeped in meritocracy. Through the genre motif of a ‘parasitic’ condition, the film explores the boundary between the ordinary and the extraordinary. At times, it evokes tension and suspense, while at other times, it offers profound resonance through a journey of reflection. For these reasons, we are pleased to present this film with the CINE21 Award.

* CINE21 Award Juries

CHANG Yeongyeop(Korea/CEO)

SONG Hyeongguk(Korea/Journalist, Critic)

OH Jin-woo(Korea/Critic)



18. Songwon Citizen Critics' Award

[Winner] *Coming of Age* | JEONG Seung-o | Korea

Jury Comment: *Coming of Age* addresses the particular issues arising from the Korean family structure with both humor and sincerity. By carefully considering the distinct characteristics of each generation, the film regards each individual as a subject with their own future. Its witty rhythm, enriched by music, reflects the spirited interplay across generations. Rather than offering an idealized conclusion, the film focuses on the characters colliding within this framework, inviting reflection on the pressing issues of the here and now.

19. Busan Cinephile Award

[Winner] *I, Poppy* | Vivek CHAUDHARY | India / France

Jury Comment: This film captures the dilemma between livelihood and justice with an objective and vivid perspective, portraying the protagonist's struggle against the absurdity of an unjust society and a family attempting to compromise with it. The camera reveals moments of humor within the everyday lives of people, adding warmth and familiarity while dealing with a weighty subject. Although the story concludes in tragedy, the film conveys to its audience the unyielding vitality and resilience of life. More than a mere record, it aspires to drive societal change and foster educational impact, while shedding renewed light on issues to which society has grown indifferent. For these reasons, it has been selected as the winner.

20. Documentary Audience Award

[Winner] *Where We Stay for a While* | WANG Mincheol | Korea

21. Flash Forward Audience Award

[Winner] *Hana* Korea | Frederik SØLBERG | Denmark / Korea