



SeaShorts Film Festival Opens 25 August

Fifth edition of the festival continues to celebrate Southeast Asian cinema and culture

Kuala Lumpur, 22 August - SeaShorts Film Festival begins this Wednesday, returning to a fully-online festival model that began with last year's edition. The festival revisits the theme of last year's edition: Reimagining Short Films, Reinventing Southeast Asia. It is an invitation for Southeast Asian filmmakers to come together, to share the visions and stories that are both unique and yet familiar to each other, and to weave the future narrative of the region while constantly challenging the idea of what a short film can be in today's media landscape.

Running from 25 August to 2 September, SeaShorts opens with a special anthology of short films entitled *Structures of Feeling: Letters from a Young Poet*. Under the guidance of radical, multi-hyphenate Filipino director Khavn de la Cruz, filmmakers participating in the Film Pantun Workshop organized by SeaShorts Film Society experimented with the rhythm, structure, and cadence of the traditional pantun form to produce fleeting, diaristic short films that illuminate the mystery of the ordinary everyday.

Other festival highlights include: *"Returning"*, a film programme curated by renowned film critic Chris Fujiwara that explores the ways that the idea of "returning" has been reflected in cinema at a time when many people around the world feel the desire to return to conditions before the pandemic; *A Blessed Place: New Vietnamese Cinema*, a survey celebrating trailblazing Vietnamese directors with singular voices, curated by director and SeaShorts Jury Member Phan Dang Di; as well as programmes featuring handpicked films from Image Forum Film Festival, Golden Harvest Awards & Short Film Festival, and Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.

The festival's flagship programme, the SeaShorts Competition, also returns in fine form with a selection of 20 Southeast Asian short films. The Competition is dedicated to finding and nurturing Southeast Asian filmmaking talents who take a distinctive approach to short form cinema.

The eclectic film lineup is complemented by a robust series of masterclasses, forums, workshops, and Q&A sessions featuring prominent industry players as well as rising names in the scene. While the masterclasses are reserved for festival pass-holders only, the forums, workshops, and Q&A sessions will be available to the general public on SeaShort's Facebook page.

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Festival passes are available for 15 USD for audience members in Southeast Asia only.

For more information, visit:

seashorts.org | facebook.com/seashortsmv | instagram.com/seashortsfilmfest

For media enquiries, kindly contact:

Pat Kay Laudencia

Publicity Manager

SeaShorts Film Festival

Email: publicity@seashorts.org



About SeaShorts Film Festival

The SeaShorts Film Festival is an annual celebration of Southeast Asian short film, comprising screenings, forums, workshops, exhibitions, and other creative endeavours from guests across the region. Founded by award-winning filmmaker Tan Chui Mui in 2017, it has grown into a permanent fixture on the calendars of cinema professionals and enthusiasts alike.

Since its inaugural edition, SeaShorts has showcased more than 420 short films and travelled to three different cities in Malaysia. Among the names that have been members of the competition jury include Lav Diaz (Philippines), Rithy Panh (Cambodia), Philip Cheah (Singapore), Pimpaka Towira (Thailand), Mira Lesmana (Indonesia), and Sharifah Amani (Malaysia).

The Festival is the annual marquee event of the SeaShorts Film Society, officially registered in Malaysia in 2019.

SeaShorts Film Festival is Supported By





Official Selection for the 2021 SeaShorts Competition

- **Pulang | dir. Yam Kin Wai, Malaysia / Taiwan**
Yao-Wei takes his girlfriend home to Malaysia. He tells his parents of his engagement and this decision sparks off some changes between them.
- **YẾN | dir. Julia Diệp My Feige, Vietnam / Germany**
Yến is a pretty exceptional young woman and looks neither really female nor Vietnamese. In order to finally meet social demands and ideals, she gets involved with an old acquaintance.
- **A Letter To My Wife | dir. Muhamad Ardan Ar'razaq, Indonesia**
A short documentary about a husband's longing for his wife, presented through the longing rhymes that adorn his bland life.
- **Gutab | dir. Mary Andrea Palmares, Philippines**
Tired and sick of being confined by the restricting norms and expectations of society, two young women must make a life-changing decision in order to escape and break free.
- **A Song of Trishaw | dir. Htoo Lwin Myo, Myanmar**
Htee All is trishaw driver and songwriter. Would his dream for success come true amid pressing demands from society and private life?
- **Bình | dir. Ostin Fam, Vietnam / Singapore / Thailand / South Korea**
An alien arrives on Earth on a quest to find assistance to rebuild his home.
- **Please... See Us | dir. Chaweng Chaiyawan, Thailand**
Suthit and Nonae a Lahu are a couple who have struggled for their living in order to get a better opportunity in their lives. But the more they try hard, the more they circle in the circuit of a powerful relationship.
- **MUTYA | dir. Jon Cuyson, Philippines**
Set in the present, the film tells the story of Mutya, a shy young transgender woman who works as a gardener at a resort south of Manila. She takes care of the blind mother of her OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker) seafarer boyfriend, Kerel.
- **Live In Cloud-Cuckoo Land | dir. Vũ Minh Nghĩa & Phạm Hoàng Minh Thy, Vietnam**
A modern tale of Kafka in Vietnam – a country in the middle of a transformation. The film feels like a piece of cultural news with daily events: a wedding, traffic congestion, a robbery, a mystical metamorphosis and a love story.
- **Sunrise in My Mind | dir. Danech San, Cambodia**
A woman working nights at a beauty salon gives into her interest in a motorbike-deliveryman who drives Phnom Penh's streets.



- **ESTATE | dir. Lin Htet Aung, Myanmar**
A son looks after his dying father. Trapped together in the family home, old conflicts resurface while death approaches.
- **Daovikarn | dir. Muendaw Kamontum, Thailand**
A karaoke girl decides to quit her job and start anew with boyfriend for a better life but things turn out otherwise.
- **Red Aninsri; Or, Tiptoeing on the Still Trembling Berlin Wall | dir. Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke, Thailand**
A ladyboy prostitute-cum-spy is assigned a mission to disguise as a cis-masculine gay to spy on a student activist.
- **Kids On Fire | dir. Kyle Nieva, Philippines**
A prepubescent boy discovers the power of his sexuality during a religious camp, as he realizes his special role in the prophesied return of the Son of God.
- **Elephants In The City | dir. Dam Quang Trung, Vietnam**
A young woman goes to the zoo to meet ex-boyfriends and the secret relationship between a security guard and a married teacher.
- **Echo | dir. Jeremy Emang Jecky, Malaysia**
Elena's search for her missing husband inadvertently leads her to a surreal and magical landscape.
- **How to Die Young in Manila | dir. Petersen Vargas, Philippines**
A teenage boy follows a group of young hustlers, thinking one of them may be the anonymous hook-up he has arranged to meet for the night.
- **Bangkok Department | dir. Nuttawat Attasawat, Thailand**
Noom helps Jane throw garbage and find rats at the disposal area. Their relationship grows in many places and helps Jane unlock some feelings.
- **Age Of Youth | dir. Myo Thar Khin, Myanmar**
Employees from a plastic ware store, Sithu and Min Htet, plan a mission for Sithu to elope with a girl.
- **I Took A Nap and I Miss You | dir. Shelby Kho, Singapore**
A family of three women operating on what-ifs and varying circumstances of the heart - breathing with their struggles with intimacy.