



Press Release

September 30, 2025
Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee

Talents Tokyo 2025: Participants and Programs Announced

**Official Selection: 17 Talents Selected for “Talents Tokyo 2025”
19 Projects Awarded Grants through the “Next Masters Support Program”
“Talents Tokyo 2025” Theme and Main Experts Revealed
Special Pre-Program Screening Event Unveiled**

Tokyo (September 30, 2025) – The Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee is thrilled to announce the official selection of participants (Talents) for Talents Tokyo 2025, the main experts for the program, and the results of the “Next Masters Support Program”. We are also excited to introduce a special pre-program screening event, showcasing the work of our alumni.

Initiated in 2010, Talents Tokyo is organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), and the Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee, in cooperation with Berlinale Talents and in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Tokyo. It operates as the exclusive Asian counterpart to Berlinale Talents, the talent development program held during the Berlin International Film Festival.

For its 16th edition, under the theme “**Tough Enough to Stay Vulnerable,**” **Talents Tokyo 2025** will take place from November 24 to 30. We are honored to welcome **Mouly Surya** (Director), **Justine O.** (Producer), **Emmanuel PISARRA** (World Sales) and **Tobias PAUSINGER** (Programme Manager of Berlinale Talents) as the main experts. During this week-long program, Talents Tokyo welcomes 17 emerging directors and producers from East and Southeast Asia, selected through a rigorous process. Participants will engage in lectures led by the four main experts and other film professionals (TBA), develop and present their feature-length projects, and expand their networks through collaborations with filmmakers.

As the main event of the program, the 17 participants will publicly present their projects on an Open Day (date TBA), which will be eligible for the “Talents Tokyo Award” along with a grant. Registration is required to attend the open presentation, with details to be announced later.

We are also pleased to announce the 19 selected projects for this year’s Talents Tokyo alumni support program—the “**Next Masters Support Program**” (NMSP). Under this program, Talents Tokyo will award a Project Development Fund, with grants of up to 1,500,000 yen, or an International Promotion Fund, with grants of up to 500,000 yen, to selected alumni projects. This initiative is designed to provide continuous support for alumni’s filmmaking journeys.

Additionally, for the first time, Talents Tokyo will hold a special **Screening Event** to showcase the work of Talents Tokyo alumni. Featuring three films, *Renoir* (2025, **Dir. HAYAKAWA Chie**, TT2014), *Cu Li Never Cries* (2024, **Dir. PHẠM Ngọc Lâm**, TT2017) and *Pierce* (2024, **Dir. Nelicia LOW**, TT2020), the screening event will be held on November 8th and 9th at the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum. Talk sessions are planned after the screenings, and we are honored to welcome **director KORE-EDA Hirokazu** as a special guest for the session with director HAYAKAWA Chie on November 8th.

*Please refer to the following pages for selection results and event details.

[Talents Tokyo 2025 Outline]

Program Name:	Talents Tokyo 2025 (TT2025)
Date:	November 24 to 30, 2025
Venue:	Yurakucho Asahi Square
Organizers:	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee
In Cooperation with:	Berlinale Talents
In Collaboration with:	Goethe-Institut Tokyo
Official Website:	https://talents-tokyo.jp
Contact:	MATSUMOTO Motoko, CAO Xiaoxiao Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee Email: talents@talents-tokyo.jp

Talents Tokyo 2025: Main Experts Lineup



From left to right: Mouly Surya, Justine O., Emmanuel PISARRA, Tobias PAUSINGER

Mouly Surya / Director

Born in Jakarta in 1980, Mouly Surya is one of the highly acclaimed directors from Indonesia and a member of the Directors Guild of America. Her feature film debut, *Fiction* (2007) earned her Indonesia's Citra Awards for Best Director and was later screened at Busan International Film Festival in 2008. In 2013, her second feature *What They Don't Talk About When They Talk About Love* competed at the World Cinema Dramatic Competition in Sundance Film Festival. Her third film, *Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts* (2017) premiered at the Director's Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival. Then in 2023, she received the Kurosawa Akira Award from Tokyo International Film Festival. Her first North American film, *Trigger Warning*, was released in 2024, a Netflix production starring Jessica Alba. The latest film Surya wrote and directed, *Perang Kota (This City Is A Battlefield)* (2025), premiered as the closing film of International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Justine O. / Producer

Justine O., born and raised in Taiwan, is an independent film producer. She received her MBA degree in International Health and Management from Aberdeen University, UK. She began her career in the healthcare field in Malawi, Africa and Texas, US, focusing on palliative care psychiatry.

Justine embarked on a film career in 2008 in Beijing, China. She worked in a Chinese production company, Xstream Pictures, from 2014 to 2020 as a personal assistant to Jia Zhang-ke. She also contributed to the establishment and the coordination of the Pingyao International Film Festival in 2017. Having worked for well-known directors for 13 years, Justine now specializes in young film directors' debut films and second feature and documentary films. Since 2021, she has worked on International co-production in various places in Brazil, Argentina, Algeria, Cambodia, Nepal, Japan, France, Germany and Mainland China.

Emmanuel PISARRA / World Sales

Emmanuel Pissarra is Head of Acquisitions at mk2 Films, the Paris-based company behind international successes such as *Anatomy of a Fall* (2023), *The Worst Person in the World* (2021), and *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* (2019). With over ten years of experience in international sales and acquisitions, he previously held senior roles at Kinology and Doc & Film International, handling global distribution for films by Leos Carax, Mia Hansen-Løve, Gianfranco Rosi, and Chantal Akerman. From 2021 to 2024, he led Unifrance's Asia office in Tokyo, where he oversaw activities across Japan, South Korea, Southeast Asia, and India, and directed three editions of the Yokohama French Film Festival in collaboration with local partners and institutions.

Tobias PAUSINGER / Berlinale Talents

Tobias Pausinger is Programme Manager of Berlinale Talents as of October 2024. He has extensive expertise in development, production, acquisition, distribution, film policy, teaching, film funding, as well as in curating industry events and film markets.

Beginning his career at the world sales Bavaria Film International, he moved on to The Match Factory where he acquired numerous internationally successful films for global distribution. In 2011, he founded Art:Film, an initiative to promote exchange between artistic cinema and visual arts. From 2017 to 2019, he served as an advisor for international film affairs and the film industry at the BKM, representing Germany at the Eurimages fund of the Council of Europe. After ten years, he returned to The Match Factory as Head of Acquisitions and Development. With The Match Factory he was involved as a co-producer of *Pandora's Box* by Yeşim Ustaoğlu, *Evolution* by Kornél Mundruczó and *Sanatorium – Under the Sign of the Hourglass* by the Brothers Quay. He also developed the series *The Report* together with Ben van Roenne, which participated very successfully in the Co-Pro Series pitchings in 2022. He has worked as a strategic and content consultant for international film festivals and also advises filmmakers on script development, financing, and distribution. He teaches at a number of prestigious film schools, including the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and the NABA in Rome. He holds an MBA in Communication and Leadership, as well as degrees in Audiovisual Management and Film Production. He has been a member of the European Film Academy since 2014.

Talents Tokyo 2025: Official Selection List

Directors:

CHEN Jianhang (CHINA)
GUAN Tian (CHINA)
Sean Ali WANG (CHINA)
ZHENG LU Xinyuan (CHINA)
Anastasia TSANG (HONG KONG)
Makbul Mubarak (INDONESIA)
Rein Maychaelson (INDONESIA)
Sushi KUWAYAMA (JAPAN)
TAN Ce Ding (MALAYSIA)
Glenn BARIT (PHILIPPINES)
Sam MANACSA (PHILIPPINES)
Ash GOH Hua (SINGAPORE)
NGUYỄN Lương Hằng (VIETNAM)

Producers:

LUNG Kwok Yiu (HONG KONG)
SATOH Naomi (JAPAN)
Jed MEDRANO (PHILIPPINES)
Evril Pinyu KUO (TAIWAN)

- ※ Name of Participant (Country/Region)
- ※ In alphabetical order of Country/ Region
- ※ Country/Region is their country of origin or current residence

The Selection Committee is formed by IKEDA Takaaki (NHK Enterprises, Inc.), ICHIYAMA Shozo (Talents Tokyo Chairperson / TOKYO FILMeX Chairperson) and KAMIYA Naoki (Talents Tokyo / TOKYO FILMeX program director).

IMAI Taro (Producer, TT2018 Alumnus), Eiko MIZUNO-GRAY (Producer, TT2019 Alumna), FUKATSU Junko (writer / TOKYO FILMeX board), ICHIYAMA Shozo (Talents Tokyo Chairperson / TOKYO FILMeX Chairperson), KAMIYA Naoki (Talents Tokyo / TOKYO FILMeX program director), and MATSUMOTO Motoko (Talents Tokyo) participated in the preliminary selection process.

*As of September 30, 2025, this information may be subject to change.



Next Masters Support Program (NMSP) : Selected Projects

A) Project Development Fund

Alyx Ayn ARUMPAC (Director, TT2015, Philippines), <*Tongues of Fire*>
PUREVDASH Zoljargal (Director, TT2017, Mongolia), <*SANE MOTHER*>
Amanda Nell EU (Director, TT2018, Malaysia), <*Lotus Feet*>
Carlo Francisco MANATAD (Director, TT2018, Philippines), <*A Brilliant Melody*>
IMAI Taro (Producer, TT2018, Japan), <*Staring at Your Back*>
Nelicia LOW (Director, TT2020, Singapore), <*Mu*>
Sai Naw Kham (Director, TT2023, Myanmar), <*Mangoes are tasty there*>
CHAN Tze-woon (Director, TT2024, Hong Kong), <*Chronicle in the Darkness*>
Danech SAN (Director, TT2024, Cambodia), <*To Leave, To Stay*>
François CHANG (Director, TT2024, France, China), <*The Sleepless Girl*>
HATAKEYAMA Kana (Director, TT2024, Japan), <*Dollyamory*>
KOIDE Daiju (Producer, TT2024, Japan), <*What's Love Got to Do With It?*>
Lkhagvadulam PUREV-OCHIR (Director, TT2024, Mongolia), <*The Vision of Lonely Mountains*>
MAI Huyền Chi (Director, TT2024, Vietnam), <*The River Knows Our Names*>
YAN Haohao (Director, TT2024, China), <*Naked in Glendale*>

B) International Promotion Fund

OTA Shingo (Director, TT2013, Japan), <*Numakage Public Pool*>
LE Binh Giang (Director, TT2016, Vietnam), <*404NOTFOUND*>
Timothy YEUNG (Director, TT2016, Hong Kong, Canada), <*FINCH & MIDLAND*>
Nguyễn HOÀNG ĐIẾP (Director, TT2023, Vietnam), <*1982*>

※ Name of the Alum (Director/Producer, Talents Tokyo participation year, Country/Region), <*Name of the Project*>
※ In alphabetical order of Talents Tokyo participation year
※ Country/Region is their country of origin or current residence

The Selection Committee is formed by IKEDA Takaaki (NHK Enterprises, Inc.), ICHIYAMA Shozo (Talents Tokyo Chairperson / TOKYO FILMeX Chairperson) and KAMIYA Naoki (Talents Tokyo / TOKYO FILMeX program director).

ICHIYAMA Shozo (Talents Tokyo Chairperson / TOKYO FILMeX Chairperson), MATSUMOTO Motoko (Talents Tokyo) and CAO Xiaoxiao (Talents Tokyo) participated in the preliminary selection process.



Talents Tokyo 2025 Pre-event: Special Screening of 3 Talents Tokyo Alumni Films

Event Name:	“Talents Tokyo 2025” Pre-program Screening Event
Date:	November 8th and 9th, 2025
Venue:	Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Hall
Organizers:	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee
Ticket:	Free (Registration required; details to be announced)

***Renoir* (2025)**



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Japan, France, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Qatar | 2025 | 122 min |
Dir. HAYAKAWA Chie | Japanese

In the 1980s. 11-year-old Fuki's father, Keiji, is battling a terminal illness, and in and out of hospital. Her mother, Utako, is constantly stressed out from caring for Keiji while holding down a full-time job. Left alone with her rich imagination, Fuki becomes fascinated by telepathy and falls ever deeper into her own fantasy world...

Director/Screenwriter: HAYAKAWA Chie (TT2014)

Born in Tokyo and studied photography at School of Visual Arts in New York City. Her short films “*Identify This Girl*” (2000) and “*Photography of Zero*” (2003) were included in the exhibition at SVA Gallery in NY. “*What you are holding is not an apple*” (2000) and “*Vajra/Vajra*” (2001) were selected in the International Festival of Cinema and Technology for two consecutive years and shown in Los Angeles, London, and Toronto. The debut feature film “*Plan 75*” (2022) received the Caméra d'or (Award for Best First Feature) at the 75th Cannes International Film Festival.



Photo © Isao Nishiyama

[Screening Schedule]

11/08 (Sat), 10:20 -

After-Screening Talk featuring HAYAKAWA Chie and KORE-EDA Hirokazu (Guest), moderated by ICHIYAMA Shozo. (*Conducted in Japanese)

11/09 (Sun), 15:45 -

Cu Li Never Cries (2024)



Vietnam, Singapore, France, Philippines, Norway | 2024 | 92 min | Dir. PHẠM Ngọc Lân |
Vietnamese with English and Japanese Subtitles

A woman tries to cling onto dimming links to her past after inheriting a pygmy slow loris from her long-estranged husband; meanwhile, her niece prepares for marriage as the young couple ponders their uncertain future together. The present and the complex echoes of Vietnamese history are entwined before a contemplative and poetic perspective.

Director/Co-Screenwriter: PHẠM Ngọc Lân (TT2017)

Phạm Ngọc Lân was born and raised in Hanoi. He rarely left his city (both in reality and in his imagination) until college. Lân graduated with a degree in urban planning and self-taught filmmaking at 27. His short films included *The Story of Ones* (Visions du Réel 2012), *Another City* (Berlinale 66th); *Blessed Land* (Berlinale 69th) and *The Unseen River* (Locarno 74th, Sundance 2021). *Cu Li Never Cries* (2024) is his first feature-length film.



[Screening Schedule]

11/08 (Sat), 13:35 -

11/09 (Sun), 13:15 - After-Screening Talk featuring PHẠM Ngọc Lân.
*Conducted in English with Japanese Interpretation

***Pierce* (2024)**



Singapore, Taiwan, Poland | 2024 | 106 min | Dir. Nelicia LOW | Mandarin with Japanese Subtitles

When his beloved but dangerous older brother is released from prison, high school fencer Zijie believes he is innocent and goes behind their mother's back to help him, only to realize the brother he has idealized might only be a fantasy.

Director/Screenwriter: Nelicia LOW (TT2020)

Writer-director Nelicia Low grew up in Singapore where she represented her country as a National Fencer for 5 years. She retired after the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou to chase her childhood dream of being a filmmaker. Nelicia received her MFA in Film Directing at Columbia University in New York in 2018. Her second short film, *Freeze*, premiered February 2016 at the Clermont-Ferrand ISFF and went on to screen at Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival 2016, Busan ISFF 2016, Odense IFF 2016, Singapore IFF 2016, as well as over 70 international film festivals around the world.



[Screening Schedule]

11/08 (Sat), 15:55 -

11/09 (Sun), 10:20 - After-Screening Talk featuring Nelicia LOW.

*Conducted in English with Japanese Interpretation