



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

BIFF 2023 Program And Schedule



16th BALINALE

Park 23 Cinema XXI

1 - 4 June 2023

45 Films 13 Countries

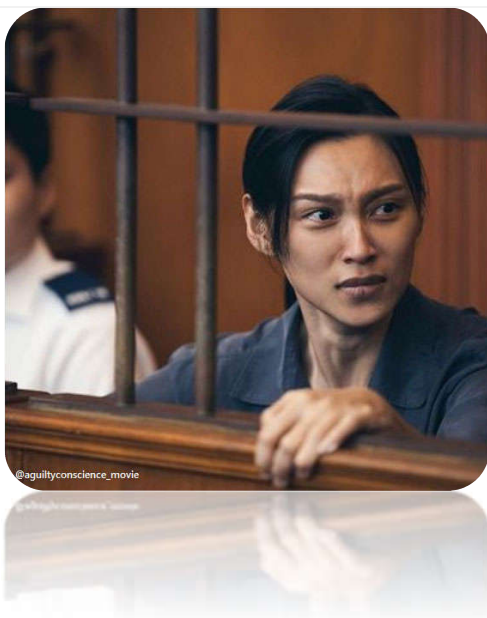
11 World Premiere

13 Asian Premiere

4 International Premiere

balinale.com





Opening Night Film: A Guilty Conscience

Thursday, June 1 | 20:15 | Studio 3 (D17+)
(Invitation + Pass Holders Only)

Director: Jack Ng | Actor HO Kai-Wa Attending

Country: Hong Kong

Language: Chinese (English and Indonesian subtitles available)

Duration: 135 min

Category: Feature Narrative

Synopsis: After his negligence causes an innocent woman to go to jail, a lawyer and his colleagues work to clear her name

FEATURE NARRATIVE

(In Competition)



Klondike

Friday, June 2 | 18:30 | Studio 1 (D17+)

Synopsis: A Family becomes part of MH-17 air crash tragedy near Hrabove, Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, on July 17-19, 2014.

Director: Maryna Er Gorbach

Country: Ukraine

Language: Russian (English subtitles available)

Duration: 100 min

Category: Feature Narrative



Women Talking

Friday, June 2 | 16:15 | Studio 1 (R13+)

Synopsis: The women of an isolated religious colony reveal a shocking secret about the colony's men, who for years have drugged and then raped them.

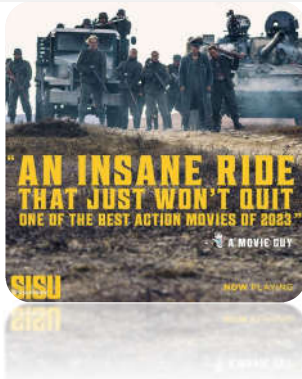
Director: Sarah Polley

Country: USA

Language: English

Duration: 104 min

Category: Feature Narrative



Sisu

Saturday, June 3 | 17:30 | Studio 1 (D17+)

Synopsis: A solitary miner crosses paths with Nazis during WWII in northern Finland. When the soldiers decide to steal his gold, they face unexpected consequences.

Director: Jalmari Helander

Country: Finland

Language: English

Duration: 91 min

Category: Feature Narrative



Where The Wind Blows

Saturday, June 3 | 14:00 | Studio 3 (D17+)

Synopsis: Corruption in law enforcement during the 60s and 70s, power struggles and triad deals in post-WWII Hong Kong under British rule.

Director: Philip Yung

Country: Hong Kong

Language: Chinese (English and Indonesian subtitles available)

Duration: 144 min

Category: Feature Narrative

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

(In Competition)



Crows Are White

Saturday, June 3 | 14:15 | Studio 1 (R13+)

Synopsis: After decades of living a secret life, a filmmaker travels to a strict Japanese monastery in search of guidance but the only monk who will help him prefers ice cream and heavy metal over meditation. Crows are White is an exploration of truth, faith and love, from the top of a mountain to the bottom of a sundae.

Director: Ashen Nadeem

Country: Ireland

Language: English, Japanese

Duration: 95mn

Category: Feature Documentary



Turn Every Page

Friday, June 2 | 13:30 | Studio 1 (R13+)

Synopsis: Follows the iconic Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Caro and his editor, the literary giant Robert Gottlieb, in this chronicle of a unique 50-year relationship.

Director: Lizzie Gottlieb

Country: United States

Language: English

Duration: 112mn

Category: Feature Documentary



Big Wave Guardians

Saturday, June 3 | 12:30 | Studio 1 (R13+)

Synopsis: The world's most dangerous 7-mile stretch of beach is Hawaii's North Shore, where big wave guardians risk their lives to save surfers pushing the limits.

Director: Luke Stirtz

Country: United States

Language: English

Duration: 91mn

Category: Feature Documentary



The Tone Wheels

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

Synopsis: Dangdut musician Ubay and his group want to record their songs before getting older. With help from a friend, they overcome obstacles and pursue their passion.

Director: Yuda Kurniawan

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian (English subtitles available)

Duration: 99mn

Category: Feature Documentary

SHORT DOCUMENTARY

(In Competition)



Behind the Seen

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

Synopsis: Dr. Lawrence Blair, of Ring of Fire, takes us on an adventure cruise through the remote Forgotten Islands of Indonesia, 'seeing' the world anew through the latest discoveries of the biological sciences, which suggest that Nature is alive with hidden intelligence. An adventure of the mind and the heart.

Director: Robin Gurney & Lawrence Blair

Country: Indonesia

Language: English

Duration: 21 min



MOTE 50 Years around the Sun

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

Synopsis: A film about the life and philosophy of perhaps the most impactful surf film of all time: Morning of the Earth. 50 years after its 1972 release.

Director: Wyatt Daily

Country: USA

Language: English

Duration: 10 min



Forgotten

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

Synopsis: Bali hides a severe clean water issue. Villagers in rural areas use toxic water daily and the city's polluted rivers are compromising the population's health.

Director: Roberto Natali

Country: Indonesia

Language: English, Indonesian

Duration: 31 min



Under Your Feet

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

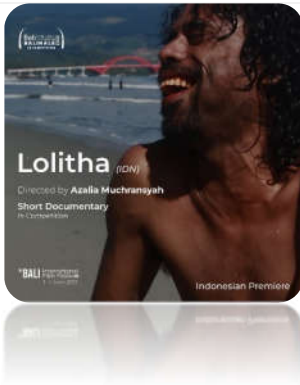
Synopsis: LZ Tile House in Lasem was once a prominent center of tile production and trade but now, in a state of disrepair, awaits government funding for conservation.

Director: A. J. Kelly

Country: Indonesian

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 12 min



Lolitha

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

Synopsis: Lolitha is a transwoman from Papua who is HIV-positive. She shares her stories about her queer awakening, her difficult days selling sex in the streets of Jayapura, her activism, and her philosophical analysis of her intersectional identities.

Director: Azalia Muchransyah

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 20 min



The Spider Whisperer

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

Synopsis: One day, thousands of spiders invaded the house of a farmer, Luh Sukarmi in Bali (Indonesia) and they never left again. What is she going to do?

Director: Amélie Jaya

Country: Indonesian

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 7 min



Achewiq, the song of the brave women

Friday, June 2 | 14:00 | Studio 3

Synopsis: Lolitha is a transwoman from Papua who is HIV-positive. She shares her stories about her queer awakening, her difficult days selling sex in the streets of Jayapura, her activism, and her philosophical analysis of her intersectional identities.

Director: Elina Kastler

Country: Algeria, France

Language: Berber, French

Duration: 16 min

SHORT NARRATIVE

(In Competition)



Witness

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Shermin is a young girl who is in a dilemma to save her father's life, but finally makes a difficult decision.

Director: Aida tebianian

Country: Iran

Language: Persian

Duration: 15 min



Kama

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Elderly couple Surya and Indah's love for each other is tested by Indah's diabetes and Surya's hearing impairment, but they stay together.

Director: Esra Desvita Siagian

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesia

Duration: 14 min



Playground

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A six year old girl's adventure at an adult night club where her mother works.

Director: Yaxing Lin

Country: USA

Language: English

Duration: 17 min



Shut

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Jonas is shocked to find his father in a confused state. Has his father's mental state badly deteriorated or is something more sinister going on?

Director: Niels Bourgonje

Country: Netherlands

Language: Dutch

Duration: 15 min



Please Hold the Line

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A young scam call operator is thrust into a moral dilemma as she navigates a life-changing situation.

Director: Tan Ce Ding

Country: Malaysia

Language: Chinese

Duration: 19 min



Las Visitantes

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Three widowed retirees embark on a European bus tour, eager to experience the wonders of tourism they've heard about all their lives.

Director: Enrique Buleo

Country: Spain

Language: Spanish

Duration: 15 min

ART OF THE SCORE



Gadis dan Penatu

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Santi, a vocational school graduate, one day gets some luck to go for a job interview but her mom tends to give Santi plenty of laundry tasks in order to prevent her from going to job interviews.

Director: Alam Alghifari

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 19 min



A Batik Shawl

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Devastated by her child's death, Lasmi's depression puts her nephew Adi in danger when her sister entrusts him to her care.

Director: Nada Leo Prakasa

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 15 min



Asa

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: An animated film that tells the story of Dian, a child bride whose dream of playing her favorite sport of badminton is cut short.

Director: Prisca Devani

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 05 min



Now (here)

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A conflict between a mother and her university student daughter.

Director: Noah Texusjarana

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 20 min



Sunday

Sunday, June 4 | 15:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A father is in dilemma over his objection to his daughter's marriage, risking losing her love forever.

Director: Ezra Cecio

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 20 min

OFFICIAL SELECTION



The Art of Giving

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Three individuals in Bali – a young man, a little girl, and an artist – come together to combat poverty and plastic pollution.

Director: Mickael Couturier

Country: Indonesia

Language: English

Duration: 11 min



Kala (Before it Rains)

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A Woman seeks answers from her lover who one-sidedly ended their relationship.

Director: Giannina Trixie Lapien

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 18 min



The Chicken Who Isn't There

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Ramar takes over the family chicken farm after his father's death. While coping with grief, he rediscovers his connection to the farm and his family.

Director: Hadafi Raihan Karim

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 16 min



Impostor in the last dance

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A big question surrounding a missing queen forces the king to make a difficult decision in order to find her.

Director: Harvan Agustriansyah

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 16 min



Acung Memilih Bersuara

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Acung, born in Pasuruan, becomes an activist after witnessing the discrimination towards ethnic Chinese. He speaks out, but pays the price with his freedom.

Director: Amelia Hapsari

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 10 min



Split Ends

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A bald woman and a man with long hair try to get out of paying fines when they are caught by traffic cameras for not wearing a hijab.

Director: Alireza Kazemipour

Country: Iran

Language: Persian

Duration: 14 min



Re-Calling

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: One night, a widowed single mother receives an unexpected phone call from her son who is studying in America.

Director: William Adiguna

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 17 min



Outside the Frame

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

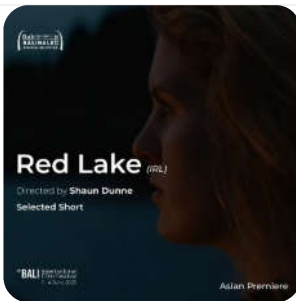
Synopsis: Two filmmakers record a traffic light in Jakarta for a college assignment, capturing their thoughts and commentary on passing vehicles and their surroundings.

Director: Micko Boanerges Ferdinandus

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 5 min



Red Lake

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Sisters return to Red Lake for their father's funeral, but as tensions rise, Jess discovers that resentment can breed monsters and legends that may be real.

Director: Shaun Dunne

Country: Ireland

Language: English

Duration: 14 min



The Sprayer

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: Soldiers in a plant-less land discover a seed, sparking curiosity and igniting a revolutionary movement against the oppressive sprayers army.

Director: Farnoosh Abedi

Country: Iran

Language: English

Duration: 09 min



Victim

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: A mother's love for her son is tested by his increasingly alarming behavior.

Director: Robin Summons

Country: Australia

Language: English

Duration: 14 min

AICEF

(Prize for Cross-cultural Filmmaking)



ORPA

Friday, June 2 | 16:30 | Studio 3

Synopsis: Orpa (13) is a bookish Papuan girl who is to be married by her father to a wealthy man from Jayapura. She decides to run away one night to pursue her dream of attending school in Wamena.

Director: Theo Rumansara

Country: Indonesia

Language: Indonesian

Duration: 96 min



Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest

Sunday, June 4 | 12:00 | Studio 4

Synopsis: The story of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the first Nepalese woman to reach the summit of mount Everest. Her courageous, historic, and tragic journey will inspire a nation and generations to come.

Director: Nancy Svendsen

Country: USA

Language: English

Duration: 72 min

SELECTED PREMIERE



NUCLEAR NOW

Sunday, June 4 | 16:30 | Studio 3 (R+13)

Asian Premiere

Synopsis: As fossil fuels continue to cook the planet, the world is finally becoming forced to confront the influence of large oil companies and tactics that have enriched a small group of corporations and individuals for generations. Beneath our feet, Uranium atoms in the Earth's crust hold incredibly concentrated energy- science unlocked this energy in the mid-20th century, first for bombs and then to power submarines and the United States led the effort to generate electricity from this new source. Yet in the mid 20th century as societies began the transition to nuclear power and away from fossil fuels, a long-term PR campaign to scare the public began, funded in part by coal and oil interests. This campaign would sow fear about harmless low-level radiation and create confusion between nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Director: Oliver Stone

Country: United States

Language: English

Duration: 105mn

Category: Feature Documentary