

Conversation Series at Asia Lounge

Co-presented by The Japan Foundation Asia Center & Tokyo International Film Festival

Eight days of cross-cultural dialogue between our distinguished guests

The Japan Foundation will present the “Conversation Series at Asia Lounge”, as part of the 34th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF). This year’s Conversation Series, following the 2020 series, will be advised by a committee led by filmmaker KORE-EDA Hirokazu. (*See page 5 for list of committee members.) Directors and actors from various countries and regions in Asia and beyond will gather at the Asia Lounge to engage in discussion with their Japanese counterparts. We hope the event will be as vibrant as last year’s, which had over 12,000 viewers and received many questions during the live sessions.

This year’s theme will be “Crossing Borders”. Guests will share their thoughts and sentiments about film and filmmaking and discuss what it takes to transcend borders. The organizers will invite as many international guests as possible to Japan so that they can engage in face-to-face conversations at the Asia Lounge. The sessions will be broadcast live from the festival venue in Tokyo Midtown Hibiya every day for 8 days. Stay tuned!

Project Title: Conversation Series at Asia Lounge

Co-presented by The Japan Foundation Asia Center & Tokyo International Film Festival

Organizers: The Japan Foundation Asia Center, Tokyo International Film Festival

Project Schedule: Sunday, October 31 - Sunday, November 7, 2021

Guests: ■Brillante Ma MENDOZA and NAGASE Masatoshi
■Kamila ANDINI and SODE Yukiko
■Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL and NISHIJIMA Hidetoshi
■Bahman GHOBADI and HASHIMOTO Ai
■Isabelle HUPPERT and HAMAGUCHI Ryusuke

The above and other talk sessions are currently planned. Further details, including the full lineup and instructions on how to sign up for the sessions, will be announced in mid-October.

The organizers of this event are committed to taking preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 and to secure the safety of the participants.

Press inquiries :

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■ **Brillante Ma MENDOZA** and **NAGASE Masatoshi**



Brillante Ma MENDOZA
Director / Producer



NAGASE Masatoshi
Actor

■ **Kamila ANDINI** and **SODE Yukiko**



Kamila ANDINI
Filmmaker



SODE Yukiko
Director / Screenwriter

■ **Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL** and **NISHIJIMA Hidetoshi**



Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL
Filmmaker



NISHIJIMA Hidetoshi
Actor

■ **Bahman GHOBADI** and **HASHIMOTO Ai**



Photo by Serhat Bayram

Bahman GHOBADI
Director



HASHIMOTO Ai
Actress

■ **Isabelle HUPPERT** and **HAMAGUCHI Ryusuke**



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Isabelle HUPPERT
Actress



HAMAGUCHI Ryusuke
Director / Screenwriter

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Brillante Ma MENDOZA Director / Producer

Brillante Ma Mendoza won the Golden Leopard (video competition) at the Locarno International Film Festival with his debut film, *The Masseur* (2005). He won the Caligari Film Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival for *Slingshot* (2007), Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival for *Kinatay* (2009), and the La Navicella - Venezia Cinema Award at the Venice International Film Festival for *Thy Womb* (2012). *Ma' Rosa* (2016) won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival. His recent achievements include receiving the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from France's Ministry of Culture, launching his own film festival, and actively mentoring young filmmakers. His new films include *Payback* (2021) and the Japanese-Filipino co-production *GENSAN PUNCH* (2021), both of which will be shown at the 34th Tokyo International Film Festival.

NAGASE Masatoshi Actor

Born in 1966 in Miyazaki. Nagase Masatoshi made his acting debut in the film *P. P. Rider* in 1983. His numerous accolades in Japan include the Japan Academy Film Prize for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role. His many appearances in foreign films include lead roles in *Mystery Train* (1989), which won Best Artistic Contribution at the Cannes Film Festival, *Autumn Moon* (1991), which received the Golden Leopard at the Locarno International Film Festival, and *Cold Fever* (1995), which won the Special Jury Award at the Torino Film Festival. For his role in the Taiwanese film *Kano* (2014), he became the first non-Chinese nominee for Best Actor at the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival Awards. With his roles in *Sweet Bean* (2015), *Paterson* (2016), and *Radiance* (2017), he became the first Asian actor to appear in films screened in competition at Cannes three years in a row. His films released this year include *A Day with No Name* (2021) and *A Madder Red* (2021).

Kamila ANDINI Filmmaker

Born in 1986 in Jakarta. In 2011, Kamila Andini released her debut feature film *The Mirror Never Lies*, which portrays the life of sea wanderers in the Indonesian ocean. In 2017, she released her second feature *The Seen and Unseen*, a cinematic universe of dualism based on Balinese philosophy Sekala Niskala. Both films have traveled through more than 50 film festivals and received about 30 awards nationally and internationally, including the Grand Prix of Generation Kplus at Berlin International Film Festival 2018. She also creates short films to show her voice and vision in filmmaking. After *Following Diana* (2015), *Memoria* (2016), and *Sekar* (2018), her short film *Back Home* became a part of an omnibus for Japan-based production *Angel Sign* (2019). Lately, she is also expanding her directing works into theater. Her latest film *Yuni* (2021) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

SODE Yukiko Director / Screenwriter

Born in 1983 in Nagano. While a student, Sode Yukiko made the short film *Cosplayer* (2004) under the supervision of director SHINOHARA Tetsuo. It was accepted to the Mito Short Film Festival and Pia Film Festival. Her debut feature film, *Mime-Mime* (2007), won the Runner-up Prize and Entertainment Award at the Pia Film Festival. It was screened widely at festivals in Japan and abroad, including the Vancouver International Film Festival and Hong Kong Asian Film Festival. She made the 35 mm short *Underwear Affair* (2010) under the auspices of the New Directions in Japanese Cinema Project by Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs. For her debut commercial feature, *Good Stripes* (2015), she won Best New Director at the 7th Tama Film Awards and the Gold Prize at the 2015 Shindo Kaneto Awards. *Aristocrats*, her adaptation of a novel by YAMAUCHI Mariko, was released in 2021.

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Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL Filmmaker

Born in 1970 in Bangkok, Apichatpong Weerasethakul grew up in Khon Kaen in north-eastern Thailand. He began making film and video shorts in 1994, and completed his first feature in 2000. Often non-linear and with a strong sense of dislocation, his works deal with memory, subtly addressed personal politics, and social issues. His art projects and feature films have won widespread recognition and numerous prizes, including the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. His on-going projects include *Fever Room*, a projection performance about displaced consciousness presented around the world. His latest film, *Memoria*, set in Colombia and starring Tilda Swinton, won the Jury Prize at the 74th Cannes Film Festival in 2021.

NISHIJIMA Hidetoshi Actor

Born in 1971 in Tokyo. Nishijima Hidetoshi made his film acting debut in *Ghost Pub* in 1994. A prolific film and television actor, his many credits include roles in *MOZU the Movie* (2015), *Creepy* (2016), *Aircraft Carrier Ibuki* (2019), *Voices in the Wind* (2020), *Drive My Car* (2021), *The Chef Is A Great Detective* (2021, TV Tokyo), and *Welcome Back, Mone* (2021, NHK). His releases this fall and later include *Shinhannin Flag* (NTV), *the anime Ottopo: Papa, Don't Cry, What Did You Eat Yesterday? The Movie*, and *99.9 Criminal Lawyer: The Movie*.

Bahman GHOBADI Director

Born in 1968 in Baneh, Iran. Bahman Ghobadi's starting point in film was to shoot a series of short documentaries by using 8mm film. He won the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for *A Time for Drunken Horses* (2000), the first feature-length Kurdish film in the history of Iran. This film and all the others including *Turtles Can Fly* (2004) and *Half Moon* (2006) were widely praised at film festivals the world over, gathering dozens of awards, but were little or not seen in his native country. *No One Knows About Persian Cats* (2009), a semi documentary about the underground indie music scene in Tehran, was filmed without an official permit and in very restricted conditions. After completion of the film, he had to leave Iran and continue working abroad. His latest film *The Four Walls* (2021) was created in Turkey with Pink Floyd's Roger Waters as a producer and will receive its world premiere at the 34th Tokyo International Film Festival.

HASHIMOTO Ai Actress

Born in 1996 in Kumamoto. Hashimoto Ai garnered attention for her acting debut in *Confessions* (2010; dir. NAKASHIMA Tetsuya). Hashimoto starred in *The Kirishima Thing* (2012; dir. YOSHIDA Daihachi) for which she won the Kinema Junpo Award for Best New Actress and the Japan Academy Prize for Newcomer of the Year. She was also awarded an Elan d'or Award for her supporting role in the NHK morning drama series *Ama-chan* (2013). She made her first overseas appearance at Berlinale in 2015 with the two films, *Little Forest* (2014; dir. MORI Junichi) and *Wonderful World End* (2015; dir. MATSUI Daigo). She is active in various fields, ranging from TV drama to anime to theater. Hashimoto presently stars in the NHK Taiga period drama *Reach Beyond the Blue Sky* (2021).

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Isabelle HUPPERT Actress

Isabelle Huppert is a multi-award-winning screen and stage actress. She won the BAFTA Award for Most Promising Newcomer for *The Lacemaker* (dir: Claude Goretta); two Venice Film Festival Best Actress Awards for *Story of Women* (dir: Claude Chabrol) and *The Ceremony* (dir: Claude Chabrol); Venice Film Festival's Special Jury Lion d'Or for *Gabrielle* (dir: Patrice Chereau) and for her entire body of work; two Cannes Film Festival Best Actress Awards for *Violette* (dir: Claude Chabrol) and *The Piano Teacher* (dir: Michael Haneke). In France, she received the César Best Actress Award for *The Ceremony* (dir: Claude Chabrol) and *Elle* (dir: Paul Verhoeven), for which she also received the Gotham, Golden Globe, Film Independent Spirit Award and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress. She received for her theater career the prestigious XVI II Premio Europa per il Teatro in Roma (16th European Award for Theater). She also received a Molière d'Honneur (Honorary Molière) for her theater career in France. She is an Officer of the French Legion of Honour, and an Officer of the National Order of Merit and Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters. She was the President of the Jury for the 62nd Cannes Film Festival.

HAMAGUCHI Ryusuke Director / Screenwriter

Born in 1978 in Kanagawa. Hamaguchi Ryusuke's *Passion* (2008) was made for the graduate film program at the Tokyo University of the Arts and was widely acclaimed when it screened at the San Sebastian International Film Festival and TOKYO FILMeX. With a running time of five hours and seventeen minutes and lead roles played by four women without professional acting experience, his feature film *Happy Hour* (2015) won major awards at such international film festivals as Locarno, Nantes, and Singapore. His commercial debut feature, *ASAKO I & II* (2018), was screened in competition at the Cannes Film Festival. His anthology film *Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy* (2021) won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival. He also wrote the screenplay for KUROSAWA Kiyoshi's *Wife of a Spy* (2020), which received the Silver Lion at the Venice International Film Festival. His passion for a short story by MURAKAMI Haruki inspired him to adapt it for cinema as his second commercial feature, *Drive My Car* (2021), from a script that he co-wrote.

*Committee members (in alphabetical order):

ARAKI Keiko (Festival Director, Pia Film Festival)

FUKUMA Miyuki (Producer, BUNBUKU Inc.)

ICHIYAMA Shozo (Programming Director, Tokyo International Film Festival)

ISHIZAKA Kenji (Senior Programmer, Tokyo International Film Festival / Professor, Japan Institute of the Moving Image)

KORE-EDA Hirokazu (Filmmaker)

TSUCHIDA Tamaki (Program Coordinator, Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival / Assistant Professor, Waseda University)

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Other Joint Initiatives by the Japan Foundation and TIFF

-“Asian Future” co-presented by The Japan Foundation Asia Center & Tokyo International Film Festival

This year’s Asian Future motto is “From Asia to the world! From Asia to the future!” This year marks the ninth edition of the section since its inception at the 26th Tokyo International Film Festival in 2013. Asian Future is a competitive section that features up-and-coming Asian directors who have directed no more than three feature-length films. The top film will be awarded the “Asian Future Best Film Award.” Two Japanese films have been selected this year. All ten films competing in the section will have their highly anticipated world premiere.

-Other screenings of Asian films at the TIFF

The Japan Foundation and TIFF will showcase the rich and diverse culture of Asian cinema in the Competition, Gala Selection, World Focus sections and more.

For the full lineup of the Asian films to be shown at TIFF, please visit the Japan Foundation Asia Center’s website, <https://jfac.jp>.

Outline of the 34th Tokyo International Film Festival

[Dates] Saturday, October 30 - Monday, November 8, 2021

[Venues] Hibiya-Yurakucho-Ginza area and other venues in Tokyo

[Official website] www.tiff-jp.net

The Japan Foundation Asia Center <https://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 among Asian neighbors.

Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) 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 leading 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. These include TIFF’s affiliated media content market TIFFCOM, seminars for students, professionals, and business people, and symposiums and workshops for networking with the world’s film industries, developing international co-productions, and promoting the global film business.

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