

39th PIFF brings world cinema to Portland screens

For the 39th year, the Northwest Film Center is bringing cinema from around the world to Portland with the Portland International Film Festival (PIFF). The festival, which is featured at several venues through February 27, includes 97 features and 54 shorts from more than 50 countries.

During PIFF's more than two-week run, 20 animated shorts, 22 features from new filmmakers, and 17 fresh documentary films are highlighted. The event also includes the Portland premiere of 22 films submitted for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.

An animated film from Japan, *Miss Hokusai*, which is based on the manga *Sarusuberi* by Hinako Sugiura, reveals the untold story of O-Ei, a.k.a. Katsushika Oi, a free-spirited woman overshadowed by her larger-than-life father. Johnnie To's *Office*, which features superstars Chow Yun-Fat and Sylvia Chang, is a stage-to-screen musical about corporate corruption and greed amidst the global financial collapse of 2008.

Other features screening during the festival are *7 Letters*, a film created by seven of Singapore's most illustrious filmmakers that is a one-of-a-kind anthology paying tribute to Singapore's 50 years of independence; Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Cemetery of Splendour*, a drama about a mysterious sleeping sickness; and Chaitanya Tamhane's *Court*, which portrays a quietly devastating, absurdist portrait of injustice, caste prejudice, and venal politics in contemporary India.

The following list gives cinephiles a quick glimpse of the Asian and Asia-themed films showing as part of the festival:

Hong Kong

Little Big Master
(February 15 & 23)

Hong Kong/China

Office (February 18 & 20)

India

Court (February 16)

Iran

Nahid (February 18 & 24)

Iran/Germany/Switzerland



Sonita (February 15)

Japan

100 Yen Love (February 18)

Miss Hokusai (February 21 & 24)

Kyrgyzstan

Heavenly Nomadic (February 20)

Pakistan

Dukhtar (February 15 & 27)

Singapore

7 Letters (February 25 & 27)

South Korea

Right Now, Wrong Then
(February 18 & 21)

The Throne (February 19)

South Korea/USA

Songs from the North
(February 15 & 19)

Thailand

Cemetery of Splendour
(February 17 & 22)

FOREIGN FILMS. The 2016 edition of the Portland International Film Festival features 97 features and 54 shorts. Among the film choices are *Miss Hokusai* (top photo) and *Songs from the North* (bottom photo). (Photos courtesy of the Northwest Film Center)

Turkey

Sivas (February 24 & 26)

USA

For Grace (February 17)

The Invitation (February 26)

USA/Canada/Italy/Japan

Man vs. Snake

(February 27)

In addition to the many feature-length films, the "Short Cuts I: International Ties" series features Phuong Mai Nguyen's *My Home*, Sarmad Masud's *Two Dosas*, and others. "Short Cuts I" takes place February 16 at 6:15pm.

"Short Cuts III: International Ties," which screens February 18 and 21, includes Sanjay Patel's animated short, *Sanjay's Super Team*.

PIFF 39 films are screened at several locations in Portland, including Cinema 21, 616 N.W. 21st Avenue; the Regal Fox Tower 10, 846 S.W. Park Avenue; the Empirical Theater at the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry, 1945 S.E. Water Avenue; the World Trade Center Theater, 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Building 2 (upstairs); the Moreland Theatre, 6712 S.E. Milwaukie Avenue; the Roseway Theater, 7229 N.E. Sandy Boulevard; and the Whittell Auditorium, located at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park Avenue.

The festival ticket office is located in the lobby of the Portland Art Museum's Mark Building, 1119 S.W. Park Avenue. To order advance tickets, call (503) 276-4310. For more information, or to view a complete schedule of films, visit <www.nwfilm.org>.

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Applications will be available online only starting at 9:00 am February 16, 2016. To apply, visit our website at www.vhousa.com. Selection will be by lottery, the first lottery drawing will be on or after February 23, 2016. Subsequent lottery drawings will be made as needed. Applications not drawn by lottery will remain in the applicant pool for future lottery drawings. Your chance of getting a voucher is the same no matter when you apply before the lottery drawing.

Only online applications will be accepted. If you do not have internet access, a number of local agencies have agreed to provide computer access. A list of addresses and open hours are available on our website at www.vhousa.com or at our office located at 2500 Main St, Vancouver, WA 98660. There is never a fee to apply. If someone asks you for money to apply for housing, please report it to the Housing Authority immediately.

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