

PRESS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release  
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## TEN FILMS UNVEILED FOR THE HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI

**Honolulu, HI - (Tuesday, September 7, 2011)** - Ten more films have been announced that will be presented at the 31st Hawaii International Film Festival presented by Halekulani, scheduled for October 13 - 23. These films join the buzz worthy announcement of Alexander Payne's THE DESCENDANTS starring George Clooney as the Festival's Closing Night Gala.

### **NINJA KIDS!!!**

Dir: Takashi Miike  
Japan  
Hawaii Premiere  
2011

Based on the popular newspaper comic "Ninja Rantaro Flunks Again" by Sobei Amako and TV anime series comes a live action directed by Takashi MIKE. The story revolves around the adventures (and misadventures!) of the "Ninja Eggs" gang, Rantaro, Kirimaru, and Shinbei. They are the first grade students of the Ninja Academy, who aspire to be elite ninjas, along with their unusual group of "Class Ha" classmates. Their teachers and senior grade ninjas also take part in their adventures as do their mortal enemies from the rival Ninja group of Dokutake - Poison Mushroom Castle. This very first live-action feature film of the Ninja Kids follows Rantaro as he enters the Academy and how he meets his best friends, Kirimaru and Shinbei as they study and train hard to become elite ninjas!

**Sponsored by:** Hawaiian Airlines, NGN, and Japan Foundation

### **RED DOG**

Dir: Kriv Stenders  
Australia  
US Premiere  
2011

Night in the Western Australian outback, a dying dog lies in the backroom of the town's only pub. Slowly, as word spreads, the local community gathers at the pub. Part vigil, part wake, part celebration, they swap stories of RED DOG'S epic life, travels and his rise to fame.

**Sponsored by:** Hotel Renew

### **LEGEND OF THE MILLENIUM DRAGON**

Dir: Hirotsugu Kawasaki  
Japan  
2011

A 15-year-old boy goes 1200 years back in time to find his unlikely destiny as the savior to end the war between humans and demons.

**Sponsored by:** Japan Foundation

### **SKATEISTAN: 4 WHEELS AND A BOARD IN KABUL**

Dir: Kai Sehr  
Afghanistan  
Hawaii Premiere  
2011

In Kabul, a city torn by more than thirty years of war, a couple of Australian aid workers accidentally discover the surprising power of the skateboard to connect with young Afghans of different genders, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. Documenting the ambitious efforts of Skateistan, Afghanistan's first and only co-educational skateboard school, the film journeys deep into the lives of Afghanistan's urban youth with surprising and uplifting results.

**Sponsored by:** The Vilcek Foundation

### **MY WEDDING AND OTHER SECRETS**

Dir: Roseanne Liang  
New Zealand  
Hawaii Premiere  
2010

MY WEDDING AND OTHER SECRETS is a romantic comedy about Emily and James, a young couple who must overcome the expectations of Emily's parents in order to bring happiness to themselves and those around them.

**Sponsored by:** Hotel Renew

### **UNFINISHED SPACES**

Dir: Alys Nahmias  
United States  
Hawaii Premiere  
2011

Cuba's ambitious National Art Schools project, designed by three young artists in the wake of Castro's revolution, is neglected, nearly forgotten, then ultimately rediscovered as a visionary architectural masterpiece.

**Sponsored by:** Electric Pencil

### **THE JOURNALS OF MUSAN**

Dir: Jungbum Park  
South Korea  
Hawaii Premiere  
2010

JEON Seung-chul is a North Korean defector who has escaped to the South. But being a defector, he is unable to find a proper job survives through each day living a life in the slums getting beaten by local thugs all the time. His only joy is to watch Sook-kyung singing like an angel at church on Sundays, who he doesn't even dare to speak to. He gets himself a part-time job at the Karaoke where she works, but he pretends he doesn't know her because of his circumstances. When Kyung-chul, a broker who arranges a way for other North Korean defectors to send money to their families stuck in the North, gets scammed by his uncle who had been arranging this in China, he asks his friend Seung-chul to sneak out the money that he had hidden away at their house now surrounded by angry defectors.

**Sponsored by:** Hawaii Council for the Humanities

### **MY LAST DAY WITHOUT YOU**

Dir: Stefan Schaefer  
United States  
West Coast Premiere  
2011

On a one-day business trip to New York, a young German business executive falls in love with a singer-songwriter who exposes him to her Brooklyn world and emotions he's never experienced before.

**Sponsored by:** The Vilcek Foundation

### **THE LAST RONIN** Dir: Shigimechi Sugita

Japan  
Hawaii Premiere  
2010

16 years after the fateful "revenge of the Forty-seven Ronin," involving samurais from the Ako domain who avenged their leader and then committed seppuku (ritual suicide), the sole survivor of that incident, Kichimon Terasaka traverses the country on a mission. His purpose is to find the families of the fallen samurais and spread the truth of the Ronin uprising.

### **JUMP ASHIN!**

Dir: Yu-Hsien LIN  
Taiwan  
North America Premiere  
2011

If I chose to leave, I would know for sure why I should come back. A-shin grows up in a small town at Yilan. His family runs a fruit shop. A-shin is the most beloved one of his mother, and is his little brother's idol. He joined the school gymnastic team at an early age. In order to become a national player, he never gave in to hard trainings. However, he gradually lost his way in rebel time. During this period of time, A-shin gave up gymnastics and joined the gang with his best friend, Pickle. When there was a fight, he often used the techniques he learnt in the sports team, and win with unexpected moves. Later, the two boys accidentally pissed off the son of gang boss. While Pickle became addicted to drugs, problems became bigger and bigger like rolling snowballs. They decided to flee to Taipei but result in the death of Pickle. A-shin got nothing left but the words deep in his mind "Standing upside down if you want to cry, so the tears can't run". He decided to go home and pick up his passion and belief to gymnastics. He told himself, this is his final chance/run...

**Sponsored by:** Taipei Economic & Cultural Office of Los Angeles

See all of the trailers for these films and upcoming announcements regarding the 31st Hawaii International Film Festival presented by Halekulani at [hiff.org](http://hiff.org).

### **Hawaii International Film Festival**

Established in 1981, the Hawai'i International Film Festival is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of cultural exchange and media awareness in the Pacific Rim. HIFF is a premier international film event that has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders across the globe. HIFF's programming has two particular mandates: to be a festival of record for emerging films from Asia and the Pacific, and to present the top festival films from around the world, annually screening films from over 45 countries. HIFF also presents content and panels in the fields of film and music, and mobile entertainment and gaming. These transmedia programs reflect HIFF's commitment to exhibiting innovative creative content coming from the Asia Pacific Rim. For more information visit [hiff.org](http://hiff.org).

HIFF's major sponsors are: Halekulani Hotels & Resorts, Regal Entertainment Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, Hawaii Tourism Authority, The Vilcek Foundation, and EuroCinema Hawaii.

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