

Star-Studded Talk Sessions with Renowned Filmmakers

Full Lineup Announced for the TIFF Lounge
Co-presented by The Japan Foundation & Tokyo International Film Festival

The Japan Foundation (JF) will co-host the TIFF Lounge, a networking space for filmmakers gathering in Tokyo, as part of the 38th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF), which begins on Monday, October 27, 2025. The committee has now finalized the lineup of five talk sessions for the sixth year of the TIFF Lounge.

This year's program, featuring a diverse lineup of big names, kicks off with a masterclass by Hong Kong cinema legend Peter Ho-sun Chan, followed by a conversation between FUJIMOTO Akio, whose new film *Lost Land* won the Special Jury Prize in the Orizzonti section at the Venice Film Festival, and Thai cinema giant Pen-ek Ratanaruang. The lineup also includes a highly anticipated dialogue between YAMADA Yoji, director of the 38th TIFF's Centerpiece *Tokyo Taxi*, and LEE Sang-il, director of *Kokuho* and this year's Kurosawa Akira Award recipient. There will also be a session with MIYAKE Sho, whose new work *Two Seasons, Two Strangers* won the Golden Leopard, the top prize at the Locarno Film Festival, along with Locarno Jury President Rithy Panh. The program concludes with an invaluable conversation between KORE-EDA Hirokazu and Chloé Zhao, director of TIFF's closing film this year, *Hamnet*, and a Kurosawa Akira Award recipient.

Notably, Kore-eda Hirokazu received the Japan Foundation Award in 2021, and Fujimoto Akio received the Japan Foundation's Spirit of Asia Award at the 30th Tokyo International Film Festival in 2017.

Talk Session Lineup for the TIFF Lounge Co-Presented by The Japan Foundation & Tokyo International Film Festival

1. Peter Ho-sun Chan Masterclass

Date & Time: 3:30 to 4:30 pm, Tuesday, October 28

Speaker: Peter Ho-sun Chan (Filmmaker)

Moderator: ICHIYAMA Shozo (Programming Director, TIFF)



Peter Ho-sun Chan

2. Conversation between Fujimoto Akio and Pen-ek Ratanaruang

Date & Time: 5:00 to 6:00 pm, Wednesday, October 29

Speakers: Fujimoto Akio (Filmmaker),
Pen-ek Ratanaruang (Filmmaker)

Moderator: ISHIZAKA Kenji (Senior Programmer, TIFF /
Professor, Japan Institute of the Moving Image)



FUJIMOTO Akio



Pen-ek Ratanaruang

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3. Conversation between Yamada Yoji and Lee Sang-il**Date & Time:** 2:00 to 3:00 pm, Thursday, October 30**Speakers:** Yamada Yoji (Filmmaker),

Lee Sang-il (Filmmaker)

Moderator: ISHITOBI Noriki (Film Critic)

YAMADA Yoji



LEE Sang-il

4. Conversation between Miyake Sho and Rithy Panh**Date & Time:** 2:00 to 3:00 pm, Saturday, November 1**Speakers:** Miyake Sho (Filmmaker),

Rithy Panh (Filmmaker)

Moderator: Ishizaka Kenji

MIYAKE Sho



RITHY Panh

5. Conversation between Kore-eda Hirokazu and Chloé Zhao**Date & Time:** 11:30 am to 12:15 pm, Sunday, November 2**Speakers:** Kore-eda Hirokazu (Filmmaker),

Chloé Zhao (Filmmaker)

Moderator: Ichiyama ShozoKORE-EDA Hirokazu
(c) Mikiya Takimoto

CHLOÉ Zhao

Event Details**Program Name:** TIFF Lounge, co-presented by The Japan Foundation & Tokyo International Film Festival**Dates:** Tuesday, October 28 to Wednesday, November 5, 2025**Venues:** LEXUS MEETS... (Tokyo Midtown Hibiya 1F)

BASE Q (Tokyo Midtown Hibiya 6F) *for Conversation #3 only

Co-organizers: The Japan Foundation, Tokyo International Film Festival**Committee Members (in alphabetical order):**

ARAKI Keiko (Festival Director, Pia Film Festival)

FUKUMA Miyuki (Producer, Bunbuku Inc.)

ICHIYAMA Shozo (Programming Director, TIFF)

ISHIZAKA Kenji (Senior Programmer, TIFF / Professor, Japan Institute of the Moving Image)

KORE-EDA Hirokazu (Filmmaker)

TSUCHIDA Tamaki (Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival / Waseda University)

Notes:

- Admission to the TIFF Lounge is primarily for TIFF pass holders, but a limited number of the general public will be invited to the talk events through a lottery. Visit the TIFF official website (www.tiff-jp.net) for details.
- All talks will be available via streaming (recorded). Check the festival's official website for viewing information.

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- Admission may be restricted for operational requirements.
- Talks will include simultaneous or consecutive Japanese-English interpretation.

38th Tokyo International Film Festival Details:

Dates: Monday, October 27 to Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Venues: Hibiya, Yurakucho, Marunouchi, and Ginza areas

Website: <https://2025.tiff-jp.net/en/>

The Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation (JF) is an independent administrative institution with the mission of “Cultivating friendship and ties between Japan and the world.” It promotes the arts and cultural exchange, overseas Japanese-language education, Japanese studies, and global partnerships.

In relation to film and broadcasting, JF has hosted screenings of Japanese films in 81 countries and regions, reaching about 240,000 viewers in fiscal 2024. The foundation also invites film festival programmers from ASEAN countries to Japan for networking events and workshops.

JFF Theater – Japanese Film Streaming Platform

On August 1, 2024, JF launched JFF Theater, a new streaming platform that offers Japanese films and videos **globally, free of charge, with subtitles in multiple languages**. The website is available in 17 languages, with subtitles in as many as 19 languages.

The lineup rotates periodically and has featured 39 films so far, including *Under the Open Sky*, *The Great Passage*, and *Jungle Emperor Leo*. More than 120,000 users worldwide have registered as of September 2025.

<https://www.jff.jp/go.jp>



Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF)

Now in its 38th year, TIFF is Japan's only international film festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF). Established in 1985 as Japan's first large-scale film celebration, TIFF has made a significant impact on the film industry and on cultural development in Japan and across Asia, growing into one of the largest international film festivals in Asia. Tokyo now draws outstanding films from around the world, as the most vibrant hub for Asian cinema, offering a venue for domestic and international filmmakers, as well as film enthusiasts, to discover new talent and share their passion.

www.tiff-jp.net

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