PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00AM SGT, 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

As Singapore Cinema Makes its Mark on the World Stage, the 37th Singapore International Film Festival Opens its Doors Wider Than Ever

Early bird presale begins 28 September 2026 from 12pm and festival tickets will go on sale from 28 September 2026, from 12pm onwards.

Singapore, 28 September 2026 — The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), supported by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), returns for its 37th edition from 21 October–1 November 2026, opening with South Korean thriller *The Assassin(s)*, starring Yoo Hae-jin, Park Hae-il and Lee Min-ho. Director Hur Jin-ho and supporting cast Shim Eun-kyung and Park Sung-hoon will be in attendance at the Festival Opening.

This year's edition will also welcome some of the most iconic voices in film to Singapore, even as the festival turns the spotlight on the country's own arrival on the world stage.

SGIFF Executive Director Jeremy Chua said, "We are thrilled to open our doors for the 37th edition of SGIFF. This edition brings to Singapore some of the most respected talents and consequential work being made across Asia. Around it, we have also reconsidered how audiences encounter a festival with new presentation formats and points of entry, a ticketing platform that is markedly more intuitive, an industry programme expanded into a resource centre for artists, technicians and storytellers at every stage of practice, and a new free-to-attend section at the intersection of creativity and technology, attending to the forms storytelling will take next."

Honouring Global Cinema on Singapore Soil

SGIFF's 37th edition will present its Screen Icon Award to **Aamir Khan**, who will attend a Special Presentation and 25th anniversary screening of his iconic film *Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India* alongside filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker.

The Festival will also present a Cinema Honorary Award to **Hirokazu Koreeda**, with *Look Back* screening as part of the festival programme.

(Full details on both honours, including screening times and guest appearances, are available in the accompanying fact sheet)

SGIFF 2026: 37th Singapore International Film Festival opens 21 October with Aamir Khan, Koreeda

Description

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The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) returns for its 37th edition from 21 October to 1 November, bringing some of Asiaâ??s most celebrated filmmakers and screen icons to Singapore while spotlighting a new wave of Singapore cinema making its mark internationally.

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00AM SGT, 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

As Singapore Cinema Makes its Mark on the World Stage, the 37th Singapore International Film Festival Opens Its Doors Wider Than Ever

Early bird presale begins 25 September 2026 from 12pm and festival tickets will go on sale from 28 September 2026, from 12pm onwards.

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Singapore, 25 September 2026 — The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), supported by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), returns for its 37th edition from 21 October–1 November 2026, opening with South Korean thriller *The Assassin(s)*, starring Yoo Hae-jin, Park Hae-il and Lee Min-ho. Director Hur Jin-ho and supporting cast Shim Eun-kyung and Park Sung-hoon will be in attendance at the Festival Opening.

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Key visual for SGIFFâ??s 37th edition, running 21 October to 1 November 2026. Image: SGIFF

Opening night and screen icons

The festival opens with South Korean thriller *The Assassin(s)*, starring Yoo Hae-jin, Park Hae-il and Lee Min-ho, with director Hur Jin-ho and cast members Shim Eun-kyung and Park Sung-hoon attending the Festival Opening.

SGIFFâ??s Screen Icon Award goes to Aamir Khan, who will attend a 25th-anniversary screening of *Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India* with director Ashutosh Gowariker. Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Koreeda receives the Cinema Honorary Award, with his film *Look Back* making its Southeast Asian premiere at the festival.

SGIFF Executive Director Jeremy Chua said the 37th edition â??brings to Singapore some of the most respected talents and consequential work being made across Asia,â?• alongside new presentation formats, an expanded industry programme and a new free-to-attend section exploring creativity and technology.

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Singapore cinemaâ??s moment on the world stage

This yearâ??s edition spotlights more than 25 Singapore productions and co-productions that have travelled to major festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto, Venice and Locarno. These include Nelson Yeoâ??s *The House on the Moon* (Locarno), Tan Si Enâ??s *Nagi Notes* co-production with Koji Fukada (Cannes), and Daniel Huiâ??s editing work on *Sleep No More* (Berlin) and *The Burning Giants* (Venice).

SGIFF Programme Director Thong Kay Wee said Singaporeâ??s film industry â??is enjoying its hard-earned recognition on the world stage,â?• adding that many of this yearâ??s featured filmmakers found their first mentorships through SGIFF.

Talks, the Film Fund and new audience formats

The festivalâ??s â??In Conversation Withâ?• series brings audiences up close with names including Shim Eun-kyung, Hong Kong filmmaker Peter Chan, actor Anthony Wong, Aamir Khan and Hirokazu Koreeda. The SGIFF Film Fund also returns, with the Tan Ean Kiam Foundation backing both the Southeast Asian Short Film Grant (SEA-SHORTS) and Documentary Grant (SEA-DOC); the open call runs 5 November to 5 December 2026.

New this year is a Junior Explorers section with sensory-friendly screenings for younger audiences, opening with stop-motion animation *Brave Cat*. The Undercurrent section opens with three live performances at Esplanade Annexe Studio blending film with Taiwanese puppetry, live video gaming and analog film techniques. SGIFF Pro, the festivalâ??s industry programme, adds Parallax, a new free public series exploring filmmaking and immersive technology.

Tickets and dates

Early bird presale opened on 25 September at 12pm, with general ticket sales starting 28 September at 12pm. The 37th SGIFF runs from 21 October to 1 November 2026 at venues across Singapore.

For more of this yearâ??s festival line-up, read our earlier coverage of SGIFF honouring Hirokazu Kore-eda with its Cinema Honorary Award, and browse more Things to Do picks on Little Big Red Dot.

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