

PRESS RELEASE



KinoFest 2025: Tracing Family Stories through the Lens of German Cinema

KinoFest, the annual German film festival by Goethe-Institut, returns with its fourth edition, scheduled to run from October to November 2025 in various cities across Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. Under the theme of “Family – Extended”, the festival presents a cinematic map of evolving and diverse ideas of what family can be. In Indonesia, KinoFest can be enjoyed free of charge from 25 to 30 November 2025 in Jakarta, Bandung and Surabaya, showcasing 14 films, primarily ones released in 2023 to 2025.

In Jakarta, KinoFest will take place at Blok M Plaza XXI, Taman Ismail Marzuki and Shoemaker Studios—opening with the 2025 release *Köln 75*, a drama by director Ido Fluk. The film, which had its world premiere at this year’s Berlinale, is based on the true story of music fan Vera Brandes who organised legendary pianist Keith Jarrett’s Cologne concert in 1975.

This year’s films stretch the concept beyond traditional definitions, exploring family as something fluid—shaped by context, labor, history, and emotion. These stories ask: What defines a family today? Is it still a place of comfort and unconditional support, or has it become a web of chosen connections, no longer rooted in bloodlines?

“KinoFest 2025 offers a unique platform to explore the evolving narratives of family through the lens of German cinema. By connecting diverse audiences across Southeast Asia and the Pacific through these films, we celebrate stories that challenge traditional boundaries and invite meaningful dialogue about what family means today,” said Dr. Marguerite Rumpf, Regional Head of Cultural Programmes at Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Across cultures—from Berlin to Tehran—families are formed as units of care and belonging. Yet within these units, individuals maintain personal beliefs and desires, creating tensions and fractures. In today’s world, family is not always personal—it can be political. It can uphold systems of control, or become a space for critical thinking, resistance, and transformation.

Lisabona Rahman, the curator of KinoFest 2025, added, “The German films at KinoFest 2025 reflect this complexity. They trace the changing face of family through Germany’s social, ideological, and economic histories. Some stories show how rebellion, rather than tradition, can forge tighter family bonds. In these shared acts of defiance, connection is sparked, and community is reimagined.”

Motherhood, too, is examined through a contemporary lens. In these films, it is not just a symbol of love or sacrifice, but a source of anxiety, strength, and radical change. Finally, several films confront the dark side of familial bonds. Behind closed doors, love can twist into manipulation, resentment, or cruelty.

KinoFest 2025 is a joint production involving eight Goethe-Instituts in Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. This year, the festival will be held in cities in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, New Zealand, Malaysia and Timor Leste.

Goethe-Institut

Jl. Sam Ratulangi 9-15
Jakarta 10350

Contact

Ryan Rinaldy
Public Relations Manager
Goethe-Institut Jakarta
Ryan.Rinaldy@goethe.de
M / WA +62 811 1911 1988
www.goethe.de/indonesia

www.goethe.de

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Detailed information about KinoFest 2025 can be accessed at goethe.de/indonesia/kinofest. Below is the schedule of film screenings during KinoFest in Jakarta:

Tuesday, 25 November – Blok M Plaza XXI

- 7 p.m.: *Köln 75* (2025) directed by Ido Fluk [invitation only]

Wednesday, 26 November – Taman Ismail Marzuki

- 3.30 p.m. at Studio Sjuman Djaja: *Die Polizeiakademie* (2024) directed by Moritz Schulz
- 4 p.m. at Studio Asrul Sani: *Das letzte Tabu* (2024) directed by Manfred Oldenburg
- 6.30 p.m. at Studio Sjuman Djaja: *Grüße vom Mars* (2024) directed by Sarah Winkenstette
- 7 p.m. at Studio Asrul Sani: *Riefenstahl* (2024) directed by Andres Veiel

Thursday, 27 November – Taman Ismail Marzuki

- 4 p.m. at Studio Asrul Sani: *Die Polizeiakademie* (2024) directed by Moritz Schulz
- 5 p.m. at Studio Sjuman Djaja: *Das letzte Tabu* (2024) directed by Manfred Oldenburg
- 6.30 p.m. at Studio Sjuman Djaja: *Riefenstahl* (2024) directed by Andres Veiel
- 7 p.m. at Studio Asrul Sani: *Zwei zu eins* (2023) directed by Natja Brunckhorst

Friday, 28 November – Taman Ismail Marzuki

- 2 p.m. at Studio Asrul Sani: *Reproduktion* (2025) directed by Katharina Pethke
- 4 p.m. at Studio Sjuman Djaja: *Grüße vom Mars* (2024) directed by Sarah Winkenstette
- 6.30 p.m. at Studio Sjuman Djaja: *Zwei zu eins* (2023) directed by Natja Brunckhorst
- 7 p.m. at Studio Asrul Sani: *Vena* (2024) directed by Chiara Fleischhacker

Saturday, 29 November – Shoemaker Studios

- 11 a.m.: *Woodwalkers* (2024) directed by Damian John Harper
- 1.30 p.m.: *Heldin* (2025) directed by Petra Volpe
- 4 p.m.: *Vena* (2024) directed by Chiara Fleischhacker
- 6.30 p.m.: *Die Saat des heiligen Pfeigenbaums* (2024) directed by Mohammad Rasoulof

Sunday, 30 November – Shoemaker Studios

- 1.30 p.m.: *Rosa Luxemburg* (1986) directed by Margarethe von Trotta
- 4.30 p.m.: *Das Licht* (2025) directed by Tom Tykwer

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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 programmes support intercultural dialogue

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and enable cultural participation. These various programmes strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.



For press inquiries:

Ryan Rinaldy

Public Relations Manager

Goethe-Institut Jakarta

Ryan.Rinaldy@goethe.de

[M / WA +62 811 1911 1988](tel:+6281119111988)

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