



PRESS RELEASE

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Hawaii International Film Festival

**HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY
HALEKULANI AND THE HAWAII COUNCIL FOR THE
HUMANITIES CELEBRATE ITS SECOND YEAR OF FILM FOR
THOUGHT**

Extended Discussions with Local Academics to Follow Films

HONOLULU, HI -- (Wednesday, October 12, 2011) -- The Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) presented by Halekulani is pleased to showcase the FILM FOR THOUGHT section presented by the Hawaii Council for the Humanities to encourage movie goers to participate in asking questions and discussing topics on specific films. A separate booklet with essays about the film, written by local scholars, will be available at the screenings. "Our FILM FOR THOUGHT section covers the foundation that HIFF was started on, discussion and understanding" says Chuck Boller, HIFF's Executive Director.

This year, HIFF features six film from around the world beginning with a trilogy of films by Director Leonard Retel Helmrich. EYE OF THE DAY takes place in Indonesia and tells the tale of a handful of Indonesians that have seen the ongoing political change from 1998. In a follow up to EYE OF THE DAY, Helmrich re-visits Indonesia through three generations of the Sjamsuddin family in SHAPE OF THE MOON. In the latest chapter of his trilogy, the director visits Vietnam for a stunningly artful and intimate portrait of the Shamshudin family of Jakarta in POSITION AMONG THE STARS.

Another film to embrace discussion is the Hawaii Premiere of PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE directed by Jonathan Lee. The film looks into the life of poet, public intellectual, queer advocate, and social activist Paul Goodman. The author of GROWING UP ABSURD, Goodman has influenced a generation raging against stagnant culture of moral arrogance. The film's director uses interviews with colleagues, family members, activists, and a collection of photographs from Goodman's private life to go beyond the celebrity and dive into the humanity that is this complex individual.

Other films included in this program include the Hawaii Premieres THE DRUNKARD, a journey into a Chinese man's own alcohol addiction, and JOURNALS OF MUSAN, the tale of a North Korean defector struggling in South Korea.

Film Synopses: (All screening times are subject to change)

THE DRUNKARD

JIU TU

Hawaii Premiere

Film For Thought

Sunday, October 16 | 6:15 PM | Regal Dole

Thursday, October 20 | 3:00 PM | Regal Dole

China, Hong Kong 2010 | Cantonese with English subtitles | 106M

DIRECTOR: Freddie Wong

CAST: John Chang, Irene Wan, Joman Chiang, Katie Kwok, Wei Wei, Amy Chum

Based on one of the most celebrated and acclaimed novels by Liu Yichang. The DRUNKARD is a story set in 1960s Hong Kong about one man's quest to become a respected writer in a big city. But as reality sets in, he begins to find it extremely difficult to survive and slowly loses himself in alcohol and women.

Discussion with University of Hawaii at Manoa Associate Professor of English, Ruth Y. Hsu PhD

JOURNALS OF MUSAN

MUSAN-ILGI

Hawaii Premiere

Film For Thought

Saturday, October 15 | 5:30 PM | Regal Dole

South Korea 2010 | Korean with English subtitles | 127M

DIRECTOR: Jungbum Park

CAST: Yonguk Jin, Eunjin Kang, Jungbum Park

Movingly based on a true story, Jeong Seung-chul is a North Korean defector from the tiny village of Musan. Seung-chul now lives in the outskirts of a large city in South Korea, and struggles to eke out a living by posting sleazy posters in dangerous neighborhoods. Heartfelt and authentic, THE JOURNALS OF MUSAN chronicles the plight of a lonely stranger in a strange capitalist society, struggling to escape the reality of an indifferent and sometimes cruel world.

Discussion with University of Hawaii at Manoa Professor of English & Member of The Center for Korean Studies, Gary Pak PhD

PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE

Hawaii Premiere

Film For Thought

Friday, October 14 | 6:30 PM | Regal Dole
Monday, October 17 | 4:00 PM | Regal Dole
United States 2011 | English | 89M

DIRECTOR: Jonathan Lee

CAST: Geoffrey Gardner, Susan Goodman, Sally Goodman, Judith Malina, Taylor Stoehr

Poet. Public Intellectual. Pacifist Anarchist. Queer Advocate. Social Activist. Perhaps best known as the author of *Growing Up Absurd*, Paul Goodman could never be defined as one single thing. Director Jonathan Lee's *PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE* reflects not only on the public persona, but on how the man touched others, both personally and with his work.

Discussion with P4C Hawai'i Director, Thomas Jackson PhD

EYE OF THE DAY

DE STAND VAN DE ZON

Hawaii Premiere

Film For Thought

Sunday, October 16 | 11:45 AM | Regal Dole
Netherlands 2001 | Indonesian with English subtitles | 94M

DIRECTOR: Leonard Retel Helmrich

EYE OF THE DAY is a rich and powerful film about a crucial, transformative era in one of the world's most populous countries. In this documentary we follow a sixty-year-old woman Rumijah, her sons Bakti and Dwi, and her friend Ibu Sum. The film depicts their world, from harvests in the countryside to mass protests in the cities, from the mysterious natural forces of the volcanoes and mountains to religious seances and pilgrimages.

SHAPE OF THE MOON

STAND VAN DE MAAN

Hawaii Premiere

Film For Thought

Sunday, October 16 | 2:15 PM | Regal Dole
Netherlands 2004 | Bahasa, Indonesian, Javanese with English subtitles | 92M

DIRECTOR: Leonard Retel Helmrich

CAST: Bachtrar Becker, Rumidja Sjamsuddin, Theresia Utari

In this vivid follow up to *THE EYE OF THE DAY* (2001), director Leonard Retel Helmrich again visits Indonesia through three generations of the Sjamsuddin family. Good-natured quarrels take place against the background of anti-US demonstrations and an Islamic neighborhood watch. In this way the film continually connects small issues with large ones. *SHAPE OF THE MOON* offers the kind of cinema verite where the camera moves intuitively along with the action.

POSITION AMONG THE STARS

Hawaii Premiere
Film For Thought

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

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

Netherlands 2011 | Indonesian with English subtitles | 111M

DIRECTOR: Leonard Retel Helmrich

Grandmother Rumidjah is summoned to the big city from the countryside by her son Bakti to counsel and motivate her teenage granddaughter Tari-the family's great hope for attaining middle-class stability. Tari is smart but devious, and more interested in boys, music and colored contact lenses than studying. Tari may represent the future of the family and Indonesia, but Rumidjah is the rock, the moral center, the connection to the land and, yes, the stars.

Discussion with Univesity of Hawaii at Manoa Associate Professor of Philosopy, Tamara Albertini PhD.

The Hawaii International Film Festival presented by Halekulani will feature 212 films from 40 plus different countries. The entire film program is held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theatres & IMAX from October 13 -23. Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are available for \$12 or \$10 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at HIFF's box office at the Guest Services Desk at Regal Dole, 735 Iwilei road, 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.

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

Images of all of the films featured in the festival can be found [HERE](#).

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