Jakarta
INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

19-26 July 2021

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INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

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Foreword

The Jakarta Independent Film Festival team welcomes you to our first edition and first online festival! It has been a tough year for a lot of people, and though it may be sad that we cannot connect in a space together, we can still connect through the amazing films in our program.

JIFF 2020 consists of 14 competition categories, with over 30 films in our screening program. The films vary from Europe, South America, USA and Asia. Besides the film screenings, we will be hosting Q&A sessions on our Instagram page with the jury members and the filmmakers. We hope through this virtual event, audiences and filmmakers alike can still connect with each other.

We would like to thank our partners who have made this online festival a reality: FILMPIXS, our media partners Infoscreening, Monoskrin, Frekuensi Antara, and to our panel of judges and filmmakers as well. We wish everyone a happy and safe screening at home. Enjoy!

Festival Team
JIFF 2020

Festival Partners

Event Partner

FILMPIXS

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INFOSCREENING

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FA
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Screening Program

Best Short Film

25' Lasagna (Eve without Adam)
22' Henet Ward*
10' Monster God (Monstruo Dios)
15' The Haunted Swordsman

Best Feature Film

99' The Battle of Shangri-lá (A Batalha de Shangri-lá)**
64' Fish Takes Off

Best Short Documentary

10' My Life in a Recipe
20' Our Territory (Notre territoire)
6' My Daughter (Die Tochter)

Best Feature Documentary

85' Tiny Souls*
43' Crazy Tiger
77" They Call Me Babu

only available to watch in Indonesia
***only available to watch in Asia*

Best Drama

16' M O R I T U R I
25' Paradise
18' Vincent before Noon (Vincent avant Midi)

Best Comedy

17' Nefta Football Club*
15' Mr. Alan on Saturday
29 Wings of the Spirit (Die Schwingen des Geistes)*

Best Indonesian Film

34' Hole (Rong)
25' Rest In Peace (Kembalilah dengan Tenang)
15' Take Back!

Best Student Project

13' The Best Orchestra in the World
22' I Was Still There When You Left Me
13' Now or Never

**only available to watch in Indonesia*

Best Music Video

4' Gloria Jessica - Wake (Buka Mata)

3' Idles - Never Fight a Man with a Perm

Best Experimental

8' Ô

12' Frequencies

10' The Animal That Therefore I Am

Best Director

15' Les Misérables*

17' About My Mother

Best Editor

62' Windows, Windows

Best Cinematography

29' Shoes and Signpost

**only available to watch in Indonesia*

2020

Jury Panel

Adrian Jonathan Pasaribu

Best Indonesian Film Jury

Jakarta-based film critic and journalist, Adrian is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Cinema Poetica, a collective of film critics, journalists, researches and activists who focus on film studies and criticsm.

He started as a film programmer for the alternative cinema Kinoki in Jogjakarta from 2007-2010, and has since created and curated programs for several film festivals, such as Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, Festival Film Dokumenter, Festival Film Solo and Singapore International Film Festival.

He was one of the editorial staff of filmindonesia.or.id and was also in Berlinale Talent Campus 2013 as a film critic. His writings has been published in numerous media, one of which is the Criterion Collection DVD of the Indonesian classic film, After the Curfew (1954).

Alexander Matius

Best Short Documentary Jury

Alexander Matius is a film programmer and curator based in Jakarta. Since 2017, he was the film programmer for the alternative cinema Kinosaurus and since 2018, he has also been the program director for Cinema Poetica, a collective of film critics, journalists, researches and activists who focus on film studies and criticism.

He was also the manager for the alternative cinema Kineforum from 2014-2016. His vast experience in film includes coordinating the fiction feature film competition of Festival Film Indonesia 2015, film programming in Synchronize Fest 2016, as well as participating in A Working Title Workshop: Training and Development Program for Film Curators and Screening Professionals (2018-2019) in Japan and the Philippines, and also in Art Cinema = Action + Management 16th Edition (2019) in Venice, Italy.

Paul Agusta

Best Short Film Jury

Paul Agusta is a Jakarta-based film and TV director, screenwriter, actor and arts educator. He studied film in the USA before returning to Indonesia in 2003. Prior to his filmmaking career that started in 2007, he was known as a film critic and curator. He was also one half of the Indonesian experimental/noise/electronic duo Concrete Aluminum.

He has directed over 50 short films and 5 feature films, including Parts of the Heart (2012) and Daysleepers (2018). His films have been screened in various international film festivals, including Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival and Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival.

Agusta is the recipient The Hubert Bals Fund Digital Production Fund from International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2009 as well as script development fund from Asian Cinema Fund of Busan International Film Festival in 2011. He also co-founded Bengkel Acting Kuma, a Jakarta-based acting school. He is nominated for the Citra Award in Best Supporting Actor at Festival Film Indonesia 2015 for his performance in the film A Copy of My Mind (Joko Anwar, 2015).

2020

Award Nominations

Best Short Film
Lasagna (Eve Without Adam)
Ward's Henna Party
Monster God (Monstruo Dios)
The Haunted Swordsman

Best Feature Film
The Battle of Shangri-La (A Batalha de Shangri-la)
Fish Takes Off
Lost Transmissions

Best Short Documentary
Our Territory (Notre territoire)
My Daughter (Die Tochter)
My Life in a Recipe

Best Feature Documentary
Crazy Tiger
They Call Me Babu
Tiny Souls

Best Drama
M O R I T U R I
Paradise
Vincent before Noon (Vincent avant Midi)

Best Comedy
Nefta Football Club
Wings of the Spirit (Die Schwingen des Geistes)
Mr. Alan on Saturday

Best Indonesian Film
Hole (Rong)
Rest in Peace (Kembalilah dengan Tenang)
Take Back!

Best Student Project
The Best Orchestra in the World
I Was Still There When You Left Me
Now or Never

Best Music Video
Harry Nathan - Fool For Your Love
Gloria Jessica - Wake (Buka Mata)
Idles - Never Fight a Man with a Perm

Best Experimental
Ô
Frequencies
The Animal That Therefore I Am

Best Director
New Bronx
Les Misérables
About My Mother

Best Editor
Windows, Windows
Bozkir Looks at the Birds
Quarantine

Best Cinematography
Rasta
The Songs of Love
Shoes and Signpost

Best Screenplay
Sint Holo
Icarus of Normandy
Oradour
Ube Bobog vol. One: School of Hard Knocks

2020

Award Nominations Best Short Film

2020

Lasagna (Eve Without Adam)
Dir. Adi Victory
Country: Indonesia

Coming close to her husband's executions, Mirna (50) was asked to come with a Lasagna to the prison. Rudi (Mirna's husband, 51) was arrested with the possession of 8kg of cocaine at Soekarno Hatta International Airport. He was accused of smuggling drugs from Italy to Indonesia. Lost in court, facing hard reality that he was sentenced to death.

Rudi wished to enjoy his last Lasagna with Mirna. Mirna cooked the most delicious Lasagna for her husband.

2020

Henet Ward
Dir. Morad Mostafa
Country: Egypt

"Halima" a Sudanese woman; living in Egypt and works as a henna painter. In a regular working day she goes to one of Giza's local areas to prepare a bride for her wedding and her 7 years old daughter "Ward" accompanies her and starts to wander around and discover the place.

2020

Monster God
Dir. Agustina San Martín
Country: Argentina

God is now a Power Plant.
On a misty night cows escape, a child is chosen, and a teenager tries to find freedom.

2020

The Haunted Swordsman
Dir. Kevin McTurk
Country: United States

In this handcrafted epic puppet film set in a world of demons and ghosts, a lone samurai and his odd companion, a cursed severed head, seek vengeance in a haunted world.

2020

Award Nominations Best Feature Film

2020

The Battle of Shangri-La
Dir. Severino Neto and Rafael de Carvalho
Country: Brazil

João searches for his biological mother who abandoned him almost over 40 years ago. In a physical and emotional journey, through a deep Brazil, little by little, this woman's past comes to light and João's convictions and prejudices break taboos. The proximity between mother and son is intense, painful, and fierce, bringing up anguishes and revelations which will affect both their lives forever.

2020

Fish Takes Off
Dir. Deniz Cooper
Country: Germany, Austria

The golden fish is dead. Gripped by her bad conscience, a young woman drives to Venice. Upon her arrival, she realizes that she mixed up two feelings. She begins a search through an empty city on a quest to find her lost emotion.

2020

Lost Transmissions
Dir. Katharine O'Brien
Country: United States

At a party in Los Angeles one evening, aspiring songwriter Hannah (Juno Temple) finds herself at the piano, singing nervously alongside Theo (Simon Pegg), an established music producer with an infectiously joyous spirit. Despite Hannah's self-consciousness, her talent is evident to Theo, who suggests they get together to record some tracks. But just as their friendship and creative partnership are taking off, Theo suddenly changes.

2020

Award Nominations Best Short Documentary

2020

My Life in a Recipe
Dir. Janice Gabriel
Country: United Kingdom

Ibu Sri Owen is a Sumatran born, award-winning Indonesian food writer, now in her 80's. She was the first person to write Indonesian recipes in English and her classic recipe books made Indonesian food more popular and well-known in the UK during the 1970's and 1980's than it is now in 2019.

In this intimate short film about taste and memory , we join foodwriter Ibu Sri Owen, as she prepares her best-loved and most popular recipe Beef Rendang in her home kitchen, sharing evocative early memories of her grandmother's cooking in Sumatra and her arrival as a young woman during the 1960s in the UK, when there were no fresh spices and chillies in the shops.

2020

Our Territory
Dir. Mathieu Volpe
Country: Belgium

The same light, the same heat. A summer just like those I remember... Yet, another territory has now appeared on the landscape of my childhood.
When I got to Rignano, the Ghetto residents told me: "You mustn't keep any trace of our lives here in these precarious houses. This despair is not yours to display." The misery in the Ghetto is the first thing that struck me, the first thing I wanted to show.

2020

My Daughter (Die Tochter)
Dir. Falk Schuster, Alexander Lahl, Max Mönch
Country: Germany

They had a normal father-daughter relation. One day she told him to set off for a wedding party in Denmark. But that was a lie. A few months later she started her new life. As the wife of a djihadist living in Syria.

2020

Award Nominations Best Feature Documentary

2020

Tiny Souls
Dir. Dina Naser
Country: Jordan

After escaping the Syrian war, a free-spirited young girl and her family must navigate confined life when stranded in Zaatari Refugee Camp, Jordan. Over four years, the director follows her characters' lives within barb-wired camp walls, capturing the resilient shift from childhood to adolescence, along with many states of adapting and survival in between, leading up to the eventual clash that threatens their fate.

2020

Crazy Tiger
Dir. Kaname Onoyama
Country: France

After escaping the Syrian war, a free-spirited young girl and her family must navigate confined life when stranded in Zaatari Refugee Camp, Jordan. Over four years, the director follows her characters' lives within barb-wired camp walls, capturing the resilient shift from childhood to adolescence, along with many states of adapting and survival in between, leading up to the eventual clash that threatens their fate.

2020

They Call Me Babu
Dir. Sandra Beerends
Country: Netherlands

They Call Me Babu is a film told through the use of archive footage about native Indonesian girls working as nannies (pembantu) for colonial Dutch families in a rapidly changing world in the 1940's against the backdrop of WWII and the struggle for independance in Indonesia. The film is told from the perspective of Indonesian Alima and begins with her decision to flee from an arranged marriage to go to work as a pembantu for a Dutch family. Through all her new impressions and thoughts, she looks critically at colonial society and her own position. She survives the Indonesian liberation war and becomes an independant woman.

2020

Award Nominations Best Drama

2020

MORITURI
Dir. Léo Lebesgue
Country: France

It's been six months. Six months Marie has not seen her brother, Max. One night she wakes up at a bus stop, a place she and her brother used to spend a lot of time together. And, out of nowhere, Max finally decides to show up.

2020

Paradise
Dir. Pablo Guirado
Country: France

A member of a smuggling network, Mario transports sub-Saharan illegal immigrants in his refrigerated truck from southern Spain to France. A strike blocking the border on the French side will disrupt his trip.

2020

Vincent before Noon
Dir. Guillaume Mainguet
Country: France

A father pays his son a visit after years of conflict and turns up in the middle of his house move. The son Vincent reacts violently to that intrusion. Emotionally weakened, the father involuntarily reveals the true reason of his visit, which revives the tension between them. Within a few minutes, the anger, the memories and the crossed looks move the two men deeply.

2020

Award Nominations Best Comedy

2020

Nefta Football Club
Dir. Yves Piat
Country: France

In the south of Tunisia, two football fan brothers bump into a donkey lost in the middle of the desert on the border of Algeria. Strangely, the animal wears headphones over its ears.

2020

Mr. Alan on Saturday
Dir. Flora Tennant
Country: United Kingdom

Alan, a swimming instructor at his local leisure centre, is wet, damp and wet again. White thighs out in his social frameworks, Alan is impregnable on display. On this Saturday afternoon, in between lessons, Alan goes to a family christening. He is a godparent. And he sees Helen, the other godparent. So Alan impresses upon his audience in his usual larger than life way. Back at the pool, Helen approaches him. In a shift of context where outcomes are less certain, Alan is confronted by the need to perform his own reputation. And Alan's version of exposure is defined.

2020

Wings of the Spirit
Dir. Albert Meisl
Country: Austria

The failed Viennese musicologist Szabo works as an animal carer and house sitter for wealthy people. But when visited by his successful, younger ex-colleague Fitzthum, a rare parrot, which he should guard, escapes him. Szabo sees his already precarious life in shambles, but Fitzthum has a brilliant idea and together they go out in search of a doppelganger of the precious animal.

2020

Award Nominations Best Indonesian Film

2020

Hole (Rong)
Dir. Kelik Sri Nugroho
Country: Indonesia

Ningsih (28 yrs old), was suddenly possessed by queen of demon on her wedding day. His mother, aunt Marsih, uncle, Aminudin (prospective husband), both prospective parents-in-law, were unable to cope the situation. Pak Kaum, who was summoned, could not cast out the demon. Finally, Mr. Soekardjo succeeded in healing Ningsih after undertaking the conditions requested by Queen of demon. Finally, Ningsih and Aminudin were married.

2020

Rest in Peace (Kembalilah Dengan Tenang)
Dir. M Reza Fahriyansyah
Country: Indonesia

Santoso and Wati are in grief for Agung, their only son, suddenly died. It leads Santoso into unfavorable circumstances while he gets around to preparing for the funeral.

2020

TAKE BACK!
Dir. Mada Ariya
Country: Indonesia

The film is about an investigation by Prigi Arisandi and a team to dismantle smuggling of imported domestic trash from western countries to East Java through the import of used paper waste. This discovery is evidence of developed countries contributing to rubbish in Indonesia, which has the second largest marine waste contributor in the world.

2020

Award Nominations
Best Student Project

2020

The Best Orchestra in the World
Dir. Henning Backhaus
Country: Austria

Ingbert, the sock, applies for a position as double bass player at the Vienna State Orchestra. Bad idea.

2020

I Was Still There When You Left Me
Dir. Marie Mc Court
Country: Belgium

While her tower block is burning, a 7 year old girl is consumed by guilt thinking she started the fire.

2020

Now Or Never
Dir. Matt Senior
Country: United Kingdom

Now Or Never tells the story of the Batang Toru Forest, which lies in North Sumatra, Indonesia. It is a forest like no other, and remains largely unexplored. Batang Toru is also the one and only home for the most endangered great ape species in the world – the newly identified Tapanuli Orangutans.

2020

Award Nominations
Best Music Video

2020

Harry Nathan - Fool For Your Love
Dir. Odeya Rush
Country: United States

Fool For Your Love is a journey into the imagination of a young boy named Scooter.

2020

Gloria Jessica - Wake (Buka Mata)
Dir. Risky Jusuf
Country: Indonesia

A music video that tells a story about toxic relationship. The visual concept describing two different and contrast views/perspectives. One view is a perspective of a person who is having that toxic relationship where everything they see is just normal and beautiful. Yet, other perspective is from outsiders, the people who knows them that can see their relationship isn't healthy.

2020

Idles - Never Fight a Man with a Perm
Dir. Al Brown
Country: United Kingdom

This is a music video for Brit award winning English Rock band, Idles.

2020

Award Nominations Best Experimental

2020

Ô
Dir. Chloé Dupeyrat
Country: France

Ô is a succession of dark and dreamlike underwater pictures calling out to citizens about their relationship with burning issues.

2020

Frequencies
Dir. Thomas R Peeters
Country: Belgium

In an undefined decor workers fulfill a very monotonous job. The repeating character allows them to escape their physical presence. They wander in thoughts tailored to the labor. Or does the labor deliver a certain rhythm that limits their inner freedom?

2020

The Animal That Therefore I Am
Dir. Bea de Visser
Country: Netherlands

"What does the animal see when it looks at me?" Three animals and a woman in an enclosed space. As they study each other, their own methods of communication create a wordless conversation. We view them in close-up and from various perspectives, with the woman as a solitary species in this universe.

2020

Award Nominations Best Director

2020

New Bronx
Dir. Filip Ignatowicz
Country: Poland

Natalia is a boyish and impulsive girl in her mid-teens living in a rough part of Gdansk, Poland. Her crush on a boy from her neighbourhood becomes an obsession and she is prepared to do anything to get close to him. But when she finally reaches her goal, everything suddenly changes.

2020

Les Misérables
Dir. Ladj Ly
Country: France

In the modern-day Parisian neighborhood of Victor Hugo's novel, a new transfer cop learns abusive policing practices of two veterans. When a young boy records them going too far, the community threatens to explode.

2020

About My Mother
Dir. Yumi Otsuka
Country: Japan

This is the offbeat story of a woman named Yumiko, a serious, yet apprehensive and honest single mother of a son and daughter, both in their twenties. After observing the mother meticulously sew up a hole in her son's sock, the daughter urges her to "live a little." One day, while walking in a neighborhood park, she stops and listens to a band play an instrumental version of Simon and Garfunkel's 'I'd Rather Be a Sparrow than a Snail'(El Condor Pasa). Upon hearing this tune, she briefly loses herself in the music before coming back to reality, but something in her psyche has changed. She recognizes that her attempts at being the perfect mother have gone largely unappreciated.

2020

Award Nominations
Best Editor

2020

Windows, Windows
Dir. Wojciech Solarz
Country: Poland

Villages gripped by fear, families running for their lives, special ops assembled to fight the unstoppable force terrorising the countryside. And the villain- rebellious, ever evading wood grouse. It strikes from hiding and disappears never to be found. Amidst the horrors sits Wojtek in his post atop a hunting box trying to spot the bloodthirsty beast. One night he sees a blazing window in an empty expanse. But there is no house. And the window starts to sway. When he approaches it disappears. One night, to his surprise, in the wagging window he catches a glimpse of a girl.
Poetic story set in the abstract background telling a universal tale of yearnings, hounding memories and quest for love.

2020

Bozkir Look at the Birds
Dir. Mehmet Tanrisever
Country: Turkey

Abdullah and Cripple Ziya are gun dealers in the Bozkir district of Konya. Even though they have opposite personalities, their friendship and partnership go back many years.

2020

Quarantine
Dir. Jason Gonzalez
Country: United States

A woman is stuck in her home.

2020

Award Nominations Best Cinematography

2020

Rasta
Dir. Samir Benchikh
Country: France

In Ivory Coast, Rasta, who is 16, is traumatized by an armed conflict that is ravaging his country. Haunted by a tragedy that he keeps secret, he will begin a journey through the war zone held by the Rebellion, in search of a mysterious militiaman.

2020

The Songs of Love
Dir. Andrii Andreiev
Country: Ukraine

'Songs of Love' is a short film – contemplation of the gracefulness, freedom, tenderness, dance, peace of the biggest animals – the whales, the cosmic act of life, perfection of every moment. This is an underwater 'flight - levitation', this is a live music of the Universe that permeates the oceans with the vibrations dozens kilometers around, this is love.

2020

Shoes and Signpost
Dir. Takahiro Yamaguchi
Country: Japan

Tosuke is a shoemaker who lives near the sea. He broke up with his wife and daughter a few years ago. One day, Tosuke is looking at the sea, a mysterious girl stands on the water's edge. The girl is injured in her leg. Tosuke takes her to his home and tries to treat her knees. When he flushes her leg with water in the bathroom, the wound has curiously blocked. He finds a scale on the floor of the bathroom. He thinks of his daughter who is as old as the girl. The next day, Tosuke sees that the girl looks at the postmarks outside of the window. He decides to take her to a zoo. He notices another scale on the way and thinks it is hers. Tosuke thinks that she won't have much time to stay in this place. Tosuke spends the left of time with her.

2020

Award Nominations Best Screenplay

2020

Sint Holo
Dir. Michael Vincent Montgomery
Country: United States

In a post-apocalyptic world, Native American twins must embark on
a perilous ocean voyage. But they are guided by Sint Holo, the ancient serpent-god of wisdom and prophecy.

2020

Icarus of Normandy
Dir. Duncan Putney
Country: United States

A story about Icarus, a birdman who's obsessed to fly.

2020

Oradour
Dir. Vaughn Roste
Country: United States

When the Nazis start massacring civilians in their peaceful village, a shy teenager finds himself leading a group of wounded civilians in their quest to survive. The true story of Oradour-sur-Glane, France – June 10, 1944.

2020

Ube Bubog vol. One: School of Hard Knocks
Dir. Sway Stagall
Country: Philippines

Ding Bangus, a skateboarding Filipino college dropout is mistakenly marked for death by motorcycle riding vigilante assassins and must rely on Clutch 'Cobra' Carsten - a crazy American UFC fighter wannabe - to save his life!

Festival Committee

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Rein Maychaelson
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Shari Soebijanto

And to all our festival partners, filmmakers, distributors, and audiences!

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