

# HIFF HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



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Hawaii International Film Festival

## HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI PARTNERS WITH THE VILCEK FOUNDATION TO SHOWCASE AMERICAN IMMIGRANT FILMMAKERS ON PROFILE

**HONOLULU, HI -- (Tuesday, October 4, 2011)** -- The 31st Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) presented by Halekulani, in partnership with The Vilcek Foundation, will present five films in the "American Immigrant Filmmakers On Profile" (AIFP) program. AIFP highlights the creative spirits that enliven and inspire the American cinema, an art form that owes much to the immigrant community in this country.

The screenings will be held throughout the Festival, from October 13-23, at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters & IMAX. And on Monday, October 17, The Vilcek Foundation and HIFF will host a reception honoring the AIFP filmmakers at the Halekulani Hotel.

A delegate from each of the five films will be on hand this year at the first showing of their respective films. In attendance will be:

- **Bertha Bay-Sa Pan**, Director, Producer, Writer of ALMOST PERFECT
- **Ian Gamazon**, Director, Writer of LIVING IN SEDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES
- **Christoph Silber**, Producer, Writer, of MY LAST DAY WITHOUT YOU
- **Mimi Chakarova**, Director, Producer, Writer of THE PRICE OF SEX
- **Nadia Henrich**, Editor, Writer of SKATEISTAN: FOUR WHEELS AND A BOARD IN KABUL

After the screenings, these artists will take questions from the audience.

Bertha Bay-Sa Pan and Ian Gamazon will also be volunteering as guest speakers at HIFF's Guest Filmmaker Program, which offers students on O'ahu the chance to interact with professionals in the film industry.

"America and the American way of life have been defined in and through movies since the very beginnings of Hollywood," said HIFF Executive Director Chuck Boller. "Most of the leading directors, as well as actors and producers, were immigrants to the United States. Their vision and interpretation of culture, society, and values in America became, and remain, the defining characteristics of America and what it means to be an American."

"Today's immigrant filmmakers," Mr. Boller added, "continue to define and expand the concept and

meaning of America, and these perceptions and interpretations spread across the U.S. and throughout the world."

Echoing Mr. Boller's sentiments was Rick Kinsel, Executive Director of the Vilcek Foundation, and its representative at HIFF. "The AIFP program has proven to be an ideal showcase for bringing widespread attention to the remarkable work of immigrant filmmakers, both in front of and behind the camera. We are proud to renew our sponsorship of the AIFP program. Through our partnership with HIFF, now in its fifth year," said Mr. Kinsel, "we have presented more than twenty films and introduced numerous talented film professionals with diverse backgrounds to American audiences. Cinema, more than any other medium, clearly demonstrates the many ways American culture is enriched by the contributions of immigrants."

The Vilcek Foundation honors and supports foreign-born scientists and artists who have made outstanding contributions to society in the United States. For more information on The Foundation, please visit [www.vilcek.org](http://www.vilcek.org). For more information on HIFF, please visit [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org)

### **Film Synopses and Delegate Bios:**

#### **ALMOST PERFECT**

Hawaii Premiere

AIFP Delegate: Bertha Bay-Sa Pan

Sunday, October 16 | 3:00 PM | Regal Dole

Monday, October 17 | 9:30 PM | Regal Dole

United States 2011 | English | 106M

**DIRECTOR:** Bertha Bay-Sa Pan

**CAST:** Christina Chang, Tina Chen, Edison Chen, Kelly Hu, Ivan Shaw

Vanessa (Kelly Hu) is surrounded by models of relationship failure as her brother hides out from his estranged wife and their parents split up. Dwayne finds his way into Vanessa's heart but will they sabotage this relationship amidst the family drama? ALMOST PERFECT takes a new, realistic urban San Francisco look at the "you're marrying my family too" wedding movies.

Born in New Jersey and raised in Taiwan, **Bertha Bay-Sa Pan** received an MFA degree in Directing from the Columbia University Graduate Film School in 1997 while working as an International Sales Executive in film distribution. Pan's feature film debut FACE, co-written by Academy Award nominee Oren Moverman, starring Bai Ling, Treach, Kristy Wu, Kieu Chinh, Ken Leung, Will Yun Lee, and Emmy Award and Golden Globe Nominee Tina Chen, premiered at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival in the Dramatic Competition.

#### **LIVING IN SEDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES**

Hawaii Premiere

AIFP Delegate: Ian Gamazon

Tuesday, October 18 | 8:45 PM | Regal Dole

United States 2011 | Vietnamese, with English subtitles | 72M

**DIRECTOR:** Ian Gamazon

**CAST:** Long Nguyen, Quynn Ton

Minh is a pregnant, young Vietnamese woman taking a relaxing vacation in the woods. She is

joined by Mr. Thanh, an older man she has drugged and kidnapped. She takes him to an isolated cabin where she cheerfully tortures him without mercy. How did it come to this? **LIVING IN SEDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES** is a disturbing psychological horror-thriller by Filipino-American filmmaker Ian Gamazon (**CAVITE**, HIFF 2007).

**Ian Gamazon's** debut film **CAVITE** had its world premiere at the Rotterdam International Film Festival and North American premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival in 2005. The film also played in numerous festivals including the Los Angeles Film Festival and the prestigious New Directors/New Films. He was named in Filmmaker Magazine's Twenty Five New Faces of Independent Film in 2006. **CAVITE** continued its success and earned Gamazon the Someone To Watch Award for the 2006 Independent Spirit Award. **CAVITE** was picked up and distributed by Magnolia Pictures. **LIVING IN SEDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES** marks his third feature film.

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

West Coast Premiere

AIFP Delegate: Christoph Silber

Friday, October 14 | 7:00 PM | Regal Dole

Sunday, October 16 | 9:00 PM | Regal Dole

United States 2011 | English, German with English subtitles | 92 M

**DIRECTOR:** Stefan Schaefer

**CAST:** Nicole Beharie, Reg E Cathey, Ken Duken, Marlene Forte, Laith Nakli

When a young business executive, Niklas, is sent from Frankfurt to New York to shut down a division of his firm, he doesn't realize his life is about to be turned upside-down. By 9:30am he is done, but his flight back home doesn't leave for another 11 hours. In this time, by chance, he meets and falls for Leticia, a beautiful African-American singer-songwriter. The only problem...Unbeknownst to him, she's one of the people he just fired.

Born in Berlin in 1971 and raised bilingual, **Christoph Silber** works in English and German. A singer, actor and music journalist from his early teens, he studied American and French literature and translated writers such as Quentin Tarantino, Joe R. Lansdale and James Cameron for German publishers. 1996 marked his debut as a playwright at the Vienna Burgtheater with a critically acclaimed adaptation of Puccini's "Tosca". Considered one of Germany's leading screenwriters, Chris has written and co-written several award-winning films, including *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003) and *North Face* (2008), which won him the 2008 German Film Critics Award for Best Screenplay. On the TV front, he penned celebrated episodes for Europe's legendary crime series "Tatort" (1969). He is a member of the German Film Academy and has won the 2009 Grimme Award, Germany's Emmy equivalent.

### **THE PRICE OF SEX**

Hawaii Premiere

AIFP Delegate: Mimi Chakarova

Wednesday, October 19 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole

Friday, October 20 | 3:15 PM | Regal Dole

United States 2011 | English, Romanian, Russian, Turkish with English subtitles | 72M

**DIRECTOR:** Mimi Chakarova

Sisters, daughters, mothers, these are the women trafficked from Eastern Europe to work as prostitutes all over the world. Looking for a better life for their families at home, these women are

tricked into believing they will be working as housekeepers and other legitimate jobs. **THE PRICE OF SEX** is a powerful documentary by photojournalist Mimi Chakarova who follows the societal causes that forces these women into slavery.

**Mimi Chakarova** received her BFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute and her MA in visual studies from UC Berkeley. She has had numerous solo exhibitions of her documentary projects on South Africa, Jamaica, Cuba, Kashmir and Eastern Europe. For the past decade, Mimi has covered global issues examining conflict, corruption and the sex trade. Chakarova was awarded the Nestor Almendros Award for courage in filmmaking at the 2011 Human Rights Watch Film Festival in New York.

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

Hawaii Premiere

AIFP Delegate: Nadia Hennrich

Tuesday, October 18 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole

Thursday, October 20 | 5:30 PM | Regal Dole

Afghanistan 2011 | English, Farsi, German with English subtitles | 100 M

**DIRECTOR:** Kai Sehr

**CAST:** Sharna Nolan, Oliver Percovich

Oliver and Sharna came to Afghanistan with a few skateboards and a desire to make a difference. They began skating in an abandoned water fountain attracting a few nearby children. That number soon multiplied and included both boys and girls. Follow Ollie and Sharna as they try to bring hope and happiness to children in a war torn country.

Editor **Nadia Hennrich** spent six years of her schooling in Tehran, Iran, before continuing in Hamburg, Germany. Her first film experience came in Germany, where she worked as a Location Scout, Runner, and Video Operator. She began working on features as an Editing Assistant, before cutting commercials and television trailers. In 2003, after years of experience in Germany with production companies such as E&P, Dock 7 Films, Erste Liebe Film, Markenfilm and Telemaz, Nadia relocated to the US. She immediately made waves cutting spots for McDonald's/PlayStation "Connected" and Nintendo "Control".

The 31st Hawaii International Film Festival presented by Halekulani will feature 212 films from 43 different countries and will be held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theatres & IMAX from October 13-23. Tickets are on sale now to HIFF Ohana members and the general public. General admission tickets will be available for \$12 or \$10 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at the guest services desk at Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theatres & IMAX or by phone at (808) 447-0577.

### **Hawaii International Film Festival:**

Established in 1981, the Hawaii 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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