

Announcement

The Spirit of Asia Award by The Japan Foundation Asia Center for the Tokyo International Film Festival 2019 goes to Mr. Reza Jamali

The Japan Foundation Asia Center (JFAC) and the Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) have been expanding the scope of cultural exchange into the field of films and moving images through the joint initiative Film Culture Exchange Projects.

We are pleased to announce the winner of the Spirit of Asia Award for the 32nd Tokyo International Film Festival. The winner was chosen from the directors of the Asian Future section, which is considered to be a gateway to success for promising Asian directors.

■ The Spirit of Asia Award by The Japan Foundation Asia Center

The winner: Reza Jamali

Born in Ardebil, Iran in 1978, Reza Jamali is a filmmaking graduate. He has made many short films which have been screened at national and international film festivals and have won many awards. *Old Man Never Dies* is his debut feature film.

■ The directorial film presented at TIFF: *Old Men Never Die (2019 Iran)*

In a village where nobody has died for 45 years and only the aged remain, 100-year-old Aslan and his friends begin to think suicide is the solution. This allegorical tale for adults is a skillful directorial debut.



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<Program Outline>

[Title] The Spirit of Asia Award by The Japan Foundation Asia Center

[Organized by] The Japan Foundation Asia Center, Tokyo International Film Festival

The Spirit of Asia Award, established in the Asian Future section in 2014, is awarded to promising directors who are expected to be internationally active beyond cultural barriers. The winner is to be decided by three commissioners: Elena Pollacchi (Venice International Film Festival / Programmer), Pimpaka Towira (Director / Programme Director) and Yoshihiro Nakamura (Director). The winner will receive a trophy and a short trip to Japan (or to Asia, in case of Japanese director). For information on the other awards at the TIFF, please refer to the official website indicated below.

<Outline of the 32nd Tokyo International Film Festival>

[Dates] Monday, October 28 – Tuesday, November 5, 2019

[Venues] Roppongi Hills, EX Theater Roppongi, and other venues in Tokyo

[Official website] <http://www.tiff-jp.net>

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The Japan Foundation Asia Center www.jfac.jp

The Japan Foundation is Japan's principal independent administrative institution dedicated to carrying out cultural exchange initiatives throughout the world. The Asia Center, established in April 2014, is a division within the Foundation that conducts and supports collaborative initiatives with its Asian—primarily ASEAN—counterparts. Through interacting and working together in Japanese-language education, arts and culture, sports, and grassroots and intellectual exchange, the Asia Center pursues to develop the sense of kinship and coexistence as neighboring inhabitants of Asia.

Tokyo International Film Festival www.tiff-jp.net

The Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) started in 1985 as Japan's first major film festival and the only Japanese film festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF)*. Since then, TIFF has grown to become one of the largest film festivals in Asia. Every year in October, filmmakers and film fans of all ages gather in Tokyo to enjoy excellent films from around the world and TIFF's many colorful events.

* **The International Federation of Film Producers Associations is an international organization which improves or reviews issues of the world's film industry and international film festivals**

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