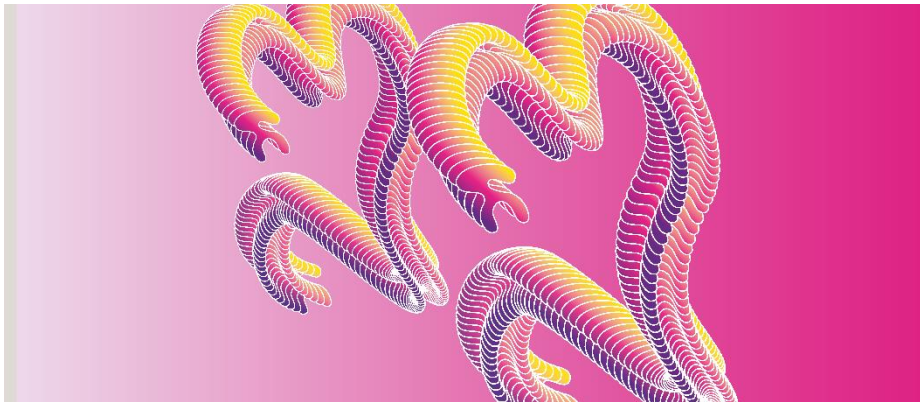


PRESS RELEASE



The Second Edition of German Film Festival KinoFest Officially Kicks Off in Jakarta



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Goethe-Institut's annual German film festival KinoFest officially kicked off its second edition in Jakarta on Thursday, 21 September 2023, at Goethehaus Jakarta, with the screening of *Roter Himmel* directed by Christian Petzold. KinoFest will run in Jakarta until 27 September screening 14 films released from 2021 until 2023.

KinoFest is a joint production involving eight Goethe-Instituts in Southeast Asia and the Pacific that aims to showcase the latest German films in various cities across Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. KinoFest was first initiated last year in an online format. This year, KinoFest is scheduled to run throughout September to November 2023 in an offline format for the first time, and will take place in cities in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, New Zealand, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.

"Goethe-Institut is devoted to promoting German movies in the Southeast Asia and the Pacific regions through KinoFest. German cinema has an incredibly rich tradition. From the early expressionist films to the modern works of contemporary directors, German cinema has pushed the boundaries of the medium and offered up bold and thought-provoking visions of the world," said Dr Ingo Schöningh, Regional Head of Cultural Programmes at Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Gugi Gumilang, the curator of KinoFest 2023, added that this year's KinoFest focuses on diversity in German films which aim to showcase and celebrate the variety of voices, stories, and perspectives within the German filmmaking community. He stated, "As Germany is a culturally diverse country with a significant immigrant population, the curated films reflect this diversity by featuring stories from various cultural backgrounds and exploring the experiences of immigrants and their descendants living in Germany."

The curated films features a diverse selection of German films, including dramas, documentaries, comedies, fiction, and thrillers. There are three elements of curation that is shown in the film selections: strong artistic innovation and experimentation which resulted as visually striking and intellectually stimulating films; strong storytelling that combines complex characters and compelling plots; and the diversity of the themes from historical dramas to contemporary social issues, reflecting the diversity of human experiences.

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The curation of this festival explores universal themes like love, friendship, family, and personal growth. It also focuses on character-driven narratives that delve deep into the human condition. These stories can be emotionally engaging and universally appealing including audiences in cities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.

Opening film: *Roter Himmel*

In Jakarta, KinoFest was opened with the 2023 release *Roter Himmel* directed by Christian Petzold. The film, which won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) 2023, tells the story of four young people who come together at a small holiday house by the Baltic Sea in the summer. As the parched forests around them begin to ignite, so do their emotions: happiness, lust and love; but also jealousies, resentments and tensions.

During the opening of KinoFest 2023, Petzold greeted the audience through a pre-recorded video saying, "*Roter Himmel* was one of the happiest shootings I've ever had. Maybe it has something to do with the impression that there was a melancholy or almost sentimentality that lay over the whole shooting, as if it wasn't a film taking place in the summer, but a film taking place in the autumn or as if there will soon be no more summer. But we are experiencing again what summer or what summer cinema could actually be like."

In Indonesia, KinoFest can be enjoyed for free from 21 to 27 September at GoetheHaus Jakarta and from 22 to 27 September at Institut Francais Indonesia (IFI) Bandung. A total of 14 films will be screened in Jakarta, while in Bandung, 12 films will be screened. Detailed information about KinoFest 2023 can be accessed at goethe.de/indonesia/kinofest.

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About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social, and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programs support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

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