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## **Helsinki Cine Aasia presents the best of Asian contemporary cinema**



Helsinki Cine Aasia film festival is held on 15th–18th March 2018 – now already for the sixth time. Every year, the festival brings to Finland the best, most talked-about and touching new films from East and Southeast Asia.

The festival is held at Korjaamo and Orion. A Parent & Baby Screening and expert discussions linked to the themes of the films expand the festival programme.

This year, Helsinki Cine Aasia also presents Asian film classics in collaboration with the National Audiovisual Institute (KAVI).

### **Indonesian director Kamila Andini to visit the festival**

Helsinki Cine Aasia opens with the award-winning *The Seen and Unseen* (*Sekala Niskala*, 2017) by the Indonesian director **Kamila Andini**. It is a stylized psychological drama of the magical realism genre that depicts a young girl's mental journey when her twin brother falls severely ill. The film is set in Bali and it is based around local beliefs and Balinese people's relationship with nature.

Kamila Andini will also be visiting Helsinki Cine Aasia. She will attend the screenings of her film and participate in the discussions.

Kamila Andini, who was born in 1986, has studied sociology. Her interest in social affairs is also present in her work: Andini has said that in her films, she wants to explore diverse Indonesian identities. In *The Seen and Unseen*, Kamila Andini's sociological approach is manifested in the way the young girl's experience reflects the traditional and quintessential Balinese thought of harmony between the visible and the invisible.



Kamila Andini's first full length feature film *The Mirror Never Lies* (*Laut Bercermin*, 2011) was a visually impressive coming of age story of a young fatherless Bajau girl in a fishing community. *The Seen and Unseen*, which is part of Helsinki Cine Aasia's programme this year, is Andini's second full length feature film, in addition she has directed two short films.

Kamila Andini's father, **Garin Nugroho**, is perhaps the most famous Indonesian film director, and he has been involved in producing Andini's films. Nugroho also wrote the original story for the powerful, visual and violent film about revenge in Helsinki Cine Aasia's programme this year: *Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts* (*Marlina si Pembunuh Dalam Empat Babak*, 2017), directed by another young Indonesian female director, **Mouly Surya**. Surya's film, alongside several others in this year's festival programme, is linked to the topical #metoo theme.

### **Rare gems and emotional thrills for many tastes**

The films in the Helsinki Cine Aasia programme have been carefully hand-picked to include both rarer Asian gems as well as crowd-pleasers. For the programme design, the festival team has visited Asia's most important film festivals, such as the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea and the Tokyo International Film Festival, Tokyo FilmEx and Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival in Japan.

Of blockbusters, Helsinki Cine Aasia presents **Jang Hoon's A Taxi Driver** (*Taeksi Unjeonsa*, 2017) which became one of the most celebrated and watched films in South Korea last year. The film, which is based on a true story, was also selected as the South Korean entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards. Its lead actor, **Song Kang-ho**, also co-stars in the film classic *Memories of Murder* (*Salinui chueok*, 2003), which is featured in the Helsinki Cine Aasia and KAVI collaboration.

Despite the vitality and versatility of Asian cinema, Asian films rarely get into commercial distribution in Finland. For example, the only screening for the most recent film by the well-known **Hirokazu Kore-eda**, *The Third Murder* (*Sandome no Satsujin*, 2017), will be at Helsinki Cine Aasia. The touching courtroom drama is one of Helsinki Cine Aasia's crime-themed films this year.

***Teasers from the Helsinki Cine Aasia are posted weekly on the festival's Facebook page. The full programme will be announced on 27th February 2018.***

<http://www.helsinkicineaasia.fi/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HelsinkiCineAasia/>

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