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**Public**

### **Fifth anniversary of Helsinki Cine Aasia is celebrated in March at Korjaamo and Orion**

The only festival of contemporary Asian cinema in Finland, Helsinki Cine Aasia, will take place from 16th to 19th March 2017 – already for the fifth time. The festival offers a fresh take on Asian film culture and the most interesting, ferocious and delicate films of the moment from East and Southeast Asia.

On its fifth anniversary, Helsinki Cine Aasia relocates to Korjaamo. In addition to the modern Cultural Factory Korjaamo, some of the festival screenings over the weekend will be held at the traditional Orion.

In addition to new screening locations, the festival's supplementary events have been developed for example have been modelled according to the wishes of the audience. For the first time this year, Helsinki Cine Aasia will organise a Parent & Baby Screening. The look and the website of the festival have also been revamped to mark the anniversary.

### **Picks from the 2017 programme**

Several of the films to be screened at Korjaamo and Orion in March have been sourced fresh to the Helsinki Cine Aasia programme from the most important Asian film festivals or through direct contacts in Asia. In preparation for the programming of this year's festival, the festival committee went to Busan International Film Festival in South Korea and to Japan to Tokyo International Film Festival and Tokyo FilmEx.

Teasers from the Helsinki Cine Aasia 2017 programme will be announced once a week on the festival Facebook page. The first announcement is **Sunao Katabuchi's** touching [\*In This Corner of the World\*](#) (2016). The film which is set during the Second World War and the Hiroshima bombings, was partly financed through crowdfunding. The Japanese film magazine Kinema Junpo chose it as the best film of 2016 and this year, it has also been nominated for the Japan Academy Animation of the Year award.

The opening film of Helsinki Cine Aasia will be announced on 14th February and the full programme on 28th February.

### **Contemporary Asian film to the centre stage from the margins**

During its five-year history, Helsinki Cine Aasia has become a fixture in the series of highly-regarded film festivals taking place each year in springtime Helsinki. To date, more than 80 films from 13 different Asian countries have been screened at the festival. The vast majority have been films from Japan but true to its mission, Helsinki Cine Aasia has always also shown the most interesting new films from countries in which the film industry is in the early stages of development or undergoing a revival, such as Cambodia, Myanmar and Bhutan.

“We want to offer our audiences both the experience of identifying with the characters in the films and emotional thrills as well as viewpoints to the Asian societies and cultures and Asian film industry”, says **Eija Niskanen**, Helsinki Cine Aasia's artistic director.

"Although Asian film industry is big, interesting and well-developed, it is extremely rare for Asian films to be accepted for general release in Finland. Often the only option to see contemporary Asian films is at festivals", adds **Jenni Peisa**, the festival's managing director.

"Helsinki Cine Aasia has from the beginning been a passion to all of us. Every year, the festival-goers telling us that they have enjoyed the programme has been the greatest reward. That's our aim this year too!", says **Leena Eerolainen**, festival's producer.

[Read more about Helsinki Cine Aasia's history >>](#)

[Read more about the organisers >>](#)

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Helsinki Cine Aasia 2017