

PRESS RELEASE

WHAT: Kinofest, the German Film Festival

WHEN: September 26-29, 2024

WHERE: Shangri-La Plaza, Red Carpet Cinemas, Cinema 3

"KINOFEST 2024 BRINGS THE LATEST GERMAN CINEMA TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC"

MANILA, PHILIPPINES - Goethe-Institut is organising its third edition of the annual German film festival, KinoFest, scheduled to run throughout September to November 2024. KinoFest 2024 will take place in various cities across Southeast Asia and the Pacific region, showcasing the most recent films with a variety of genres ranging from documentary, adventure, drama, comedy, animation, to thriller.

In Manila, the KinoFest 2024 can be enjoyed free of charge from **September 26 to 28, 2024 at the Shangri-La Plaza, Red Carpet Cinemas, Cinema 3**. The festival will feature seven (7) new German films alongside a special curated program, *KinoFest Special*, which honors Germany's cinematic connections with the Philippines and includes four (4) short films and one (1) feature-length film.

Under the theme of "Global Ties, Personal Journeys", Kinofest 2024 takes youth as a focal point to experience society, both through fictional and documentary characters. Through their eyes, the audience is invited to learn about the journey of self-discovery, navigating changes in countries and cultures, as young people shape their identities and become more independent.

"KinoFest features films documenting real stories of collective loss, pain, growth, purpose, and community formation. This cinema reflects the challenges of contemporary German society, grappling with its traumatic past and the history of violent reactions to migrants. The program includes films that connect globally, with each personal journey offering insights into migration, disability, and gender challenges," said Dr Ingo Schöningh, Regional Head of Cultural Programmes at Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Lisabona Rahman, the curator of KinoFest 2024, added, "The world continues to develop different ties that bind it together, yet each journey is personal, situated within starkly contrasting realities that grow stronger each day. Cinema proposes ways to connect and to take notice of voices from different positions, and this is precisely the space we want to offer through this festival."

KinoFest 2024 is a joint production involving eight Goethe-Instituts in Southeast Asia and New Zealand, showcasing the latest German films released from 2021 to 2024. This year, the festival will be held in cities in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.

In Manila, the [KinoFest](#) kicks off on **September 26 at 6pm at the Shangri-La Plaza, Red Carpet Cinemas, Cinema 3** with the 2023 release "**The Zone of Interest**", followed by a reception which is open to the public. The film, which won the Best International Feature Film at the Academy Awards, tells the story of the commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife, Hedwig, as they strive to build a dream life for their family in a house right next to the concentration and extermination camp he helped create.

Aside from the screenings, KinoFest in Manila also presents the *KinoFest Special: Cinematic Connection with the Philippines* on September 28, 2024, at Shangri-La



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Plaza Red Carpet Cinemas. This special program celebrates the rich collaborations between the Philippines and Germany, showcasing their shared cinematic history and creative partnerships. The event begins with a panel discussion featuring Filipino filmmakers Cris Bringas, Moira Lang, and Alex Poblete, moderated by Mariah Reodica. This will be followed by screenings of five curated films, and an after-party with DJane and sound artist T33G33.

The KinoFest in Manila is made possible through the partnership with the Shangri-La Plaza Red Carpet Cinemas and the support of the Film Development Council of the Philippines. Detailed information about KinoFest 2024 can be accessed at www.goethe.de/manila/kinofest.

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.

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Screening Schedule:

DATE	TIME	CINEMA 3 Shangri-La Plaza
September 26 (Thursday)	6:00 PM	The Zone of Interest <small>*SCREENING FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION</small>
September 27 (Friday)	1:00 PM	Franky Five Star
	3:00 PM	The Theory of Everything
	5:30 PM	No Hard Feelings
	7:00 PM	The Teachers' Lounge
September 28 (Saturday)	1:00 PM	Life is not a Competition...But I'm Winning
	2:45 PM	The Amazing Maurice
	4:30 PM	KinoFest Special: Cinematic Connection with the Philippines <small>FILM TALK WITH THE FILMMAKERS FOLLOWED BY FILM SCREENINGS</small> Hito I don't Want to be Just a Memory City of Flowers Filipiñana Huling Palabas <small>AFTER PARTY WITH DJANE AND SOUND ARTIST T33G33</small>
September 29 (Sunday)	1:00 PM	The Teachers' Lounge
	3:00 PM	The Amazing Maurice
	5:00 PM	Franky Five Star
	7:00 PM	The Theory of Everything

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Film Line-up:

THE ZONE OF INTEREST, Opening Film

USA, Poland, UK, Germany | 2023 | War, History, Drama | 105 mins. | English Subtitles | R13

In 1943, the commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife, Hedwig, strive to build a dream life for their family in a house right next to the concentration and extermination camp he helped create.

THE AMAZING MAURICE

Germany | 2023 | Adventure, Animation, Youth | 93 mins. | English Subtitles | PG

Every town on Discworld knows the tales of rats and pipers. Maurice, a streetwise tomcat, leads a clever group of rats and a simple kid in a money-making scheme: piper plus rats equals profit. But when they encounter someone playing a different tune, Maurice and his rats must face a new concept: evil.

FRANKY FIVE STAR

Germany | 2023 | Coming of Age, Romance, Drama, Comedy | 92 mins. | English Subtitles | R13

Franky avoids love, overwhelmed by her inner chaos. Only her best friend Katja knows her mood swings, but Franky has a deeper secret—an old hotel in her mind, inhabited by four quirky characters who can take over her body. When Franky falls for Katja's new boyfriend, everything spirals out of control.

LIFE IS NOT A COMPETITION... BUT I'M WINNING

Germany | 2022 | Documentary, LGBTQ themes, Sports | 79 mins. | English Subtitles | PG

With the Olympics underway, this hybrid documentary from filmmaker Julia Fuhr Mann takes aim at the rigid gender boundaries of competitive sports. Weaving a dynamic tapestry of archival footage and personal testimony, Life Is Not a Competition is a rallying cri de coeur for inclusivity and progress.

NO HARD FEELINGS

Germany | 2021 | Drama, LGBTQ themes, Sexuality | 92 mins. | English Subtitles | R16

Parvis, the son of exiled Iranians, was caught shoplifting. He is sentenced to community service at a refugee shelter where he meets the siblings Banafshe and Amon, who have fled Iran. As a romantic attraction between Parvis and Amon grows, the fragile relationship between the three is put to the test.

THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE

Germany | 2023 | Power dynamics in school, Racism, Childrens' rights | 98 mins. | English Subtitles | R13

When one of her students is suspected of theft, teacher Carla Nowak decides to get to the bottom of the matter. Caught between her ideals and the school system, the consequences of her actions threaten to break her.

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

Germany | 2023 | Thriller, Mystery, Science Fiction | 118 mins. | English Subtitles | R13

1962. A physics congress in Switzerland. An Iranian guest. A mysterious pianist. A bizarre cloud formation in the sky and a booming secret under the mountain. The theory of everything. A quantum mechanical thriller in black and white.

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KINOFEST SPECIALS: Cinematic Connections with the Philippines

CITY OF FLOWERS

Philippines | 2022 | Anti-war, Drama | 19 mins. | English Subtitles | PG

As Zamboanga City celebrates the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, couple Elena and Nasser try to survive the devastatingly low yield of their flower farm and raise money for the birth of their first child. As luck would have it, Nasser gets invited to join a peace rally in exchange for some money – a solution to their problems that is too good to pass up.

FILIPINANA

Philippines | 2020 | Class Division, Social Structure | 23 mins. | English Subtitles | PG

The “tee-girls” fulfil their duties stoically, squatting in the dust as they sort golf balls. They fish them out of the water-lily-covered ponds and place them for the golfers as they swing their clubs narrowly past the girls’ faces. Their boss surveys the scene sternly, watching everything and everyone. Isabel still has to learn the ropes but is already looking for shortcuts. The golf course as a self-contained cosmos that reflects social conditions.

HITO

Philippines | 2023 | Satire, Experimental | 20 mins. | English Subtitles | R13

Jani lives in a dystopian world of nuclear reactors and military curfews. After getting beaten up in a fight, she is telepathically contacted by a hovering lapdog whose people entrust her with a talking catfish rescued from a research laboratory. A turbulent fever dream of surreal phantasms which sees the 14-year-old getting ready to fight back and break free of her oppressively indifferent surroundings.

I DON'T WANT TO BE JUST A MEMORY

Germany | 2024 | Documentary, LGBTQ themes, Community, Life and Death | 20 mins. | English Subtitles | R16

Fellow members of the Berlin queer community mourn together the loss of their dead friends due to substance abuse and the mental health crisis as well as the loss of urban safe spaces in general. By sharing personal materials, stories, and honest criticism about the club scene, working on this film becomes a means of healing for this group of friends. Resembling glow-in-the-dark fungi, they radiate light together as a network of support and care, they transform dead bodies and memories into a collective structure that sustains future living.

HULING PALABAS

Philippines | 2024 | Coming of Age, Friendship | 97 mins. | English Subtitles | R13

In every movie he watches, 16-year-old Andoy creates narratives to answer the questions haunting him: Who is he, and who is his father? His imagined stories never materialize, leaving the truth elusive. Then two enigmatic figures appear in his town: Ariel, a charming hairdresser, and Isidro, a mysterious man with a VCD player. As Andoy becomes entangled in their lives, his grip on reality falters, forcing him to confront his quest for his father in a climactic decision.

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