



PRESS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release

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**OPENING, CENTERPIECE, AND CLOSING NIGHT FILMS  
HIGHLIGHT THE HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
PRESENTED BY HALEKULANI**

**Gala Presentations and Halekulani Golden Orchid Award Nominees Look  
for Continuing Festival Success**

**Honolulu, HI - (Thursday, October 6, 2011)** - Welcome a new year of films with highlights from around the world and festival standouts. The 31st Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) presented by Halekulani brings some of the hottest films on the festival circuit as opening, centerpiece, and closing night features. These highly-anticipated films bring much buzz and star-power to a lineup featuring 212 films.

This year's opening night film is the Korean submission for the Oscar's Best Foreign Language film *THE FRONT LINE*, centerpiece will be a sensual 3D film embracing the world of dance, *PINA 3D*, and finishing the HIFF lineup this year as the closing night film will be *THE DESCENDANTS*, starring George Clooney and directed by Alexander Payne. Along with these landmark films are perennial sections such as the **HALEKULANI GOLDEN ORCHID AWARDS** for Best Feature and Documentary and **GALA PRESENTATIONS** unveiling high profile films gunning for the awards season.

"People always ask me which films they should see at HIFF," said HIFF Executive Director Chuck Boller. "I always tell them to not miss the Opening, Centerpiece and Closing Films, as well as the Nominated Films and Galas. If you can manage to see all of these, or a good portion of them, you will be seeing some of the very finest films HIFF has to offer."

HIFF has selected a broad range of other films that cover timely subject matter that involve people in a local, national and international level. Ranging from the new section dealing with racy and controversial issues (**HIFF EXTREME**), the state of the local film industry (**MADE IN HAWAII**), the convergence of film and music (**SOUND x VISION**), and an emphasis on LGBT lifestyles (**EXPRESS YOURSELF**).

With 43 countries represented in this year's festival, HIFF celebrates select locations with spotlight sections and unique films. These high profile sections include **SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN**, **NEW CHINESE CINEMA**, **SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA**, **HONG KONG CINEMA**,

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PHILIPPINES, and the newest SPOTLIGHT ON INDIA. A celebration of American Immigrant filmmakers with the AMERICAN IMMIGRANT FILMMAKERS ON PROFILE section is also featured in the film program.

The entire film program and schedule is now available online at [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org).

What: 31st Hawaii International Film Festival presented by Halekulani

When: October 13-23

Where: Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theatres & IMAX, Sunset on the Beach

**Ticket Prices:**

- \$12 General Public
- \$10 Seniors, military, students, children
- \$8 HIFF Ohana members (HIFF's film club)

**Ticket Purchases:**

- Online at [hiff.org](http://hiff.org)
- In person - HIFF box office (Guest Services Desk at Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theatres & IMAX)
- Phone: (808) 447-0577
- Tickets are on sale for HIFF Ohana members and to the public

**FILM SYNOPSES:** (All Screenings Times Are Subject To Change)

**THE FRONT LINE**

GO-JI-JUN

Opening Night Film

United States Premiere

Thursday, October 13 | 8:00 PM | Regal Dole (To be shown on two screens)

South Korea 2011 | Korean with English subtitles | 133M

**DIRECTOR:** Hun Jang

**CAST:** Ha-kyun Shin, Ko Soo, Je-hun Lee, Chang-seok Ko, Seung-soo Ryu, David Lee

In THE FRONT LINE, Shin Ha-gyun (SAVE THE GREEN PLANET!) plays a young officer sent to the area to investigate a possible spy and what looks like a sinister case of "friendly fire." The surprises awaiting him include a reunion with an old friend he believed dead, several run-ins with a crack North Korean sniper, rife indiscipline and insubordination... and a surprising kind of fraternization between the two sides.

**Sponsored by:** Kbfd-TV

**PINA 3D**

Centerpiece Film  
Hawaii Premiere

Wednesday, October 19 | 8:15 PM | Regal Dole

France, Germany 2011 | English, French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Portuguese,  
Spanish with English subtitles | 104M

**DIRECTOR:** Wim Wenders

**CAST:** Malou Airaud, Jorge Puerta Armenta, Andrey Berezin, Clementine Deluy,  
Damiano Ottavio

PINA is a feature-length dance film in 3D with the ensemble of the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, featuring the unique and inspiring art of the late great German choreographer. Wim Wenders takes the audience on a sensual, visually stunning journey of discovery into a new dimension: straight onto the stage with the legendary ensemble and follows the dancers out of the theatre into the city and the surrounding areas of Wuppertal -the home and center for Pina Bausch's creativity.

**Sponsored by:** Modern Luxury Hawaii

**THE DESCENDANTS**

Closing Night Film  
Hawaii Premiere

Sunday, October 23 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole(To be shown on two screens)

United States 2011 | English | 115M

**DIRECTOR:** Alexander Payne

**CAST:** George Clooney, Beau Bridges, Judy Greer, Shailene Woodley

From Alexander Payne, the creator of the Oscar-winning SIDEWAYS, set in Hawaii, THE DESCENDANTS is a sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic journey for Matt King (George Clooney) an indifferent husband and father of two girls, who is forced to re-examine his past and embrace his future when his wife suffers a boating accident off of Waikiki. The event leads to a rapprochement with his young daughters while Matt wrestles with a decision to sell the family's land handed down from Hawaiian royalty and missionaries.

**Sponsored by:** Honolulu Star-Advertiser

**ARIRANG**

Hawaii Premiere  
Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Documentary Feature Nominee

Saturday, October 15 | 9:15 PM | Regal Dole

South Korea 2011 | Korean with English subtitles | 100M

**DIRECTOR:** Ki-duk Kim

**CAST:** Ki-duk Kim

ARIRANG is a true solo effort, with Kim acting as director, photographer, editor, subject and actor. As his confinement persists, the film veers from a video diary into the realm of fantasy, pushing the limits of what we expect from the documentary form. Kim invests himself so completely in his work that, just as his life has come apart, so too do the hinges that separate reality and art.

**Sponsored by:** Kbfd-TV

### **THE DANCE OF TWO LEFT FEET**

ANG SAYAW NG DALAWANG KALIWANG PAA

International Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Narrative Feature Nominees

Saturday, October 15 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole

Monday, October 17 | 4:30 PM | Regal Dole

Philippines 2011 | Tagalog with English subtitles | 86 M

**DIRECTOR:** Alvin Yapan

**CAST:** Paulo Avelino, Jean Garcia, Rocco Nacino

Marlon hires his classmate Dennis to teach him to dance, so that he can impress their teacher. When the friendship becomes strained between the two young men, it is through dance that they can express what they cannot say in words. Beautiful and moving, THE DANCE OF TWO LEFT FEET elegantly features poems from Filipino feminists that are intertwined with the dances highlighted in the film.

**Sponsored by:** L&L Hawaiian Barbecue

### **FOLK SONGS SINGING**

North American Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Narrative Features Nominee

Friday, October 14 | 9:15 PM | Regal Dole

Tuesday, October 18 | 1:00 PM | Regal Dole

China 2010 | Mandarin with English subtitles | 105 M

**DIRECTOR:** Ming Zhang

**CAST:** Ke Jie, Xingchen Lu

In a small village in China, a young music student, Xiaoyang, becomes infatuated with her mysterious tutor, Feng Gang. Despite her father's wishes, the two become involved with each other. Meanwhile, another young man, Xuefeng repeatedly tries to win over Xiaoyang. Director Zhang Ming artistically brings this story to life through outstanding performances, characters and tone.

**Sponsored by:** Hawaii National Bank

### **THE FORGIVENESS OF BLOOD**

Hawaii Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Narrative Features Nominee

Saturday, October 15 | 8:45 PM | Regal Dole

Albania, Denmark, Italy, United States 2011 | Albanian with English subtitles | 109 M

**DIRECTOR:** Joshua Marston

**CAST:** Refet Abazi, Ilire Vinca Celaj, Tristan Halilaj, Sindi Lacey

Old laws clash with the new world in Director Joshua Marston's (MARIA FULL OF GRACE) FORGIVENESS OF BLOOD, the tale of an Albanian blood feud. When Mark (Refet Abazi) takes part in the murder of a neighbor, he relegates his teenage son, Nik to a life of home confinement as is in accordance with the Kanun (15th century Albanian law). Beautifully photographed on location, FORGIVENESS OF BLOOD examines the internal struggle between tradition and modernization of a culture in transition.

### **HANAAN**

United States Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Narrative Feature Nominees

Friday, October 14 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole

Friday, October 21 | 3:45 PM | Regal Dole

South Korea, Uzbekistan 2011 | Korean, Russian, Uzbek with English subtitles | 84 M

**DIRECTOR:** Ruslan Pak

**CAST:** Dmitry Eum, Ilbek Faiziev, Bahodir Musaev, Ruslan Pak, Stanislav Tyan

Stas is an undercover agent with a dark past. Becoming enraged by the corruption of the force, he quits his job and quickly acquires a serious heroin problem. Stas must fight to reclaim his life and find a place to call home. Director Ruslan Pak delivers a gritty, realistic drama set within a historically unique period of cultural collision.

**Sponsored by:** Kbfd-TV

### **A LETTER TO MOMO**

MOMO E NO TEGAMI

United States Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Narrative Features Nominee

Sunday, October 16 | 11:30 AM | Regal Dole

Monday, October 17 | 5:30 PM | Regal Dole

Japan 2011 | Japanese with English subtitles | 120 M

**DIRECTOR:** Hiroyuki Okiura

Meet 13-year-old Momo, a shy, imaginative girl struggling with some major life changes. After the sudden death of her father, Momo must leave the big city for a remote island village. Momo is not happy with her new surroundings, even more so when she soon discovers that her new house has some strange uninvited guests. This anime feature from writer/director Hiroyuki Okiura was produced entirely with traditional hand-drawn animation, and is bound to delight both adults and children alike.

**Sponsored by:** The Japan Foundation

### **MATCHMAKING MAYOR**

United States Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Documentary Features Nominee

Tuesday, October 18 | 9:15 PM | Regal Dole

Screens with THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Czech Republic, Slovakia 2010 | Slovak with English subtitles | 72M

**DIRECTOR:** Erika Hnikova

The former general and current mayor of the eastern Slovak village of Zemplinske Hamre, whose population is slowly dying out, refuses to reconcile himself to this dismal fact and decides to take the fate of the village into his own hands. He organises a major introductory get-together where he is determined to pair off young single men and women. In her situational documentary presented at this year's Berlinale, director Erika Hnikova watches to see how successfully the mayor fared.

### **PATANG**

Hawaii Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Narrative Features Nominee

Sunday, October 16 | 6:30 PM | Regal Dole

Tuesday, October 18 | 4:00 PM | Regal Dole

India, United States 2011 | Hindi with English subtitles | 93 M

**DIRECTOR:** Prashant Bhargava

**CAST:** Seema Biswas, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Mukund Shukla, Sugandha Garg, Aakash Maherya, Hamid Shaikh

When a Delhi businessman returns to his childhood home in Ahmedabad for India's largest kite festival, an entire family has to confront its own fractured past and fragile dreams. With naturalistic performances from actors and non-actors alike, bold, lyrical editing and vibrant cinematography, PATANG delights the senses and nourishes the spirit.

**Sponsored by:** Watumull

**A PEOPLE UNCOUNTED**

West Coast Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Documentary Feature Nominee

Friday, October 14 | 6:15 PM | Regal Dole

Wednesday, October 19 | 4:00 PM | Regal Dole

Canada 2011 | English, German, Hungarian, Romanian, Russian with English subtitles | 101M

**DIRECTOR:** Aaron Yeger

This powerful documentary looks at the complex and colorful history of Gypsy/Roma culture in Europe and how their population was decimated during World War II by the porajmos or Romani Holocaust. A PEOPLE UNCOUNTED uses gripping first person accounts of the few remaining survivors. In their stories of survival one can hear the echoes of persecution in current governments and mainstream culture that lead to the first porajmos.

**RESTORING THE LIGHT**

World Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Documentary Feature Nominee

Saturday, October 15 | 2:30 PM | Regal Dole

Tuesday, October 18 | 3:00 PM | Regal Dole

China 2011 | Mandarin with English subtitles | 55M

**DIRECTOR:** Carol Liu

China's rapid economic development has left behind vast rural areas still fighting for basic survival needs. A local doctor's personal quest to bring transformative healthcare to the remote villages of northwest China reveals an intimate portrait of an unobserved rural community. RESTORING THE LIGHT explores how the doctor and two disabled families retain hope and resilience in the face of enormous social and economic pressures that threaten to unravel their lives.

**SPLINTERS**

Hawaii Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Documentary Feature Nominee

Wednesday, October 19 | 6:30 PM | Regal Dole

Thursday, October 20 | 4:00 PM | Regal Dole

Papua New Guinea, United States 2011 | English | 93M

**DIRECTOR:** Adam Pesce

**CAST:** Andrew Abel, Ezekiel Afara, Angelus Lipahi, Steve Tekwie, Susan Umpa, Lesley Umpa

In the 1980s, a pilot left behind a surfboard in a remote seaside village in Papua New Guinea, a land known for cargo cults and cannibalism. Twenty years later, the sport of surfing is splintering the community. As culture clash engulfs their village, four local surfers compete in the country's first-ever national surfing titles in the hopes their surfboards will carry them to a better life.

**Sponsored by:** Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC)

## **TOGETHER**

ZAI YI QI

United States Premiere

Halekulani Golden Orchid Award: Documentary Features Nominee

Thursday, October 13 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole

Friday, October 14 | 4:45 PM | Regal Dole

China 2011 | Mandarin with English subtitles | 83M

**DIRECTOR:** Liang Zhao

Filmed concurrently with GU Changwei's LOVE FOR LIFE, TOGETHER is not merely a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the feature film but is also a touching exploration of the lives of real AIDS patients who are living in rural China. Zhao Liang's documentary takes the journey with the young and the old, and puts a human face to an important issue, forcing us to consider what happens after the production ends and the camera crews leave.

**Sponsored by:** Hawaii National Bank

## **HELLO GHOST**

Hawaii Premiere

Gala Presentation

Monday, October 17 | 6:30 PM | Regal Dole

Tuesday, October 18 | 9:00 PM | Regal Dole

South Korea 2010 | Korean with English subtitles | 111M

**DIRECTOR:** Yeong-tak Kim

**CAST:** Tae-hyeon Cha, Bo-Keun Cheon, Yeong-Nam Jang, Hye-Won Kang, Chang-Seok Ko, Moon-Su Lee

Sang-man is an extremely lonely man whose only wish in life is to die. But after waking up from near-death experience one day, he starts seeing ghosts. The four ghosts, Smoker, Gramps, Kid, and Crying Woman stick to him like leeches. Sang man realizes he cannot die even if he wants to until he helps the ghosts get what they want.

**Sponsored by:** Honolulu Cookie Company

**THE LAST RONIN**

SAIGO NO CHUSHINGURA

Hawaii Premiere

Gala Presentation

Friday, October 21 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole

Japan 2010 | Japanese with English subtitles | 133M

**DIRECTOR:** Shigemichi Sugita**CAST:** Koji Yakusho, Koichi Sato, Nizaemon Kataoka, Nanami Sakuraba, Narumi Yasuda

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, Kichiemon 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.

**Sponsored by:** WATG**MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE**

Hawaii Premiere

Gala Presentation

Friday, October 14 | 5:00 PM | Regal Dole

United States 2011 | English | 120M

**DIRECTOR:** Sean Durkin**CAST:** Elizabeth Olsen, Christopher Abbott, Brady Corbet, Hugh Dancy, Maria Dizzia

Haunted by painful memories and suffering from increasing anxiety, Martha escapes an abusive cult and returns home to live with her older sister, Lucy, and Lucy's husband, Ted. With no other family to lean on, Martha tries desperately to assimilate into Ted and Lucy's upper-middle-class lifestyle. But nightmares of the cult that brainwashed her into living as Marcy May prevent her from connecting with the only people who may be able to save her.

**OSAMU TEZUKA'S BUDDHA: THE GREAT DEPARTURE**

Hawaii Premiere

Gala Presentation

Tuesday, October 18 | 6:30 PM | Regal Dole

Japan 2011 | Japanese with English subtitles | 111M

**DIRECTOR:** Kozo Morishita**CAST:** Kiyokazu Kanze, Masato Sakai, Sayuri Yoshinaga, Hidetaka Yoshioka

Osamu Tezuka is an anime legend, and his award-winning, eight-volume manga of the life of Buddha has long been a dream project for filmmakers in Japan. Tezuka's manga

wasn't just concerned with the Buddha but with the web of characters who crossed paths with him over the years, telling the story of all India instead of the life of one holy man. Now, almost four decades after it was written, it arrives as a powerful animated movie.

**Sponsored by:** The Church of World Messianity, Hawaii - Johrei Hawaii

**SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL**

Hawaii Premiere  
Gala Presentation

Sunday, October 16 | 6:00 PM | Regal Dole  
Wednesday, October 19 | 4:00 PM | Regal Dole  
United States 2011 | English | 77M

**DIRECTOR:** Tony Hardmon, Rachel Libert

**CAST:** Richard Clapp, Jerry Ensminger, Denita McCall, Michael Partain, Thomas Townsend

As a devoted Marine for 25 years, Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger lived and breathed the "Corps." When his 9-year-old daughter dies from a rare type of leukemia, Jerry wants to know why. His search for answers leads him to a shocking discovery: a Marine Corps cover-up of one of the worst water contamination incidents in US history. With relentless determination, Jerry spearheads a decades-long battle to make this information public and hold the Marine Corps accountable.

**Sponsored by:** Davis Levin Livingston

**WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW: SEEDIQ BALE**

SAIDEKE BALAI  
Hawaii Premiere  
Gala Presentation

Saturday, October 15 | 4:00 PM | Regal Dole  
China, Taiwan ROC 2011 | Cantonese, Mandarin, Taiwanese with English subtitles | 290M

**DIRECTOR:** Wei Te-sheng

**CAST:** Lin Ching-Tai, Da-Ching, Vivian Hsu, Ando Masanobu, Umin Boya

**PLEASE NOTE: This film will be presented in two 130 minute parts with a 30 minute intermission.**

For Taiwan - and for Aboriginal communities everywhere - WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW: SEEDIQ BALE is a historic event. A sweeping epic about the valiant resistance of the island's indigenous people against imperial Japanese forces, the film marks a major leap forward for the already accomplished Wei Te-Sheng, director of CAPE NO. 7, one of Taiwan's top-grossing movies of all time.

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

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.

**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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