



4 - 8 March 2020

CINEMASIA FILM FESTIVAL

Studio/K - Rialto

CINEMASIA.NL



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debat / podium / live-muziek / club
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TIMORPLEIN 62
AMSTERDAM

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visual effects title design



planet x

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2020 edition of CinemAsia Film Festival! Between the 4th and 8th of March we will bring you a selection of the finest Asian cinema. With 1 World Premiere, 2 International Premieres, 4 European Premieres and 20 National Premieres, we selected a unique and balanced program of the best and most recent fiction and documentary from Asia.

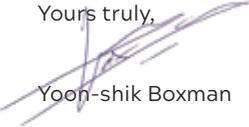
Besides our Competition and Official Selection, we have a special focus on Asian diaspora voices from around the globe. We have asked veteran festival programmer Leo Soesanto (Cannes, IFFR) to curate a section of stories from the many Asian diaspora communities all over the world.

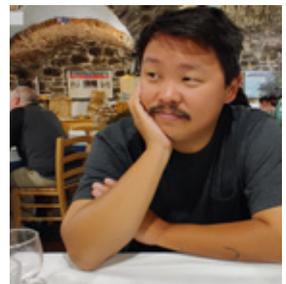
Now we are here with you at the highpoint of our yearly activities, CinemAsia Film Festival, a celebration of Asian culture, food and foremost, film. This edition comes after a year with historic highpoints for Asian cinema, **Parasite** by director Bong Joon-ho, took back 4 Oscars to South Korea!! Never has South Korea had a film so popular and decorated overseas. Parasite is an instant classic which will be shown as a masterpiece for many generations to come. People like Bong are inspiring young Asian kids to become a director or scriptwriter, to follow their passion instead of the stereotypical paved road to success. This is why it is so important for young people to have inspiring role models to look up to. We hope that Bong can do that for a whole next generation of Asian filmmakers around the globe! Representation matters!

We are thankful for the everlasting support of our volunteers, staff and board members, our partners Studio/K and Rialto, our sponsors and financiers, without your support this festival could not have taken place! CinemAsia could, like in the last three years, also count on the support of the AFK and Netherlands Filmfund. We have welcomed both funding organisations' call for debate and conversation on the topics of diversity and inclusivity, and we hope that we can keep on contributing to a future with better representation and inclusivity of Asians in the media- film- and cultural sector.

We hope this week full with film, culture and food may work as an catalyst between all people of all cultures and nations. And makes us look for the common denominators we share, the things that bind us: the love of good food, and the love of good film....

Yours truly,


Yoon-shik Boxman





Mrs Noisy ミセス・ノイズイ

Director: AMANO Chihiro

Cast: SHINOHARA Yukiko,

OOTAKA Yoko, NAGAO

Takuma, NIITSU Chise,

MIYAZAKI Taichi, YONEMOTO

Raiki

Japan | 2019

106 min

Drama, Comedy

Japanese | Eng. subs.

European premiere

Date & Venue

Wednesday 4 March

19:00, Studio/K SK1

Friday 6 March

19:00, Rialto [+Q&A](#)

After winning a grand literature award, author Maki (SHINOHARA Yukiko) struggles to follow up with something new. She has just moved into a new apartment with her husband and their little daughter, where she's confronted with a nasty case of writer's block. As if that wasn't enough, she's also constantly distracted by her inconveniently timed noisy neighbour (OOTAKA Yoko). What started as a small quarrel ends in an unstoppable viral social media sensation that changes the lives of the two women forever. Through creative staging, great performances by the lead actresses and an interesting narrative structure, director AMANO Chihiro shows that there are always two sides to every story.



After working in an office for five years, director AMANO Chihiro shifted towards making films. This change of career proved to be a success: her work has been shown and awarded in both domestic and international film festivals. She is known for *Confession of Figaro* (2012), *Doshitemo furetakunai* (2014) and *Leap Year Girl* (2018). *Mrs. Noisy* (2019) is her fifth feature film.



Heavy Craving 大餓

Director: HSIEH Pei-ju

Cast: TSAI Jia-yin, Samantha

KO, Yao CHANG, CHANG

En-wei

Taiwan | 2019

90 min

Drama

Mandarin | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Sunday 8 March

19:30, Studio/K SK1

Thirty years old and 105 kilogram of weight, lunch lady Ying-juan (TSAI Jia-yin) is the opposite of society's beauty standards. Her mother (Samantha KO) cannot stand it anymore and signs her up for a rigorous weight loss programme, much to the grievances of her daughter who's used to the ridiculing and has long made peace with her overweight body. Things change when she meets delivery boy Wu (Yao CHANG) and discovers that one of the young students at the childcare center loves to cross-dress. Just when things are getting on the right track, Ying-juan's passion for cooking and life seem to be fading away due to her over-aggressive diet. Bitterly, Ying-juan finds herself standing on the brink of a meltdown, both physically and psychologically. *Heavy Craving* is a heartfelt drama about acceptance and the freedom to be yourself, with an incredible breakout performance by newcomer TSAI Jia-yin.



Director HSIEH Pei-ju earned her MFA in film directing at Columbia University. She is one of the directors of *Ten Years Taiwan* (2018), a collection of short films, and directed the short *Knighthood* (2013). Her debut feature *Heavy Craving* (2019) won Best New Talent at the Taipei Film Awards, and Audience Choice Award at Taipei Film Festival's International New Talent Competition.



Still: Saturday Fiction



The Competition brings films from both new and established talents that showcases a strong filmmaking vision, shifts cinematic boundaries and / or presents subjects with groundbreaking effects.



Balloon 气球

Director: Pema TSEDEN
 Cast: Sonam WANGMO, Jinpa,
 Yangshik TSO

China | 2019
 102 min
 Drama
 Tibetan | Eng. subs

Date & Venue
Saturday 7 March
 12:00, Rialto
Sunday 8 March
 12:30, Rialto

Part of the economy of a rural Tibetan society depends on exchanging rams and ewes during mating season. Meanwhile the citizens themselves are struggling with their own sexuality, in a clash between modern and traditional values. So when two young boys blow up their parents' condoms, father Dargye (Jinpa) and his wife Drolkar (Sonam WANGMO) are faced with the practical consequences: they've lost their only anti-conceptive option.

China has recently introduced its one-child policy, which forbids starting large families. When Drolkar accidentally becomes pregnant with her fourth child, her fragile family life is about to collapse. The moral dilemma of what to do with the unborn child forces her to choose between the law and Buddhist tradition in this thoughtful and endearing drama from Tibetan master director Pema TSEDEN.



Pema TSEDEN (1969, China) is a Tibetan film director and screenwriter of Chinese citizenship. He graduated from Northwest University for Nationalities and later pursued advanced studies at Beijing Film Academy. He has published more than fifty novels in both Chinese and Tibetan. He is considered to be the leading figure in Tibetan Cinema and his films have won several awards. He is most known for *The Silent Holy Stones* (2002), *Soul Searching* (2007), *Tharlo* (2015, and *Jinpa* (2018) among other films



Saturday Fiction 兰心大剧院

Director: LOU Ye

Cast: GONG Li, Mark CHAO, ODAGIRA, Joe, Pascal GREGGORY, Thomas WLASCHIHHA, HUANG Xiangli, WANG Chuanjun

China | 2019

126 min | Black and White

Drama, History

Mandarin, English, Japanese,

French | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Thursday 5 March

19:00, Rialto

Sunday 8 March

21:00, Rialto

Iconic Chinese actress GONG Li gives a mesmerizing and elegant performance in *Saturday Fiction*, a tense and brooding historical thriller set in Japanese-occupied Shanghai during World War II. She plays acclaimed actress Jean Yu, who after a long absence has returned to Shanghai to rehearse for a play directed by a former lover (Mark CHAO). And yet, she seems to have ulterior motives for her star appearance. What is her true aim and involvement in the encroaching global catastrophes of World War II?

She navigates a murky cultural and political landscape where old friends can return as enemies, soldiers or spies. As everything seems to spiral out of control, Jean Yu starts to question whether or not to reveal a secret she carries with her, which can turn the tides of history.



LOU Ye (1965) was born and grew up in Shanghai, a city he would later portray in his *Suzhou River* (2000). After studying at the Beijing Film Academy, the gifted young man debuted in the film industry as a screenwriter, a producer and a short subjects director. His second feature *Weekend Lover* (1995) was both a public and critical success. He also made the festival selections *Purple Butterfly* (2003), *Summer Palace* (2006), *Spring Fever* (2009), and *Blind Massage* (2011) and several other films.



Fagara 花椒之味

Director: Heiward MAK

Cast: Sammi CHENG, Megan LAI, LI Xiaofeng, Andy LAU, LO Chun-yip

Hong Kong, China | 2019

118 min

Drama

Cantonese, Mandarin | Eng. subs.
Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Thursday 5 March

21:30, Studio/K SK3

Saturday 7 March

19:00, Rialto

After the death of her estranged father, Hong Kong based Acacia (Sammi CHENG) is dealt with organizing his send off, as well as taking care of her late father's hotpot restaurant. At the funeral she discovers the existence of two half-sisters, Branch (Megan LAI) from Taiwan and Cherry (LI Xiaofeng) from mainland China, with whom she shares her resentment and contempt against her father. In their newly obtained hotpot restaurant, the three ladies form a bond together and start to understand the choices that their father has made in the past. Produced by Ann HUI, one of Hong Kong's most prominent filmmakers, and with a supporting role by Andy LAU, director Heiward MAK has crafted an engaging and intimate family drama with a strong and eminent female cast.

Image Courtesy of Media Asia International Distribution



Heiward MAK made her directorial feature debut at the age of twenty four, with the film *High Noon* (2008). For her script of *Love in a Puff* (2010), she was awarded Best Screenplay at the 2011 Hong Kong Film Awards, and her short film *Beside(s), Happiness* (2011) won her a Best Director prize at the 24th Singapore International Film Festival. She produced WONG Chun's debut film *Mad World* (2016), which opened the 10th edition of the CinemAsia Film Festival in 2017.



Homecoming (Mudik)

Director: Adriyanto DEWO
Cast: Putri AYUDYA, Ibnu JAMIL, Asmara ABIGAIL

Indonesia | 2019
 93 min
 Drama
 Indonesian | Eng. subs. |
European premiere

Date & Venue
Wednesday 4 March
 19:00, Rialto
Sunday 8 March
 17:00, Rialto

In the few days before Eid, a young married couple, Firman (Ibnu JAMIL) and Aida (Putri AYUDYA) like many urban Indonesians are travelling across the country to spend the festival with family. Aida and Firman decide to drive together from the city to their rural hometown. The atmosphere in the car is tense due to Aida's suspicion of her husband's infidelity. In the middle of their journey, they are involved in a tragic car accident which brings them into contact with Santi (Asmara ABIGAIL). This unexpected event is the beginning of a series of uncomfortable encounters with Santi, which triggers Aida's journey of self-discovery and confronts her with questions about her life and marriage. Through the touching circumstances of the main characters' confrontation during the annual pre-Eid journey home, Homecoming's screenplay subtly tackles moral questions regarding gender and economic inequality in modern Indonesia.



Adriyanto DEWO is an Indonesian filmmaker and screenwriter known for his first feature film *Tabula Rasa* (2014). *Tabula Rasa* (2014) won Best Director and Best Original Script at the Indonesian Film Festival 2014. DEWO directed his first project, a black-and-white short film titled *The Storyteller* (2008) after graduating in Film Directing from the Jakarta Institute of Arts in the department of Film and Television.



John Denver Trending

Director: Arden Rod CONDEZ

Cast: Jansen MAGPUSAO,

Meryll SORIANO,

Philippines | 2019

96 min

Drama, Coming of Age

Tagalog | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Thursday 5 March

21:30, Rialto

Friday 6 March

16:50, Studio/K SK1

This gripping debut feature based on a true story is a perfect example of how social media can shape, intensify and problematize sensitive narratives. It's something that the fourteen year old farm boy John Denver (Jansen MAGPUSAO) is about to find out. His life is rapidly turned upside down when a video of him assaulting a classmate goes viral. Although the video is taken out of context and uploaded with the most malicious intent, nobody could have predicted the tragic outcome of this viral story gone wrong.

In his sensitive role of the misunderstood teenager, debuting actor Jansen MAGPUSAO proves to be an incredible screen presence. Debuting screenwriter and director Arden Rod CONDEZ is an equally talented newcomer, one of the more promising new voices to emerge from The Philippines, where John Denver Trending won six prizes at the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.



After graduating from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas with a degree in Broadcast Communication, Arden Rod CONDEZ found work as a full-time writer for television network ABS-CBN. He wrote drama series for almost fifteen years before he found his break as a film director with debut feature film *John Denver Trending* which won six prizes at the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.



Dolly Kitten and those Twinkeling Stars

Director: Alankrita SHRIVASTAVA

Cast: Konkona SENSHARMA,

Bhumi PEDNEKAR, Vikrant

MASSEY, Amol PARASHAR,

Aamir BASHIR

India | 2019

130 min | Drama

Hindi | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Friday 6 March

21:30, Rialto

Saturday 7 March

14:00, Rialto

A lovely family, a hard working husband, and a beautiful new apartment in New Delhi; Dolly (Konkona SENSHARMA) is finally realizing her middle-class aspirations. Meanwhile her cousin Kaajal (Bhumi PEDNEKAR) moves into the city to also try her luck in the sprawling metropole. She does find a job, but it's in a call center as a romantic conversational partner for lonely men.

These cousins, once close as sisters, feel as if something is lacking in their lives. Indian writer and director Alankrita SHRIVASTAVA (who won the CinemAsia Audience Award in 2016 for her previous hit film *Lipstick Under My Burkha*) is keen to show how both of them are actually boxed into archetypical roles for women in a patriarchal society. Her latest comedy is an audacious, rousing and constantly surprising film that shows what happens when women refuse to live the lives that are expected of them.



Alankrita SHRIVASTAVA is an award-winning feature film director and screenwriter from Mumbai, India, with a penchant for telling women's stories. Her second feature film as writer-director, *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, winner of the 2016 CinemAsia Audience Award, was banned in India for being a too honest portrayal of women. However SHRIVASTAVA still enjoys success as one of the leading directors hailing from India. She has co-written and co-directed the critically acclaimed and hugely popular Amazon Prime Original series *Made In Heaven* (2019). *Dolly Kitty And Those Twinkling Stars* is her third feature film as writer-director.



The Wayfarers (Raahgir)

Director: Goutam GHOSE
Cast: Adil HUSSAIN, Tillotama SHOME, Neeraj KABI, Onkardas MANIKPURI

India | 2019
81 min
Drama
Hindi | Eng. subs.
Dutch premiere

Date & Venue
Wednesday 4 March
17:15, Studio/K SK3
Saturday 7 March
21:30, Rialto

The Wayfarers is an emotional portrayal of encounters between poverty-stricken strangers that, in order to find new economic opportunities, have to traverse the vast country of India by foot. One fateful morning, Nathuni (Tillotama SHOME) is on her way, when she runs into Lakhpati (Adil HUSSAIN, known for his major role in *Life of Pi*, 2012), a born wanderer that accompanies her on her journey. They share the burden of their travels by telling stories, revealing personal histories and sticking out for each other.

Goutam GHOSE's roadmovie is an intimate and unflinching depiction of lower class Indian society that showcases the power of cultural exchange and storytelling. Ultimately, it's a heartfelt ode to human decency and solidarity that shows the life altering possibilities that random acts of kindness can bring.



Goutam GHOSE is an established name in regional Bengali cinema. He was born and raised in Calcutta where he graduated from the University of Calcutta. In the 1970s, he started out as a documentary filmmaker and photojournalist, before making his way into fiction storytelling. This has formed his style of social realist cinema, which has a close eye for the lives of lower classes and social outcasts in Indian society.



Lunana: a Yak in the classroom

Director: Pawo Choyning DORJI
Cast: Serhab DORJI, Ugyen Norbu LHENDUP, Kelden Lhamo GURUNG, Pema ZAM

Bhutan | 2019
109 min
Drama
Dzongkha | Eng. subs.
Dutch premiere

Date & Venue
Thursday 5 March
16:45, Rialto
Saturday 7 March
16:45, Rialto

Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom is the story of a young teacher from the capital of Bhutan who is set on a path of self-discovery when he is sent away to the remote mountain village of Lunana. He finds himself in a situation that is primitive compared to the more 'Western' comforts he is used to. The Himalayan village has no electricity, no textbooks, and a severe lack of luxury supplies.

Through the warmth and generosity of the villagers, he becomes a changed man that learns to treasure the experience he initially feared. Fittingly, the entire film was shot with the use of solar batteries, because Lunana actually hosts the world's most remote school and cannot provide the electricity a regular film shoot requires. Behind the scenes the film crew went through a parallel situation as the main character, which might explain the endearing and loving portrayal of this remarkable place.



Pawo Choyning DORJI shows off multiple skills with this debut film that he also wrote and produced. As a Bhutanese filmmaker on the international market he is a rare feat. He popped onto the international film community's radar after producing *Hema Hema: Sing me a Song While I Wait* (2016), which finally placed Bhutan on the filmmaking map.

COMPETITION JURY AWARD

This year, the Jury Award is given to a film that showcases a strong filmmaking vision, shifts cinematic boundaries, and/or presents subjects with groundbreaking effects.

Past winners:

2014: NIGHT FLIGHT (LEESONG Hee-il | South Korea)

2015: THE COFFIN IN THE MOUNTAIN (XIN Yukun | China)

2016: ZINNIA FLOWER (Tom Shu-Yu LIN | Taiwan)

2017: DIAMOND ISLAND (Davy CHOU | Cambodia, Germany, Qatar, Thailand)

2018: BAD GENIUS (Nattawut Poonpiriya | Thailand)

2019: TUMBBAD (Rahi Anil Barve & Adesh Prasad | India)



JURY 2020



Aileen Li is an Executive Producer / Producer of Filmagic Pictures Co.. The first featured film she produced, *Formula 17* (2004), was the highest - grossing Taiwanese film that year, followed by *The Heirloom* (2005), *The Shoe Fairy* (2005) and *Catch* (2006). In recent years, she has produced many acclaimed local films such as *Young Dudes* (2012), *When A Wolf Falls In Love With A Sheep* (2012), *Black and White: Episode 1 The Dawn of Assault* (2012), *Ode to Time* (2016), *Detention* (2019) and coordinated the shooting of several high-profile international productions, such as Luc Besson's *Lucy* (2014), John Woo's *The Crossing* (2015) and Jackie Chan produced *Bleeding Steel* (2017), and Netflix first Chinese Original series *Nowhere Man* (2019).

Floortje Smit is one of Holland's leading film critics. She writes for de Volkskrant for over fifteen years, and has a special interest in diversity and feminism. Smit has attended several of the most important international film festivals. Smit studied modern history and journalism at the University of Groningen and attended several film classes. Since her graduation she has been working as a journalist. Not only does she spend a good deal of her time in the cinema: her voice can also be heard on the Dutch national radio, as a reporter, movie specialist and presenter.



Pete Wu is a journalist, writer and programme developer. His debut book with Das Mag was released in October 2019; *De bananengeneratie: over het dubbelleven van Chinese Nederlanders van nu*. He published prose in De Gids, DIG, and the first Sampler of publishing house Das Mag in 2018. He previously studied English literature, American Studies and Media Philosophy, and wrote for De Volkskrant, International Film Festival Rotterdam, VICE, and Quest. Currently, he is working on a documentary series for VPRO Dorst and works as editor-in-chief for Brandpunt +.

Julian Ross is a researcher, curator and writer based in Amsterdam. He is a Programmer at International Film Festival Rotterdam, selection committee member at Locarno Film Festival and Assistant Professor at Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society (LUCAS). His curatorial projects have been presented in Tate Modern, Art Institute of Chicago, Kunsthal Rotterdam, BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Eye Filmmuseum, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Anthology Film Archives, Harvard Film Archives and other places. His recent publications include book chapters in *The Japanese Cinema Book* (BFI, forthcoming), *A Companion to Experimental Film* (Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming) and *America: Films from Elsewhere* (2019, The Shoestring Press).



Inge de Leeuw works as a programmer for the International Film Festival Rotterdam. For IFFR she selects films from North America, Great Britain and Ireland and curates thematic programmes that focus on the relationship between cinema and other disciplines.



Still: Tezuka's Barbara



The Cinemasia Official Selection brings exciting new films that are critically acclaimed or massively popular with audiences, to enable a presentation of a fuller picture of contemporary Asian cinema.



Princess Aya 프린세스 아야

Director: LEE Sung-gang
Cast: BAEK A-yeon, PARK Jin-young

South Korea | 2019
 90 min
 Animation, Fantasy, Musical
 Korean | Eng. subs.
 Dutch premiere

Date & Venue
Saturday 7 March
 13:00, Studio/K SK3
Sunday 8 March
 15:00, Studio/K SK3

Princess Aya (BAEK A-yeon) of the Yeonliji Kingdom is born with the rare gift of transformation, which is also her curse. In order to protect herself, she receives a magical bracelet from her mother that helps her to repress transforming into animals. Amidst a war, Aya decides to marry Prince Bari (PARK Jin-young), the enemy, to form an alliance for peace. But in this new kingdom there are new enemies that attempt to conquer her homeland and revoke Prince Bari from the throne. With the help of Prince Bari and a little cat, she tries to unravel the issue and protect their kingdoms. Depicting the strong vocals of GOT7's PARK Jin-young and singer and songwriter BAEK A-yeon, *Princess Aya* reveals a magical story with Korean characteristics. Produced by YEON Sang-ho, director of *Train to Busan* (2016), the film promises an entertaining time for the entire family.



Known for his award-winning animations, LEE Sung-gang, aka the godfather of Korean animation, debuted with *My Beautiful Girl, Mari* in 2002, followed by the also acclaimed *Yobi, The Five Tailed Fox* (2007). After graduating from Yonsei University, Lee started to work in short animations until his debut, which won the Grand Prix at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival, making his debut the first Korean animation to win such an award.



Moonlit Winter 윤희에게

Director: LIM Dae-hyung

Cast: KIM Hee-ae,
NAKAMURA Yuko, KIM
So-hye, SUNG Yu-bin

South Korea | 2019

106 min

Drama, Romance, **LGBTQ+**
Korean, Japanese | Eng. subs.
International premiere

Date & Venue

Friday 6 March

21:20, Studio/K SK3

Sunday 8 March

19:30, Studio/K SK3

When high-schooler Sae-bom (KIM So-hye) finds a mysterious letter written to her mother, she does not foresee the unraveling of an age-old secret carefully guarded by her mother Yoon-hee (KIM Hee-ae) whose unfortunate circumstances have put her through a life of silence and dutifulness, an expected role of a Korean woman. In an effort to cheer up her recently divorced mother, Sae-bom concocted a plan to take Yoon-hee on a trip to Otaru, a quiet and snowy town in the north of Japan, bringing her closer to the sender of the letter. Subtle yet poignant, director LIM Dae-hyung mesmerises the audience with this tender story of relationships and love which transcends conventional boundaries.



LIM Dae-hyung (1986) is a South Korean director whose second feature film *Moonlit Winter* premiered as the closing film at the 24th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF). His first feature-length film *Merry Christmas Mr. Mo* (2016) won several awards, including Best New Director at the Busan Film Critics Awards.



Yellow Ribbon 당신의 사월

Director: JU Hyun-sook
Cast: PARK Chul-woo, LEE Ok-young, LEE Yu-kyeong, JUNG Ju-yeon

South Korea | 2019
 87 min
 Documentary
 Korean | Eng. subs.
International premiere

Date & Venue
Friday 6 March
 17:00, Rialto
Sunday 8 March
 17:20, Studio/K SKI

April 16, 2014. A ferry departing from Incheon to the island of Jeju sinks. On board of the ship is a total of 476 passengers and crew. 304, of which 250 high school students, die a horrible drowning death. The sinking of the MC Sewol kickstarted a widespread political and social reaction within South Korea, aimed at the ferry's captain and crew, ferry operator, and the entire Park Geun-hye administration for its dramatic disaster response. Five years later, director JU Hyun-sook retraces Korea's national trauma by following five people with their own memories and scars of that fatal morning. Yellow Ribbon is an urgent and heartfelt documentary giving a unique insight in the aftermath of one of South Korea's most sensitive traumas in recent history.



JU Hyun-sook is a documentary filmmaker that majored in documentaries at the Korean National University of Arts. She is most known for *It Goes On - The Undocumented is Documented* (2004), *Death or Leave* (2004), *She Is* (2007), *The Place* (2014), and *Red Brick* (2017).



Exit 엑시트

Director: LEE Sang-geun

Cast: CHO Jung-seok, Yoona,
GOH Doo-shim, PARK In-
hwan, KIM Ji-young

South Korea | 2019

103 min

Action, Blockbuster
Korean | Eng. subs.
Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Friday 6 March

19:15, Studio/K SK3

Saturday 7 March

21:45, Studio/K SK1

Yong-nam (CHO Jung-seok) is one of the best rock climbers in college but hasn't had much luck elsewhere after graduation. He has failed to get a job for many years and solely relies on his parents to get by. For his mother's 70th birthday he insists on hosting the party at Dream Garden because his old crush Eui-ju (Yoona) works there. When a disaster strikes, covering an entire district in Seoul with mysterious white gas, he has to use all of his rock climbing skills with the help of Eui-ju to get everyone to safety.



LEE Sang-geun majored in film from the Korea National University of Arts and has been making short movies as early as in 1999. In 2006, he won Best Film in The King of Comedy from the Mise-en-scène Short Film Festival and received the Grand Prix of the Daegu Short Film Festival. With nine million admissions, *Exit* (2019) defied expectations by becoming one of the greatest Korean box office of the year.



Tezuka's Barbara ばるぼら

Director: TEZUKA Makoto
 Cast: INAGAKI Gorô, NIKAIDO Fumi, SHIBUKAWA Kiyohiko

Japan, UK, Germany | 2019
 100 min
 Fantasy
 Japanese | Eng. subs.
 Dutch premiere

Date & Venue
Friday 6 March
 after midnight screening
 00:15, Studio/K SK1
Saturday 7 March
 23:50, Studio/K SK1

Tezuka's Babara tells a bizarre love story between a famous novelist Yosuke Mikuro (INAGAKI Gorô) and an odd, sexually perverted woman (NIKAIDO Fumi) who he picks up from the street. As Mikuro develops a maniacal obsession over Barbara, he also begins to suffer from some mysterious hallucinations. Based on a classic 1974 adult manga by Japanese manga artist TEZUKA Osamu, and directed by his son TEZUKA Makoto, this adult-orientated fantasy is not only quirky and wild, but also sarcastic about Japan's political realities. The collaboration with jazz musician HASHIMOTO Ichiko and WONG Kar-wai's cinematographer Christopher DOYLE (*In the Mood for Love*, 2000) also brings the poetics of eroticism in the film one step further.



TEZUKA Makoto, also known as Macoto TEZKA, is a Japanese film and anime director. He describes himself as a visualist and is involved in the creation of moving images beyond cinema and animation. His short film *High School Terror* (1979), made during his student time, was a pioneering piece for the booming of the Japanese horror genre. The film *Hakuchi* (1999), which took him ten years to develop, won the Digital Award at the Venice International Film Festival and many other international and national awards.



The Wild Goose Lake 南方车站的聚会

Director: DIAO Yi'nan
Cast: HU Ge, GWEI Lun Mei,
 LIAO Fan, WAN Qian, QI Dao

China | 2019
 113 min
 Noir, Crime
 Wuhan dialect | Eng. subs.

Date & Venue
Friday 6 March
 21:45, Studio/K SK1 **+INTRO**

Award-winning Chinese director DIAO Yi'nan (Golden Berlin Bear winner for *Black Coal, Thin Ice* in 2014) returns with another brooding crime noir, this time rain-soaked and dripped in sleazy neon lighting. It's under these circumstances that a sudden brawl breaks out between local mobsters. Amidst the ensuing chaos, some gangsters are killed and a cop is shot, leaving anti-hero Zhou Zenong (HU Ge) as the most wanted man on both sides of the law.

The Wild Goose Lake is DIAO Yi'nan at his most moody, bloody and thrilling. It played in the prestigious competition section of the 2019 Cannes Film Festival and won the China Film Critics Association Award.



DIAO Yi'nan is an award-winning Chinese director of *Uniform* (2003), *Night Train* (2007) and Golden Bear winner *Black Coal, Thin Ice* (2014). Following his graduation from the Central Academy of Drama in 1962, he worked as a stage writer and screenwriter for films and television series before he directed his own work. His latest feature film *The Wild Goose Lake* had its premiere in the competition section of the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.



The River in Me 大合唱

Director: KE Yongquan, YANG Zhichun, HE Yuan

Cast: SU Yang, LIU Shikai, ZHANG Jinlai, WEI Zongfu, MA Fengshan

China | 2019
98 min

Music documentary |
Mandarin | Eng. subs.
European premiere

Date & Venue
Wednesday 4 March
15:15, Studio/K SK3
Sunday 8 March
19:00, Rialto

Guided by Beijing based Chinese ethno-rock musician SU Yang, *The River in Me* takes us on a musical journey to SU's hometown in Northwest China, where the traditional art forms of Qinqiang, Piyang, and Huaer originated. As part of the result of a three-year ethnographic project, the documentary depicts how the local villagers embrace life through their unique musical and artistic expressions, and how they struggle to keep those traditions alive. The film includes a number of marvelous pieces of the traditional folklores and their contemporary adaptations. Coupled with the camera's sensual touch of magical Loess Plateau and Yellow River in that region, *The River in Me* truthfully presents life as it is in Northwest China: raw, passionate, and full of vitality.



HE Yuan is an anthropologist and documentary filmmaker. His majors work *Apuda* (2011) and *Father and Son* (2009) have been shown and awarded in several international film festivals including International Festival of Audiovisual Programs (FIPA) and International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR).

YANG Zhichun is a PhD candidate in the School of Journalism and Communication at Tsinghua University. He has participated in the production of several Chinese documentaries, including *Masters in Forbidden City* (2016).

KE Yongquan is a recent graduate from the School of Journalism and Communication at Tsinghua University. Currently, he works as a documentary filmmaker.



Detention 返校

Director: John HSU
Cast: Gingle WANG, FU Meng-po, TSENG Jing-hua, Cecilia CHOI, CHU Hung-chang

Taiwan | 2019
 103 min
 Suspense, Thriller, Horror
 Mandarin | Eng. subs.

Date & Venue
Thursday 5 March
 21:45, Studio/K SK1
Saturday 7 March
 21:40, Studio/K SK3

Detention is a highly unusual period film about Taiwanese life under the White Terror martial law. It's a brooding psychological horror, based on a popular video game, mostly set in an abandoned high school. Writer and director John HSU (winner of two Golden Horse Awards for his screenplay and directing) uses these spooky horror tropes to illustrate how oppressive the Chinese presence has been for Taiwanese citizens, as many books and other countercultural products were strictly forbidding. The traumas that inform the horror in this film stem from the fact that an illegal book club in a high school was captured and punished by officials. During a nightmarish night Fang Ray Shin (Gingle WANG) tries to unveil the bloody secrets that led to the demise of her rebellious study friends.



John HSU is a screenwriter and director with a special interest in new media storytelling, digital culture, video games and cinema. He's the co-founder of AFK PL@YERS, the biggest machinima production group in Taiwan, and based his directorial feature film *Detention* (2019) on a popular Taiwanese video game.



Suk Suk 叔 . 叔

Director: Ray YEUNG

Cast: Tai-bo, Ben YUEN, LO
Chun-yip, LAM Yiu-sing

Hong Kong | 2019

92 min

Drama, **LGBTQ+**

Cantonese | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Thursday 5 March

19:05, Studio/K SK3 **+INTRO**

Saturday 7 March

16:40, Studio/K SK1

70-year-old taxi driver Pak (Tai-bo) lives a seemingly normal life and is happily married to his wife. Hoi (Ben YUEN), a 65-year-old retired widower, started to live with his devoted Christian son's family after the loss of his wife. The two men, who have never revealed their true sexual identities, meet by chance in the streets of Hong Kong. As they fall in love with each other they contemplate a possible future together, but the shame that'll fall on their families makes it exponentially more difficult, so hesitation strikes. Ray YEUNG's third feature *Suk Suk* is a wonderfully crafted, endearing film about a couple struggling to balance their personal desire and the conventional expectations of their families.



Ray YEUNG is an award-winning film director from Hong Kong who lived a big part of his life in both the United Kingdom and the United States. In 2000, he resurrected the Hong Kong Lesbian & Gay Film Festival and works as a programmer for the festival. LGBTQ+ themes run like a thread through his films. His second feature, *Front Cover* (2015), played at the 9th edition of the Cinemasia Film Festival.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4

	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	00:00
SK1								Mrs. Noisy 19:00 - 21:15		Gundala 21:30 - 23:35			
SK3				The River in Me 15:15 - 17:00		The Wayfarers 17:15 - 18:45		A Man Called Ahok 19:15 - 21:20					
Café							Opening drinks		FilmLAB Jam session 20.00 - 22.30				
RIALTO								Homecoming 19:00 - 20:45		Overseas 21:00 - 22:40			

THURSDAY MARCH 5

	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	00:00
SK1						A Man Called Ahok 16:45 - 18:50					Detention 21:45 - 23:50		
SK3				Little Q 14:30 - 16:30		The Taste of Pho 16:40 - 18:20		Suk Suk 19:05 - 20:40		Fagara 21:30 - 23:35			
SK4 Café				Producing In A Time of Flux 15:00 - 16:30					Live in between vol. 2: Trans-dialogue 20:00 - 22:00				
RIALTO						Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom 16:45 - 18:45		Saturday Fiction 19:00 - 21:15		John Denver Trending 21:30 - 23:30			

FRIDAY MARCH 6

	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	00:00
SK1						John Denver Trending 16:50 - 18:50					The Wild Goose Lake 21:45 - 23:35		Tezuka's Barbara 00:15 - 02:00
SK3				Verdict 14:45 - 17:00		Lingua Franca 17:15 - 19:00		Exit 19:15 - 21:05		Moonlit Winter 21:20 - 23:15			Two Sisters 00:00 - 01:35
SK4								The Future of Trans Politics 19:00 - 20:00	Positive in the Kingdom of Wonders 20:00 - 22:00	Spectacular Spectrum Spectators X Rainbow Karaoke 22:00 - Late			
RIALTO						Yellow Ribbon 17:00 - 18:40		Mrs. Noisy - Q&A 19:00 - 21:10		Dolly Kitty and Those Twinkling Stars 21:30 - 00:00			

● Competition
 ● Official Selection
 ● Diaspora
 ● FilmLAB
 ● Side Event

SATURDAY MARCH 7

	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	00:00
SK1	Bumi Manusia 11:15 - 14:20						Suk Suk 16:40 - 18:15					Exit 21:45 - 23:35		Tezuka's Barbara 23:50 - 01:35
SK3			Princess Aya 13:00 - 14:35		Ugly Model +Q&A 15:00 - 17:00		Coming Home Again 17:15 - 19:00		Gundala 19:15 - 21:20		Detention 21:40 - 23:40		Two Sisters 00:00 - 01:35	
SK4	Queer Arts Brunch Club 12:00 - 14:00		Unboxing South Asian Masculinity 14:00 - 16:00		OUT&ABROAD: Interrelationship Panel 16:00 - 18:00		BODY SESSIONS x Cinemasia LGBTQ+ 18:00 - 20:00		The Asian Union Comfort Ball 20:00-21:00	Between Goodbyes and Queer Adoptee Art 21:00 - 23:00				
Café							FilmLAB Network Borrel 17:00 - 19:00							
Café	CINEMASIA FOOD BAZAAR 12.00-22.00													
RIALTO	Balloon 12:00 - 13:45		Dolly Kitty and Those Twinkling Stars 14:00 - 16:30			Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom 16:45 - 18:45		Fagara 19:00 - 21:10		The Wayfarers 21:30 - 23:00				

SUNDAY MARCH 8

	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
SK1		Bumi Manusia 11:45 - 14:50						Yellow Ribbon 17:20 - 19:10		Closing film Heavy Craving 19:30 - 21:30			
SK3		Little Q 12:45 - 14:40		Princess Aya 15:00 - 16:35		Complicity 17:00 - 19:10		Moonlit Winter 19:30 - 21:20					
SK4						Tempo Doeloe? 15:30 - 17:30		Translation Between Thresholds 17:30 - 19:00					
Café		CINEMASIA FOOD BAZAAR 12.00-22.00											
RIALTO		Balloon 12:30 - 14:15		Verdict 14:30 - 16:45		Homecoming 17:00 - 18:45		The River in Me 19:00 - 20:45		Saturday Fiction 21:00 - 23:15			

All films have ENGLISH subtitles
Screening time and venues are subject to change.
Please refer to cinemasia.nl to find out more



Little Q 小Q

Director: LAW Wing-Cheong

Cast: Simon YAM, Gigi LEUNG, Him LAW, Charlie YEUNG, Frankie LAM

Hong Kong | 2019

108 min

Drama

Cantonese | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Thursday 5 March

14:30, Studio/K SK3

Sunday 8 March

12:45, Studio/K SK3

A yellow Labrador named Little Q is training to become a guide dog for the blind. After completing his training in his temporal family home, he is sent to recently blinded, famous dessert chef Lee Bo Ting (Simon YAM). The once beloved pastry master, now turned bitter and short tempered, is reluctant to rely on Little Q, accepting help from nobody. Through Little Q's loyalty, dedication and protection, the loveable pup teaches Bo Ting how to trust again and opens him up to a new life of wonderful possibilities. Based on the Japanese best selling novel Quill: The Life of a Guide Dog, *Little Q* is a deeply touching story about loyalty and the unique bond between a man and his dog.



LAW Wing-cheong is an actor, editor and director from Hong Kong. He made his directorial debut with *Running Out of Time 2* (2001), in which he also functioned as the editor and won a Golden Horse Award for best editing, and worked intensively together with Johnnie TO.



Bumi Manusia (This Earth of Mankind)

Director: Hanung
BRAMANTYO
Cast: Iqbaal RAMADHAN,
Mawar DE JONGH, Sha
Ine FEBRIYANTI, Giorgino
ABRAHAM

Indonesia | 2019
181 min
Historical drama
Indonesian, Dutch | Eng. subs.
European premiere

Date & Venue
Saturday 7 March
11:15, Studio/K SK1
Sunday 8 March
11:45, Studio/K SK1

This adaptation of the critically-acclaimed historical novel of the same title by author Pramoedya Ananta Toer is a turbulent love story between purebred Javanese royal Minke (Iqbaal RAMADHAN) and “Indo” mixed-Dutch girl Annelies Mellema (Mawar DE JONGH), who must fight the 20th-century Dutch colonial hegemony to be recognized as a legal couple in Dutch colonial Indonesia. Their interracial relationship is questioned, as Minke and Annelies’ Islamic wedding - in accordance with “native” customs - has no legal validity under the Dutch law.

Director Hanung BRAMANTYO portrays this tragic love saga with true-to-life costumes and picturesque scenery. The beautiful imagery is in stark contrast with the complicated and unjust social hierarchies during the Dutch colonization period, when your position in society was governed by the amount of European blood running through your veins.



Hanung BRAMANTYO is an Indonesian director best known for his works *The Verses of Love* (2008) and *Soekarno* (2013). He is noted for covering a variety of genres and political ideologies within his film oeuvre, ranging from teen romances to religious dramas. BRAMANTYO’s *The Verses of Love* (2008) was a commercial and critical success and has been credited with starting a wave of other Islamic-themed films within Indonesia. His films have also received numerous awards, including two Citra Awards for Best Director at the Indonesian Film Festival.



A Man Called Ahok

Director: Putrama TUTA
Cast: Daniel MANANTA, Eric FEBRIAN, Denny SUMARGO, CHEW Kin Wah, Eriska REIN

Indonesia | 2020
 102 min
 Biopic, Political drama
 Indonesian | Eng. subs.
 World premiere

Date & Venue
Wednesday 4 March
 19:15, Studio/K SK3
Thursday 5 March
 16:45, Studio/K SK1

Based on the early life of one of Indonesia's most divisive and influential political figures, *A Man Called Ahok* portrays the political roots of the former governor of Jakarta. Although the film acknowledges Ahok's imprisonment and controversial impact on Indonesian society, it rather focuses on the tumultuous love-hate relationship between Ahok and his father Kim Nam, the local mining company *tauke* ("big boss"). Kim Nam has big aspirations for his son to improve the lives of the rural inhabitants of Belitung, a small Indonesian island. However, as allegations of corruption are slapped on Kim Nam's business, director Putrama TUTA shows the dilemma that Ahok faces whether to follow his father's footsteps.

A Man Called Ahok provides an intimate look into the family life and values that have shaped Ahok's political origins, which are often clouded by his controversial prison sentence and his eventful charge of blasphemy. The special international cut of the film has its world premiere here at the 13th edition of the CinemAsia Film Festival.



Putrama TUTA is an Indonesian director and producer. He is known for his movie *Catatan Harian Si Boy* (*Boy's Diary*, 2011). TUTA majored in cinematography at the Centre for Film & Television Education and continued on to Melbourne, Australia in 2002. *A Man Called Ahok* (2018) is the first biopic to reach the top 10 Indonesian box office, with fourteen nominations and winning five awards. TUTA was awarded Best Director at the Indonesian Box Office Movie Awards 2019.



Gundala

Director: Joko ANWAR

Cast: Abimana ARYASATYA,
Tara BASRO, Bront PALARAE,
Muzakki RAMDHAN

Indonesia | 2019

123 min

**Action, Superhero,
Blockbuster**

**Indonesian | Eng. subs.
Dutch premiere**

Date & Venue

Tuesday 5 March

21:30, Studio/K SK1

Saturday 7 March

19:15, Studio/K SK3

Based on Indonesia's popular comic book, *Gundala* is the first installment of the highly anticipated BumiLangit Cinematic Universe of superheroes, Indonesia's answer to Marvel and DC.

This is the origin story of Sancaka (Abimana ARYASATYA), a hardened, solitary street orphan that gets struck by a mysterious lightning bolt that awakens the superhuman powers of his alter ego Gundala (Javanese for "lightning"). Sancaka's new-found powers not only force him to confront his own life of guarded seclusion, but also to finally rise up and defend those who are oppressed by the country's corrupt system, controlled by the ruthless mafia crime-boss Pengkor. Sancaka must fight Pengkor's army of orphan-assassins, to foil his plot of poisoning the nation's rice supply with a serum that targets pregnant women, which affects the fetuses and brains, making them unable to differentiate between good and bad.



Joko ANWAR began his career as a journalist and film critic for The Jakarta Post, until he was invited to write for Indonesia's first gay-themed film *Arisan!* ("The Gathering"). *Arisan!* won Best Film at the Indonesian Film Festival. He later wrote and directed his first feature film *Joni's Promise* (2005). His film oeuvre is versatile, ranging from commercial movie successes in romance and drama to horror. His record breaking horror feature *Pengabdian Setan* ("Satan's Slaves," 2017) was screened at the 11th edition of the CinemAsia Film Festival.



Verdict

Director: Raymund Ribay GUTIERREZ

Cast: Max EIGENMANN, Kristoffer KING, Jorden SUAN, Rene DURIAN

Philippines | 2019

126 min

Drama

Tagalog | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Friday 6 March

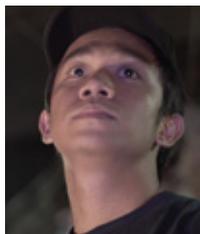
14:45, Studio/K SK3

Sunday 8 March

14:30, Rialto

A spousal fight escalates to a bloody conflict in the opening scene of Raymund Ribay GUTIERREZ' gripping debut film. Joy (Max EIGENMANN) is used to this kind of fights with her husband, a small-time criminal with an alcohol habit, but this time he has gone too far: their six-year-old daughter Angel is also hurt in the erupting violence. Finally, Joy takes a stance and reports her husband to the police. However, the odds of finding justice in the sprawling Philippines' metropole of Manila are very slight.

GUTIERREZ captures the ensuing legal battles in intense shots and an urgent form of editing. His tense film style recalls the work of his mentor Brillante MENDOZA (Kinatay, 2009). This cutthroat depiction of bureaucratic indifference towards victims of domestic abuse garnered him a deserved Special Jury Prize at the 2019 Venice Film Festival.



Raymund Ribay GUTIERREZ (1992, Manila) started out as a graphic designer, but made his way to filmmaking through a film course of leading Philippines director Brillante MENDOZA. His shorts films Imago (2016) and Judgement (2018) were nominated for a Palme d'Or at Cannes. Debut feature Verdict (2019) won the Special Jury Prize at the 2019 Venice Film Festival.



Two Sisters 姐妹

Director: James LEE

Cast: LIM Mei Fen, Emily LIM

Malaysia | 2019

89 min

Horror

Mandarin | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Friday 6 March

23:59, Studio/K SK3

Saturday 7 March

23:59, Studio/K SK3

After being discharged from a psychiatric hospital, Mei Yue (LIM Mei Fen) finds herself under custody of her older sister Mei Xi (Emily LIM), a popular novelist. Together they move into their formerly abandoned family home, where one forbidden room has stayed securely locked. Strange things are happening when Mei Yue hears mysterious weeps from the room and dark family secrets slowly arise while Mei Xi wonders if her younger sister has truly been cured. With an eerie score and tons of suspense, indie horror flick *Two Sisters* manages to create a gripping atmosphere, slowly diving deeper into the mindset of the two frightened sisters.



James LEE is an award-winning independent Malaysian director and producer that has his roots in theatre acting and directing. He is one of the pioneers of the Malaysian Digital Film Movement and is best known for his prize-winning films *The Beautiful Washing Machine* (2004) and *Histeria* (2008).



The Ugly Model

Director: Doris Yeung

Cast: Kevin Kreider

USA | 2019

92 min

Documentary

English | Eng. subs.

Dutch premiere

Date & Venue

Saturday 7 March

15:00, Studio/K SK3 +Q&A

From the outside, Philly based Korean American adoptee and fitness model Kevin Tae-jin Kreider seems to have it all, Looks, Muscles, Chutzpah, Confidence and Charisma.

He has a popular Instagram and vlog and has modeled around the world for the likes of Men's Health, Gillette and Abercrombie & Fitch. Yet since childhood, he has always felt ugly and second best as an Asian male in America. *THE UGLY MODEL* examines the paradox of a handsome male model who feels ashamed, ugly and emasculated because of his Asian ethnicity in America. Why does Kevin still choose to be a male model where validation is based on physical appearance and his ethnicity defines his marketability? Is he a masochist for beating his head against the glass ceiling or is beauty truly in the eye of the beholder?



Doris Yeung is an Asian American filmmaker from San Francisco, Bay Area. She directed her first feature film, *Motherland* (2009) starring renowned Chinese and Canadian actors, Francoise Yip and Kenneth Tsang. It was named one of the ten best Asian American Films of 2009 by Asian Pacific Arts Magazine and her a "filmmaker to watch" by the Hollywood Reporter. Her second feature film *Taxi Stories* (2017) has screened in over thirty festivals around the world. She founded CinemAsia Film Festival in Amsterdam.

Asian Diaspora Stories and Coronavirus Racism in 2020

Media, including film and television, act as opinion makers reflecting the taste and opinions of modern society. They influence how we see each other in this world. Sometimes there is progress towards being colorblind and sometimes there is regression and racism. Unfortunately in the first few months of 2020, Asian ethnic stereotyping and discrimination in the name of the coronavirus is spreading almost as fast as the actual virus itself. Suddenly it's fair game to racially profile Chinese or Asian looking people to be discriminated against on social media or in public with Anti-Asian signs like "No Chinese Allowed" or Asian children being taunted on the streets by other children that they have the coronavirus. A shameful history of Asian racial hysteria, fear and prejudice from a not too distant past is making an unwelcome comeback into our so called progressive and colorblind society. It is not only a deadly virus that has been unearthed but one of humanity's uglier sides. As Dutch Asian Twitter user Hanwe posted, "Het Coronavirus is geen excuus om racistisch te zijn.," and Asians in France created the Twitter hashtag #Jenesuispasunvirus to push back against racist incidents in France.

One of the main reasons the CinemAsia film festival was started was to address the lack of accurate representation of Asians in The Netherlands and to challenge ingrained stereotyping through cultural awareness in film and other media. In 2014 CinemAsia spearheaded a protest action against the "number 39 with rice incident" with Dutch tv personality Gordon on the tv show "Holland's Got Talent." On the show, racially offensive jokes were made on air about an Asian singing contestant based on his ethnicity. CinemAsia along with other Asian community organizations organized a tongue in cheek protest action of 39 Chinese restaurants in Holland giving a 39% discount on a surprise # 39 dish. This kind of response was unprecedented in the history of Asian Dutch Diaspora and this action was named once of the top 5 media actions of the year in The Netherlands. For the first time in history the Dutch Asian community came together to speak out against these racist remarks and start a dialogue about how they wished to be represented or treated in Dutch society

CinemAsia is not only a festival showcasing the best of worldwide Asian Cinema but a platform to empower Asians to create and represent their own narratives and images. Since 2006, CinemAsia has made 33 short films about the Asian Dutch Diaspora through its FilmLAB program which trains, creates and exhibits Asian Dutch Diaspora stories. Voices and stories that are seldom heard or seen in mainstream Dutch society. In order to have a voice and place in the greater community, Asians have to be seen on the small and big screen as much as possible to reinforce that we have faces and voices. To do so we have to create, exhibit and distribute our own stories of the Asian Diaspora as no one else is going to do it as authentically as our own selves. Diaspora Cinema is Representative Cinema.

In the spirit of what CinemAsia FilmLAB does for representing Asians on the screen and sharing Asian Diaspora stories, former managing director Bianca Kuiper, FilmLAB manager Martijn van Veen and myself decided to work together on an Asian Diaspora project showcasing something seen rarely on screens here, an empowered and sexually attractive Asian man as hero of his own narrative in our documentary film *THE UGLY MODEL*. In our subject Korean American adoptee and male model Kevin Kreider, we found the paradox of a universally attractive, muscle bound Asian male model who felt ugly and ashamed of his Asian ethnicity because of the lack of positive imagery of Asian men. Growing up as one of the few Asians in his American suburban hometown, he never saw himself reflected in a positive way on the screen - never the hero, never the lover, only negative stereotypes such as the geeky computer nerd or caricature kung fu fighter with a heavy Asian accent. Kevin's story is that of a young person so ashamed of himself and how he looked because of negative stereotypes that he went to drastic measures to change himself to be accepted and loved.

If Asians don't speak up against these stereotypes and prejudice, then the oppressive power structures that created and perpetuated them risk being maintained. After 16 years, CinemAsia is still one of the only platforms that connect the Asian Diaspora with Dutch society and is the longest running cultural and community organization with this mission in The Netherlands. A representative and culturally aware community is the sign of a progressive and equitable society. It's our responsibility to educate and inform the new generation against outdated stereotypes and behaviors if they are to be part of an increasingly culturally authentic and integrated world.

In order to achieve our Mission and Vision, CinemAsia organizes a high-quality film festival to **EXHIBIT** Asian Stories on the screen, and a FilmLab to **CREATE** Asian Diaspora stories in the Netherlands. CinemAsia **EDUCATES** and **NURTURES** Asian cultural workers to become leaders in Arts and Culture, and builds **COMMUNITY** by championing Diversity, Identity and Representation of all Asian communities (e.g. LGBTQ, ethnic groups etc) within our organization and in Europe.

Doris Yeung

(founder of CinemAsia Film Festival and director of THE UGLY MODEL)

Neither Burnt Nor Banished

A diaspora is bluntly defined by the Cambridge dictionary as “a group of people which spreads in another country”. The definition is coldly refined by French geographer Emmanuel Ma Mung as a “geographical, symbolic and sociological grouping which re-creates communities linked to the country which was left behind”. Those notions are encapsulated in all the films of this programme, but the beauty of cinema is expanding the nuanced, complex mix of joys, pains, gains and losses that various Asian diasporas experience through fiction of documentary in their sense of belonging somewhere, somehow.

How to deal with others, the family in homeland, (self-) sacrifice, and above all, oneself in a strange(r) land? For those immigrants, the world looks so small and easy to handle thanks to the Internet, WhatsApp and Western Union, but their existential hole is too large to bear – whether you’re a Korean-American, a Chinese illegal in Japan or a Vietnamese cook in Warsaw. It’s a constant flux – of emotions, goods, money and people – but *“there will always be a significant part of the past which can neither be burnt nor banished to the soothing limbo of forgetfulness– myself”* (Luisa A. Igloria).



Leo Soesanto is a Paris-based film journalist and festival programmer. Born from Indonesian parents, he studied at Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris. His writings have appeared, among other publications, in *Les Inrockuptibles*, *Première*, *Libération* and the French editions of *Grazia* and *Vogue*. He was the program director at Bordeaux International Independent Film Festival from 2012 to 2018. He has been a senior programmer at International Film Festival Rotterdam since 2016. From 2009 to 2015, he was a member of the features selection committee at Cannes ‘Semaine de la Critique’, the oldest parallel section at Cannes Film Festival, and has been its Head of Short Films selection since the 2017 edition.

Complicity

Director: CHIKAURA Kei
 Cast: Yulai Lü, Tatsuya
 Fuji, Sayo Akasaka

Japan, China, France | 2018
 116 min | Drama | Japanese, Mandarin
 Eng. subs. | *Dutch premiere*

Date & Venue
Sunday 8 March
 17:00, Studio/K SK3 **+INTRO**



Chen Liang has left his native Henan, where he lived with his ill mother and elderly grandmother. Wanting to pursue a new life away from his responsibilities and family pressures to have a respectable career, he decides to move to Japan. However, settling down in a new place isn't as easy as he thought.

Lingua Franca

Director: Isabel
 SANDOVAL

USA | 2019
 95 min | Drama, **LGBTQ+**
 English, Tagalog | Eng. subs.

Date & Venue
Friday 6 March
 17:15, Studio/K SK3 **+INTRO**



An undocumented Filipina immigrant, paranoid about deportation, works as a caregiver to a Russian-Jewish grandmother in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. When the American man she is secretly paying for a green card marriage backs out, she becomes involved with a slaughterhouse worker who is unaware that she is transgender.

Overseas

Director: Sung-a YOON

Belgium, France | 2019 | 90 min
Documentary | Tagalog, Ilonggo,
English | Eng. subs.

Date & Venue
Wednesday 4 March
21:00, Rialto **+INTRO**



In a training center for house work, like many others in the Philippines, candidates who are about to leave prepare themselves for the homesickness and mistreatment that could occur overseas.

Coming Home Again

Director: Wayne WANG
Cast: Justin Chon, Jackie
Chung, Christina July Kim

USA, South Korea | 2019 | 86 min Drama
| English, Korean | Eng. subs.
Dutch premiere

Date & Venue
Saturday 7 March
17:15, Studio/K SK3 **+INTRO**



The film is an emotional journey home for aspiring writer Chang-rae (Justin Chon), who cares for his ailing, cancer-stricken mother. And yet he is haunted by the sacrifices made as a Korean immigrant family in America. He cooks a New Year's Eve dinner for his mother, one his mother always cooked for the family, trying to recreate the traditional Korean dishes he learned from her. Family sagas surface as they face down her inevitable death

The Taste of Pho

Director: Mariko BOBRIK
Cast: THANG Long Do
Lena NGUYEN

Poland, Germany | 2019 | 84 min
Drama | Polish, Vietnamese | Eng. subs.
Dutch premiere

Date & Venue
Thursday 5 March
16:40, Studio/K SK3 **+INTRO**



A Warsaw-based Vietnamese cook struggles to fit into the European culture, which his ten-year-old daughter has already embraced as her own. A story about love, misunderstanding and food.

AUDIENCE AWARD & **YOUNG CRITIC AWARD 2020**



ABC AUDIENCE AWARD

Anyone attending our screenings can vote for their favourite film. The one receiving the highest number of votes will win the Audience Award.



PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE CINEMASIA AUDIENCE AWARD

2006: DUMPLINGS (Peter CHAN | Hong Kong)

2008: GETTING HOME (ZHANG Yang | China)

2010: CASTAWAY ON THE MOON (LEE Hae-Jun | South Korea)

2012: SAY SING (Kuang Chong YU | Taiwan/Korea/China)

2013: THE SILK ROAD OF POP (Sameer FAROOQ | Canada)

2014: THE GOD OF RAMEN (Takashi INNAMI | Japan)

2015: JALANAN (Daniel ZIV | Indonesia)

2016: THE ROYAL TAILOR (LEE Wonsuk | South Korea)

& THE BIRTH OF SAKÉ (Erik SHIRA | Japan)

2017: LIPSTICK UNDER MY BURKHA (Alankrita SHRIVASTAVA | India)

& SUNDAY BEAUTY QUEEN (Baby Ruth VILLARAMA | The Philippines)

2018: A TAXI DRIVER (Jang Hoon | South Korea)

2019: AN ELEPHANT SITTING STILL (Hu Bo | China)



TAO KAE NOI YOUNG CRITICS AWARD

In honor of our special Diaspora Section, Cinemasia has launched its newly created Young Critics Award. The Award will be given to the best diaspora film as judged by five young and aspiring film professionals.



OPEN SPACE

One of the founding principles of CinemAsia is to give a platform to express and celebrate the Asian LGBTQ+ experience. As Amsterdam has been gaining its reputation for being one of the most queer friendly and inclusive places in the world, it is of utmost importance that CinemAsia continues to empower the Asian LGBTQ+ experiences in The Netherlands, through our own voices, in order to cherish and embrace the freedom here, in solidarity with those who may not be able to do so. CinemAsia LGBTQ+ aspires to become The Netherlands unifying platform for the Asian LGBTQ+ experiences as part of our longer term trajectories. In order to do so, this year's programme will focus on collaboration and the co-creation of our programme. Asia is a large and diverse continent with multifaceted voices, therefore CinemAsia recognises that although there are several existing platforms and culture-specific communities around the country, coming together and sharing common ground will only make the community support stronger.

As we move to our new festival location, we would like to welcome it with a queer housewarming activity by transforming the enclosed space at SK4 into our temporary queer living room for two days of the festival. The space will be dedicated to LGBTQ+ focused programmes, and inspiring cross-disciplinary and multicultural exchange between our friends and partners, such as Out & Abroad, The Asian Union, Filipino LGBT Europe, Dona Daria, Between Goodbyes, Untenu and many more.

	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	00:00
FRI-6								The Future of Trans Politics 19:00 - 20:00	Positive in the Kingdom of Wonders 20:00 - 22:00	Rainbow Karaoke 22:00 - Late			
SAT-7	Queer Art Brunch 12:00 - 14:00	Unboxing South Asian Masculinity 14:00 - 16:00		OUT&ABROAD: Interrelationship Panel 16:00 - 18:00		BODYSESSIONS x CinemA--sia 18:00 - 20:00		The Asian Union Comfort Ball 20:00 - 21:00	Between Goodbyes and Queer Adoptee Art 21:00 - 23:00				

FRIDAY 6 MARCH

Filipino LGBT Europe – After Film Talk / Lingua Franca
The Future of Trans Politics

19:00 – 20:00

Combined with Lingua Franca screening SK2 17:15

If you believe that it's time for an inclusive transpolitical representation, then walk the talk! CinemAsia, in collaboration with the Filipino LGBT Europe, will be hosting a panel discussion on The Future of Trans Politics, in relation to the film *Lingua Franca*. The forum outlines the current situation and political policies affecting trans communities in the USA and the Philippines. There will also be a discussion panel to answer your questions as speakers and members share challenges and success stories of the trans community.



Untenu – Screening & Talk

Positive Kingdom of Wonders

20:00 – 22:00

A screening of three documentaries on HIV positive members of the LGBTQ+ community in Cambodia, illustrating different vantage points of the issue.





Spectacular Spectrum Spectators x Rainbow Karaoke – Karaoke

Friday 6 March, 22:00–late

The annual Rainbow Karaoke has been CinemAsia's beloved tradition for years! Whether it's pop classics, or K-pop hits, the party would not be complete without our three fabulous hosts – Spectacular Spectrum Spectators! So join us, and go wild with the beloved microphone!

SATURDAY 7 MARCH

Queer Arts Brunch Club – Brunch / Community Building

CinemAsia Queer Art Brunch

12:00 – 14:00

The Queer Art Brunch Club is an independent queer artist initiative that hosts get-togethers globally, connecting with other LGBTQ+ artists through discussions, presentations, performances and exhibitions - all in an informal and friendly brunch setting.



Dona Daria – Workshop

Unboxing South Asian Masculinity

14:00 – 16:00

Explore and unbox South Asian masculinity with Dona Daria, The Hang-Out 070, and Hidden Lion Studios! Bring your own text, images, and anything inspirational and put them together as a collage. The workshop will end with a panel discussion.



OUT&ABROAD – Panel Discussion

OUT&ABROAD: Interrelationship Panel

16:00 – 18:00

A discussion on what it is like to be in an intercultural relationship, touching on intergenerational relationships and our views on growing old together. How people talk about sex, and their experiences with their first partner from different cultures and the preconceptions and misconception people often have of intercultural relationships.



SATURDAY 7 MARCH (continued)

Asian Union / Body Sessions – Workshop

BODY SESSIONS x Cinemasia LGBTQ+

18:00 – 20:00

BODY SESSIONS is a pilot series of classes which believes that embodied practices can offer useful tools and new insights for artists working with performance as a tool to empathetically hear one another out, or dare imagine something new, is closely tied to our ability to physically be together, as well as to remain present in our own bodies. BODY SESSIONS is made possible by the support of the Student Council GRA. Design by Cleo Tsw. Contact: rietveldbodysessions@gmail.com



Asian Union / Comfort Balls – Workshop

The Asian Union_Comfort Ball x CinemAsia LGBTQ+

20:00 – 21:00

Comfort Ball will present a collective rice cake making session. After the Body Session, we will gather around at a big rice cooker and share feelings, thoughts and experiences together. During the session, we will share our thoughts on how food making can be understood as togetherness, as kinship, as community and as sociopolitical action.



Jota Sosnowski – Screening & Talk / Fundraiser

Between Goodbyes and Queer Adoptee Art

21:00 – 23:00

Join Jota Sosnowski for an evening of curated art that traces the queer adoptee community's artistic lineage from the late 1980's to the present day. The evening will conclude with an extended sneak peek of *Between Goodbyes*, a short documentary that follows a queer adoptee and her birth mother as they struggle through years of separation, fragile reunion, and the process of coming out across cultures. betweengoodbyes.com



SPECIAL EVENTS

Producing In A Time of Flux

Thursday, 5 March, 15:00, Venue: TBC

Two producers - Aileen Li from Taiwan (Detention, Nowhere Man) and Pieter Kuijpers from The Netherlands (Paradise Drifters, Ares) - who are the first in their respective countries to produce a Netflix Original Series, come together to discuss their work. We will discuss with them on working together with Netflix to carve new local language productions, the challenges of the collaboration, the feedback and reaction from various sectors, and the state of the film and television industries in both Asia and Europe in the age of streaming giants competing for content and audiences. An afternoon of sharing and learning with producers on top of their game.

Live in between vol. 2: Trans-dialogue

Thursday 5 March, 20:00 - 22:00, SK4

We stand simultaneously in two worlds and two systems, trying to start a dialogue between them. How can we find a relationship, how can we find a balance? We will start a conversation, by creating a spatial sound installation, which will be presented as an immersive, experimental intensive atmosphere. This space, SK4, will become our playground and utopia, through experimental videos, poetic performances and musical improvisations and a cooking show, especially nail care will be offered. CinemAsia will bring the migrants, artists, designers, composers, outsiders, strangers who currently work and live in between the Netherlands and Asia, we will share the story of how to transform identity and emotion into mindfulness and flows. We want to invite you to experience a new way to rethink the Asian cultural context - it is challenging to question our system. It is time.

20.00-20.30: Cooking show by Kexin Hao

20.30-21.00: Monokino by George van Wetering

21.00-21.40: Chaos/cosmos by Rutger Muller

21.40-22.00: Shanghai Nails by Kexin Hao

Tempo doeloe? Whose memory is that?

Sunday, 8 March, 15:30 - 17:30, SK4

How do we look back on racism under Dutch colonialism and its impact on contemporary perceptions of colonialism? Lecyca Curiel moderates a talk with Fitria Jelyta, Stephanie Welvaart and Marjolein van Pagee about perspectives and ideas that still have an effect on the colonization of the former Dutch East Indies.

Translation Between Thresholds

Sunday, 8 March, 17:30 - 19:00, SK4

When we long for familiar taste to the tongue, we recreate them. The act of longing for the taste and the smell of our comfort food is not at all uncommon. This performance intends to explore the taste-scape of Northern Thai food, based on one's memory in relation to its limitation in another land. The audiences will be invited to experience a sensorial meal which brings home for some and transport others elsewhere.



Many edible elements may include shellfish, shrimp paste and fish sauce.

Artists: Pitchaya Ngamcharoen, Sanne Kabalt, Nemo Koning

SPECIAL EVENTS FILMLAB

FilmLAB Jam Session

Thursday 4 March, 20.00 - 22.30, Studio K Café

This quarterly FilmLAB event gives alumni of the FilmLAB Network and other (starting) filmmakers with an Asian background the opportunity to join the FilmLAB coordinators and discuss their current film projects. All projects are welcome: whether it's an idea, an outline, a filmplan, a script, a montage or distribution plan. The FilmLAB Jam Sessions are meant to help provide each other with feedback and to help filmmakers realize their films. Interested in joining this FilmLAB Jam Session? Send an email to filmlab@cinemasia.nl to sign up.

CinemaAsia FilmLAB Panel: Recipes for Success (closed session)

Saturday 7 March, 13:00 - 15:00, SK6

Hugo Emmerzael will ask programmer and guest curator of CinemaAsia Film Festival 2020 Leo Soesanto, dramaturge and project director of de Ontmoeting Sascha Gertsik, director Sharif Nasr and Executive Producer at Revolver Germen Boelens to share their recipes for success for (starting) filmmakers with an Asian background. Leo Soesanto will share tips on what will give a film a successful festival run. Sascha will speak about projects that are selected for De Ontmoeting. Sharif Nasr will talk about his upcoming film production and executive producer Germen Boelens will share his thoughts on what convinces him to pick up a (short film) project. All this to give our FilmLAB participants of past, present and future a better understanding on how to get their productions off the ground and receive a few recipes for success.

FilmLAB Network Borrel

Saturday 7 March, 17:00 - 19:00, Studio K Café

Join the filmmakers from the CinemaAsia FilmLAB Network, aspiring film talent and other (international) industry guests to celebrate the 2020 edition of CinemaAsia Film Festival and to expand your network. The first drinks are on us.

FOOD & FILM

With the special collaboration of Studio/K, we offer the Studio/K's classic dinner + film arrangement. During the weekend there will be a special arrangement. For more information please visit: cinemasia.nl or studio-k.nu.

When: everyday

Location: Studio/K

Food Bazaar

Saturday 7 March & Sunday 8 March, 12:00 - 22:00, Studio/K

During the weekend you can enjoy an added taste of Asia at the café in Studio/K. Multiple vendors will be selling the most delicious Asian snacks and meals. Feel free to taste the food to your heart's content before or after a screening. Hang out with your friends and/or family and meet other Asian film lovers.

More information about the food tickets and vendors will be announced on our official website: www.cinemasia.nl



Hét filmhuis voor Europese en
niet-westerse artistieke films

The cinema for European and
non-western artistic films



Naast alle fraaie Europese films, vertoont Rialto eveneens de vele pareltjes uit
Latijns-Amerika, Azië en Afrika - ook tijdens CinemAsia!

In addition to all the beautiful European films, Rialto screens many outstanding
films from Latin America, Asia and Africa - also during CinemAsia!

TICKETS AND VENUES



Studio/K
Timorplein 62
1094 CC Amsterdam

STUDIO/K



Rialto
Ceintuurbaan 338
1072 GN Amsterdam
www.rialtofilm.nl

RIALTO

TICKETS

Ticket purchase and reservations online through www.cinemasia.nl.

Regular	€11,00
Reduction (CJP, Student card)	€ 8,50
Cineville * (+1 on selected films)	free

Studio/K Student Matinee Discount*	
Discount for matinee (until 6PM)	€ 7,50
Studio/K More matinee discounts	
Stadspas met groene stip	€ 5,00
Makkie	3

*only with valid student card

Rialto Discount	
Stadspas met groene stip	€ 9,00

Box office Studio/K

Opens 30 minutes before the first screening
Telephone number box office: 020 692 0422
PIN only

Box office Rialto

Opens 30 minutes before the first screening
Telephone number box office: 020 676 8700
PIN only

DISCOVER CINEMASIA WITH THE CINEVILLE ROUTE

Cineville cardholders can go to CinemAsia Film Festival screenings for free! Better yet, as a cardholder you can take a friend with you to the special Cineville Route. The creators of Cineville have selected five must-see films for you. So hop on this adventurous ride and discover the world of Asian cinema.

The films in the Cineville Route will be announced soon on www.cineville.nl and on www.cinemasia.nl

Cineville



FESTIVAL TEAM

Managing Director

Yoon-shik Boxman

Head of Programming

Sietz van der Aa

Marketing & Social Media Manager

Rabia Sitaba

Festival Coordinator

Sofia Murell

Festival Producer

Tyrone Soe Agnie

Assistant Producer

Sarah Rome

Side Programming Coordinator

Hugo Emmerzael

LGBTQ+ Programme Curator

Darunee Terdtoontaveedej

Guest Curator

Leo Soesanto

Programming Committee

Minhong Yu

Alice/Ke Ma

Corina van Beelen

Rabia Sitaba

Darunee Terdtoontaveedej

Hugo Emmerzael

Sietz van der Aa

Sofia Murell

PR & Community Outreach

Rabia Sitaba

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Print Traffic Coordinator

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Martin Putto

Hospitality Coordinator

Tina Mihnic

Volunteer Coordinator

Way Yee Kan

FilmLAB Coordinator

Martijn van Veen

FilmLAB producer

Eva Aussems

Food & Bazaar Producers

Sofia Murell

Rabia Sitaba

Sarah Rome

Graphic Design

Minhong Yu

MIK Ontwerpers - Kin Mok

Website

MIK Ontwerpers - Kin Mok

Festival Trailer

Deepti Rao

Festival Trailer Music

BeauDamian

Text editors

Hugo Emmerzael

Sietz van der Aa

Yoon-shik Boxman

Sofia Murell

Stichting Cinema Asia Board

Doris Yeung (president)

Hong Tong Wu (treasurer)

Kim Verhaaf (secretary)

Bart Römer

Bianca Kuijpers

Lorna Tee

ABOUT CINEMASIA

CinemAsia weaves Asian stories that help to enhance Asian visibility in culture and media, through which we foster an inclusive society. CinemAsia enriches the public discourse on Asian culture by sharing knowledge and experience about Asian identity, discovering and nurturing talent. By building communities within the media and cultural landscape we aim to become the go-to organisation for European-Asian exchange.

FUNDS & SPONSORS



FILMLAB SPONSORS



PARTNERS



FILMS AT A GLANCE

COMPETITION

Balloon (CN)	9
Saturday Fiction (CN)	10
Fagara (HK)	11
Homecoming (IND)	12
John Denver Trending (PH)	13
Dolly Kitty and Those Twinkling Stars (India)	14
The Wayfarers (India)	15
Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom (BU)	16

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Princess Aya (SK)	19
Moonlit Winter (SK, LGBTQ+)	20
Yellow Ribbon (SK)	21
Exit (SK)	22
Tezuka's Barbara (JP)	23
The Wild Goose Lake (CN)	24
The River in Me (CN)	25
Detention (TW)	26
Suk Suk (TW, LGBTQ+)	27
Little Q (HK)	30
Bumi Manusia (IND)	31
A Man Called Ahok (IND)	32
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Verdict (Philippines)	34
Two Sisters (Malaysia)	35
The Ugly Model (USA)	36

DIASPORA SELECTION

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Lingua Franca (USA, LGBTQ+)	39
Overseas (BE)	40
Coming Home Again (USA, SK)	40
The Taste of Pho (PL, GR)	40



*Nieuw
label!*

DE *perfecte* TOEVOEGING AAN UW GERECHTEN



De ABC zoete sojasaus uit Indonesië is een veelzijdige smaakmaker die geschikt is voor verschillende gerechten.