

PRESS RELEASE

WHAT: Kinofest, the German Film Festival

WHEN: October 15-18, 2025

WHERE: Greenhills Mall, GH Ortigas Cinema, Cinema 1 & The Screening Room

"GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS: KINOFEST 2026 EXPLORES BELONGING, RESILIENCE, AND THE SPACES THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES"

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — The Goethe-Institut proudly presents the fifth edition of **KinoFest**, its annual German film festival, taking place across Southeast Asia and the Pacific from October to November 2026. In Manila, KinoFest returns from **October 15 to 18, 2026**, and will be held at **GH Ortigas Cinema, Greenhills Mall** for the first time, bringing Filipino audiences some of the newest and most acclaimed films from Germany's dynamic cinema landscape.

This year's program explores how our lives are shaped by the spaces we move through and the burdens we carry, from our families and workplaces to our communities and the histories we inherit. Across stories of faith, memory, justice, care, and belonging, the films ask a central question: *How do we create lives of our own when the realities around us are often imposed upon us?*

Opening KinoFest 2026 is **Rose** (2026), the latest film by **Markus Schleinzner**, featuring award-winning actress **Sandra Hüller** in a remarkable lead performance. Presented in striking black and white, the film follows a woman striving to shape her own destiny within the rigid constraints of a historical society, exploring themes of identity, freedom, and self-determination. Hüller's powerful performance sets the tone for a festival that reflects on resilience, agency, and the search for belonging.

The main lineup brings together a diverse selection of films, including **I Understand Your Displeasure** (*Ich verstehe Ihren Unmut*), **Sound of Falling** (*In die Sonne schauen*), **In Good Faith** (*Gotteskinder*), **Prosecution** (*Staatsschutz*), **Trial of Hein** (*Der Heimatlose*), **The Family Approach** (*Im Prinzip Familie*), **Circusboy** (*Zirkuskind*), **Luisa**, and **Heidi – Rescue of the Lynx** (*Heidi – Rettung der Luchse*). Together, these films offer contemporary perspectives on work, family, belief, community, and the ways individuals navigate the social and institutional forces around them.

A special highlight of this year's Manila program is **KinoFest Special: Intersections** on **October 17, 2026, at 6:30 PM in Cinema 1, GH Ortigas Cinema, Greenhills Mall**. Bringing contemporary Philippine cinema into conversation with the German lineup, the program features **Invisible Labor** by **Joanne Cesario**, **Raging** (*Rumaragasa*) by **Ryan Machado**, and the Philippine premiere of **Body Count** by **Cris Bringas**. Together, the films explore themes of memory, labor, trauma, intimacy, and place, demonstrating how the questions raised throughout the festival resonate far beyond national borders.

The screening will be followed by an **in-person talkback with the filmmakers**, moderated by Julian Fuchs, Director of the Goethe-Institut Philippines, inviting audiences to engage in a conversation about the stories and experiences that connect people across cultures.

KinoFest 2026 is jointly organized by the Goethe-Instituts in Southeast Asia and the Pacific and continues its commitment to fostering intercultural dialogue through film. By bringing German and Filipino perspectives together on screen,



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the festival invites audiences to reflect on how we love, care, belong, and imagine new possibilities for the future.

All screenings of KinoFest 2026 will take place from **October 15 to 18, 2026**, at **GH Ortigas Cinema, Greenhills Mall, Cinema 1 and The Screening Room**.

Admission is **FREE** on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets may be claimed at the KinoFest booth near Cinema 1 beginning one (1) hour before each screening.

For full program details, visit: <http://www.goethe.de/manila/kinofest>

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ABOUT THE GOETHE-INSTITUT PHILIPPINEN – The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, promoting the study of the German language abroad, and encouraging international cultural exchange.



Screening Schedule:

DATE	CINEMA 1		THE SCREENING ROOM	
	TIME	FILM	TIME	FILM
OCT 15 (Thursday)	6:00 PM	Rose *RECEPTION FOLLOWED BY A SCREENING	--	--
OCT 16 (Friday)	1:30 PM	I understand your displeasure	--	--
	3:00 PM	Prosecution	--	--
	5:30 PM	The Family Approach	--	--
	7:30 PM	Sound of Falling	--	--
OCT 17 (Saturday)	12:00 PM	Heide: The Return of the Lynx	12:30 PM	Trial of Hein
	2:00 PM	Circusboy	3:00 PM	Luisa
	4:00 PM	<i>KinoFest Special: Intersections</i> FILM SCREENING FOLLOWED BY A FILM TALK Raging Body Count Invisible Labor	5:00 PM	Prosecution
		--	7:30 PM	In Good Faith
OCT 18 (Sunday)	1:00 PM	Circusboy	1:00 PM	Rose
	3:00 PM	Heide: The Return of the Lynx	3:00 PM	Sound of Falling
	5:00 PM	Luisa	5:30 PM	I understand your displeasure
	7:00 PM	Trial of Hein	7:00 PM	The Family Approach

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Film Line-up:

ROSE, Opening Film

2026 | Drama, Historical, Queer | 93 mins | Rating: R16

In 17th-century Germany, a scarred stranger arrives in a village claiming to be heir to a farmstead. Despite initial suspicion, he's accepted as a hardworking, God-fearing man—his belonging built on a lie. The true story of a con artist born a woman who deceived an entire village.

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I UNDERSTAND YOUR DISPLEASURE

2026 | Drama, Labour | 93 mins | Rating: PG

Heike, 59, manages a cleaning company team under constant pressure to satisfy clients and her boss. When a powerful subcontractor threatens to pull his support unless she gives his team more work, Heike must decide whether to sacrifice one of her own employees to survive the job's demands.



PROSECUTION

2026 | Drama, Political | 113 mins | Rating: R16

Prosecutor Seyo Kim survives a racially motivated attack and, defying official orders, conducts her own investigation. She brings a perpetrator to trial and uncovers a far-right network—and in the process learns just how much the state she serves applies double standards.

TRIAL OF HEIN

2026 | Drama, Queer | 122 mins | Rating: R13

After 14 years, Hein returns to his home island - but no one recognizes him, not even his former friend Friedemann. A village court is set to determine who he is. But the more contradictions that surface, the more desperately Hein searches for evidence to support his own memories.

LUISA

2025 | Drama, Sexual Abuse | 94 mins | Rating: R16

LUISA lives in a residential facility for people with disabilities. She is 22 years old and curious about life. Unnoticed, Luisa becomes increasingly quiet; daily life in the residential group continues as usual until it is unexpectedly discovered that Luisa is pregnant. She doesn't tell anyone what happened; she remains silent. Sexual abuse is suspected. A drama. A true crime.

THE FAMILY APPROACH

2024 | Documentary, Care Work | 91 mins | Rating: PG

Almost like family, but always temporary: caught between parental love, bureaucracy, and child welfare services, three caregivers do everything they can to create a home for the children. A film about the superpower of raising a child and family in all its forms.

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CIRCUSBOY

2025 | Documentary, Family | 86 mins | Rating: PG

Every day is magical when the circus is your playground. Santino, a circus kid constantly on the move, listens to his great-grandfather's stories as his own life is just beginning. A documentary road movie woven with animation, Circusboy follows one of the last nomadic families in Germany through a full year and four seasons—capturing the joys and struggles of a life without a fixed address, and the enduring power of belonging.

IN GOOD FAITH

2024 | Coming of Age, Drama | 117 mins | Rating: R13

Two sheltered siblings from a conservative household face personal revelations that challenge their family's strict beliefs, forcing them to navigate between authenticity and tradition.

SOUND OF FALLING

2025 | Drama | 154 mins | Rating: R18

Four adolescent girls each spend their youth in the same farmhouse over the last century. Though separated by decades, resonances between their lives emerge: their desires and distress, secrets and truths, encounters with another's gaze and defiant gaze in return.

HEIDI: RESCUE OF THE LYNX

2025 | Animation, Adventure | 80 mins | Rating: PG

Free spirited Heidi faces forces beyond her years to protect her Grandfather and the alpine wilderness she loves from a ruthless businessman and the hungry jaws of his new saw mill.

KINOFEST SPECIALS: Intersections

RAGING

2026 | Queer | 87 mins | Rating: R16

A young man's quest for truth and justice intertwines with a plane crash mystery, uncovering a sinister plot that propels his desire to be heard but also threatens his community.

BODY COUNT

2026 | Shortfilm | 18 mins | Rating: R18

Paul, a Filipino nurse in Berlin whose brother was killed in Duterte's drug war, hooks up with David, a former IDF soldier who has just fled Israel. They press record. As they tangle in bed, they discover a shared language of queerness and violence. But as their pillow talk deepens, intimacy fails to redeem brutality, revealing the living remains of wars both ongoing and never-ending.

INVISIBLE LABOR

2023 | Shortfilm | 21 mins | Rating: PG

Marcos then, Marcos now. Filipino workers unite and lead the struggle for economic and political rights, determined to shape the course of history. In between, a janitor painstakingly rewinds videotapes featuring these struggles, unknowingly aiding in the preservation of history.

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