



Talents Tokyo 2026: Participants and Programs Announced

**Official Selection: 17 Talents Selected for “Talents Tokyo 2026”
19 Projects Awarded Grants through the “Next Masters Support Program”
“Talents Tokyo 2026” Theme and Main Experts Revealed
Pre-Event: Alumni Film Screening Lineup Unveiled**

Tokyo (October 2, 2026) – The Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee is thrilled to announce the official selection of participants (Talents) for Talents Tokyo 2026, the main experts for the program and the projects selected for the “Next Masters Support Program 2026”. We are also pleased to introduce the three films featured at this year’s Alumni Film Screening event.

Initiated in 2010, Talents Tokyo is organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), and 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 17th edition, under the theme “**The Suspended Steps of Storytellers**,” Talents Tokyo 2026 will take place from November 23 to 29. We are honored to welcome **Midi Z** (Director), **TAN Si En** (Producer), **Ola BYSZUK** (World Sales), and **Christina JUST** (Programme Development/Organization, 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 fellow 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 prize. 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, prior to the main program, Talents Tokyo will hold a special **Alumni Film Screening** showcasing works by Talents Tokyo alumni. Featuring three films, ***Diamonds in the Sand*** (2024, Dir. Janus VICTORIA, TT2013), ***A Journey in Spring*** (2023, Dir. WANG Ping-Wen, TT2019), and ***Autobiography*** (2022, Dir. Makbul Mubarak, TT2025), the screening event will be held from November 6 to 8 at the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum. Q&A sessions will be held following the screenings. On November 8, we are also honored to welcome director ODA Kaori (TT2015) and producer SOGA Masumi (TT2011, producer of *Diamonds in the Sand*), who will join us for a special talk session moderated by SHIMIZU Yu (Tokyo International Film Festival Programmer).

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

[Talents Tokyo 2026 Outline]

Program Name:	Talents Tokyo 2026 (TT2026)
Date:	November 23 - 29, 2026
Venue:	Vision Center Yurakucho, 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/en
Contact:	CAO Xiaoxiao, YAMASHITA Kotone Talents Tokyo Organizing Committee Email: talents@talents-tokyo.jp

Talents Tokyo 2026: Main Experts Lineup



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From left to right: Midi Z, TAN Si En., Ola BYSZUK, Christina JUST

Midi Z / Director

Born in Myanmar, Midi Z moved to Taiwan at the age of 16 and studied Visual Communication Design. He made his feature debut with a trilogy of ultra-low-budget films produced without screenplays and with minimal crews. Since *Return to Burma* (2011), his films have premiered at major international festivals, including Berlin, Venice, Cannes, IDFA, and Tokyo.

In 2024, *The Unseen Sister* (2024) premiered in the Main Competition of the Tokyo International Film Festival and became a major commercial success in China, grossing over US\$25 million in its opening week.

His latest feature, *The Exiles* (2026), is his first English-language film. Across both fiction and documentary, Midi Z's work consistently explores themes of identity and displacement.

TAN Si En / Producer

Tan Si En is a film & TV producer and the founder of Momo Film Co.

A distinguished alumnus of ACE, Berlinale Talents, and Rotterdam Lab, they have produced and co-produced numerous acclaimed films. Notably, *Don't Cry, Butterfly* by Dương Diệu Linh won both the Grand Prix and the Most Innovative Film Award at Venice Critics' Week in 2024; *Dreaming & Dying* by Nelson Yeo won two prestigious Golden Leopards at the Locarno Film Festival in 2023; and *Wet Season* by Anthony Chen premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2019 and was Singapore's official submission for the Academy Awards in 2021.

Si En's recent co-productions include *Nagi Notes* (Cannes 2026, Competition), *A Useful Ghost* (Cannes Critics' Week 2025, Grand Prix), *Levitating* (Sundance 2026), and *This City Is A Battlefield* (Rotterdam 2025), among many others.

Si En is currently developing and producing a slate of award-winning projects, including *Other People's Dreams* by Daniel Hui and *RIP ME LOL* by Calleen Koh.

Ola BYSZUK / World Sales (Lucky Number)

Ola Byszuk, of Polish origin and is based in France, draws on several years of international experience, notably at mk2 Films (from 2015 to 2021), where she held the position of SVP of International Sales. In 2022, she joined the French production company Nord-Ouest Films as a producer responsible for international co-productions. This collaboration resulted in Carson Lund's *Eephus*, presented at the Quinzaine des Cinéastes in Cannes in 2024, and Phuttiaphong Aroonpheng's *The Burning Giants*, presented at the Venice Film Festival's Orizzonti in 2026.

In 2024, she co-founded the Paris-based international sales company Lucky Number. The company's mission is to champion ambitious auteur films with global appeal, focusing on works that are distinctive yet accessible. Adopting a boutique approach, the company curates an annual selection of around ten films, ensuring each project receives dedicated attention and strategic support. In its first two years, the company's lineup featured, among other films, Berlinale 2025 Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize winner *The Blue Trail* by Gabriel Mascaro; Cannes 2025 Un Certain Regard title *The Last One For The Road* by Francesco Sossai, winner of eight David di Donatello Awards in Italy; *Palestine 36* by Annemarie Jacir, winner of the Tokyo IFF Grand Prix in 2025 and a 2026 international feature Oscar shortlist title; TIFFF 2025 Platform Honorable Mention winner *Hen* by György Pálfi, also in the Tokyo IFF 2025 Competition; Berlinale 2026 opening title *No Good Men* by Shahrbanoo Sadat; Berlinale 2026 Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize winner *Salvation* by Emin Alper; and *Arrested Memory* by Sabu (world premiere at Venice 2026 Official Selection).

Christina JUST / Berlinale Talents

Christina Just is responsible for programme development and organisation at Berlinale Talents. Here, she started as programme coordinator in 2019, and has continued to re-structure the workshop programme, curate public talks and networking events, and to oversee the entire programme schedule.

Christina began her career in theatre, working in the fields of dramaturgy and education. She has also translated and worked for Norwegian theatre groups, including archival research and the German translation of the play "Simplicissimus". Between 2016 and 2019, she coordinated the Berlinale special series "NATIVE – A Journey into Indigenous Cinema" that showcased premieres and retrospective works of filmmakers from Indigenous communities. Since 2013, she has also worked as a deputy stage manager for the prestigious Salzburg Festival. Christina holds an M.A. in European Literatures and a B.A. in Scandinavian Studies and German Literature.

| Talents Tokyo 2026: Official Selection |

Directors:

HU Guo (China)
JIANG Xiaoxuan (China)
Michelle ZHOU (China)
YUNG Tsz Hong (Hong Kong)
Lamtiar Simorangkir (Indonesia)
MIYAHARA Takuya (Japan)
MORI Arata (Japan)
SAKAMOTO Yukari (Japan)
Lay Thida (Myanmar)
Moe Myat May Zarchi (Myanmar)
Cris BRINGAS (Philippines)
Shoki LIN (Singapore)
LIANG Hong-Kai (Taiwan)
Tanaseth TULYATHAN (Thailand)

Producers:

Kristine DE LEON (Philippines)
Joyce CHOU (Taiwan)
Samavee PUMMUANG (Thailand)

- * Name of Participant (Country/Region)
- * In alphabetical order of Country/Region
- * Country/Region is their country of origin or current residence
- * As of October 2, 2026, this information may be subject to change.

TT2026 Final Selection Committee:

IKEDA Takaaki (NHK Enterprises, Inc.), ICHIYAMA Shozo (Talents Tokyo Chairperson / Tokyo International Film Festival Program Director), KAMIYA Naoki (TOKYO FILMeX Program Director)

TT2026 Preliminary Selection Committee:

TSUTSUI Ryohei (Producer, TT2013), IMAI Taro (Producer, TT2018), Eiko MIZUNO-GRAY (Producer, TT2019), NAKANISHI Mai (Director, TT2023), SATOH Naomi (Producer, TT2025), FUKATSU Junko (Writer / TOKYO FILMeX board), ICHIYAMA Shozo, MATSUMOTO Motoko (Talents Tokyo).



| Next Masters Support Program (NMSP) 2026: Selected Projects |

A) Project Development Fund

Grants of up to JPY 1.5 million per project to support projects in the development stage.

Mouly Surya (Director, TT2010, Indonesia) - *The Wife Who Can See Dead People (or Jinn)*
Sorayos PRAPAPAN (Director, TT2015, Thailand) - *Zoo Season*
YEO Siew Hua (Director, TT2015, Singapore) - *Silence Once Begun*
ZHOU Hao (Director, TT2018, China) - *All Fixed Up*
Yulia Evina Bhara (Producer, TT2020, Indonesia) - *Unholy*
YAMASHITA Momi (Director, TT2021, Japan) - *Autumn Ripens*
SINN Kirin (Director, TT2023, Korea) - *Maiden Home*
Alvin LEE (Director, TT2024, Singapore) - *Talk To Me When You Are Dead*
LAU Kok Rui (Director, TT2024, Malaysia) - *Wake Me Up When The Mourning Ends*
Glenn BARIT (Director, TT2025, Philippines) - *Luzonensis and Floresiensis*
NGUYỄN Lương Hằng (Director, TT2025, Vietnam) - *Summer 1999*
Sam MANASCA (Director, TT2025, Philippines) - *The Void is Immense in Idle Hours*
Sean Ali WANG (Director, TT2025, China) - *Pratopia*
Sushi KUWAYAMA (Director, TT2025, Japan) - *Home-work*
ZHENG LU Xinyuan (Director, TT2025, China) - *A Stranger at My Door*

B) International Promotion Fund

Grants of up to JPY 500,000 per project to support completed or nearly completed projects in international promotional activities.

MO Jinjin (Producer, TT2016, China) - *Fuxi: Four Tales of Feasting*
Sompot CHIDGASORNPONGSE (Director, TT2018, Thailand) - *9 Temples to Heaven*
MURAYAMA Kazuya (Director, TT2023, Japan) - *The Ballet Lesson*
Ivy Yu-Hua SHEN (Producer, TT2024, Taiwan) - *KAKTARUA*

- * Name of the Alum (Director/Producer, Talents Tokyo participation year, Country/Region) - Name of the Project
- * By Talents Tokyo participation year in chronological order, followed by alphabetical order of names within each year.
- * Country/Region is their country of origin or current residence.
- * As of October 2, 2026, this information may be subject to change.

NMSP2026 Final Selection Committee:

IKEDA Takaaki (NHK Enterprises, Inc.), ICHIYAMA Shozo (Talents Tokyo Chairperson / Tokyo International Film Festival Program Director), KAMIYA Naoki (TOKYO FILMeX Program Director)

NMSP2026 Preliminary Selection Committee:

ICHIYAMA Shozo, KAMIYA Naoki, MATSUMOTO Motoko (Talents Tokyo), CAO Xiaoxiao (Talents Tokyo).



Talents Tokyo 2026 Pre-event
| Talents Tokyo Alumni Film Screening |



2026.11.6Fri 7Sat 8Sun

01



Janus Victoria
Diamonds in the Sand

02



Wang Ping-Wen
A Journey in Spring

03



Makbul Mubarak
Autobiography

「タレンツ・トーキョー2026」プレイベント修了生作品特別上映会

Event Name: “Talents Tokyo 2026” Pre-event: Alumni Film Screening

Date: November 6 - 8, 2026

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 TBA)

| Screenings |

Diamonds in the Sand (2024)



© 2027「Diamonds in the Sand」Film Partners

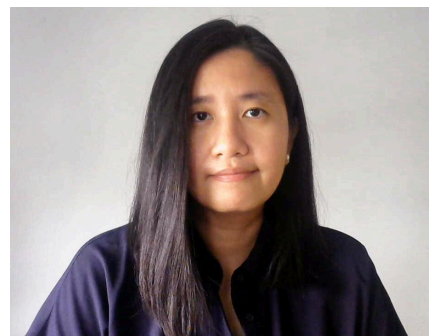
2024 / 102 min / Japan, Malaysia, Philippines / Japanese, English, Tagalog / Color / 1:1.85 (American Vista) / 5.1ch / Japanese Subtitle

Yoji is a divorced Japanese salaryman living alone in Tokyo. After the loss of his caring mother, he faces an empty life without any meaningful relationship. A chance encounter with Minerva, a Filipina who works as a caregiver in Japan to support her daughter, prompts Yoji to look at his situation in a new light. Meanwhile, he discovers the decomposing body of an elderly neighbor, whose name he doesn't know. His death is ruled to be a lonely death. Not wanting to suffer the same fate, Yoji throws caution and follows Minerva to Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

Director/Screenwriter: Janus VICTORIA (TT2013)

Janus Victoria is a Filipina filmmaker based in Manila. An alumna of Berlinale Talents, Talents Tokyo, the BIFF Asian Film Academy, and TorinoFilmLab, she has received the “Talent Tokyo Award” at Talents Tokyo and the Audience Award at TorinoFilmLab.

Her debut feature, *Diamonds in the Sand* (2024), was the project she participated in at TT2013, where it won the Talents Tokyo Award. The film had its world premiere at the 2025 Udine Far East Film Festival, where it won the White Mulberry Award for Best Debut Film.



[Screening Schedule]

11/07 (Sat), 15:35 - | Q&A with Janus VICTORIA, SOGA Masumi (producer)

11/08 (Sun), 13:00 - | Q&A with Janus VICTORIA, SOGA Masumi (producer)

A Journey in Spring (2023)



2023 / 90 min / Taiwan / Taiwanese Hokkien, Mandarin Chinese / 1.66:1 (European Vista) / Color / 5.1ch / Japanese Subtitle

An old man with a limp, Khim-Hok, has depended on his wife over the years. They live in an old house on the urban fringe of Taipei. After his wife suddenly passes away, Khim-Hok covers it up and goes on living a seemingly peaceful life. But their long-estranged son and his new partner suddenly appear, so Khim-Hok has to face his wife's death when the end finally comes.

Director/Producer: WANG Ping-Wen (TT2019)

WANG Ping-Wen (Taipei, Taiwan, 1987) studied Journalism at Chengchi National University and graduated with an MFA in Film and Television Production from Loyola Marymount University. She has directed the short films *Between Us* (2014), *Labyrinth* (2016) and *Military Dog* (2019).

Her debut feature *A Journey in Spring* (2023) won Silver Shell Award for Best Director in the 2023 San Sebastian Film Festival.



[Screening Schedule]

11/07 (Sat), 10:20 - | Q&A with WANG Ping-Wen
11/08 (Sun), 15:55 - | Q&A with WANG Ping-Wen

Autobiography (2022)



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2022 / 115 min / Indonesia, Poland, Germany, Singapore, France, Philippines, Qatar / Indonesian / 2.35:1 (CinemaScope) / Color / 5.1ch / Japanese Subtitle

The young man Rakib lives alone—his father is in prison and his brother has gone abroad for work. He works as the sole housekeeper in a vacant mansion in rural Indonesia, owned by Purna, a retired general whose family Rakib's ancestors have served for centuries. Purna treats Rakib with genuine care that transcends their difference in status, gradually becoming a father figure to him. Working as Purna's assistant, Rakib begins to find his calling in both his job and his life. However, as the retired general launches his campaign for the local mayoral election, the fates of both men are set in motion.

Director: Makbul Mubarak (TT2025)

Makbul Mubarak is an Indonesian film director and screenwriter. He made five short films before embarking on his debut feature, *AUTOBIOGRAPHY* (2022), which world premiered at the Venice Film Festival where it received the FIPRESCI Prize, followed by the Grand Prix at Tokyo FILMeX 2022 and was subsequently submitted as the Indonesian submission for the Academy Awards 2023.

He is currently preparing his sophomore feature, *WATCH IT BURN*, which was developed and presented at Talents Tokyo 2025.



[Screening Schedule]

11/06 (Fri), 16:30 - | Q&A with Makbul Mubarak, Yulia Evina Bhara (producer)

11/07 (Sat), 12:45 - | Q&A with Makbul Mubarak, Yulia Evina Bhara (producer)

- Special Talk Session -

“Between Making and Light”

Talents Tokyo × Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions

In addition to the talk sessions following each screening, we are also pleased to collaborate with Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions to host a special talk session featuring Talents Tokyo alumni, director **ODA Kaori** (TT2015) and producer **SOGA Masumi** (TT2011). The talk will be moderated by **SHIMIZU Yu**.

Drawing on their experiences at Talents Tokyo and their subsequent creative activities, the talk invites Kaori and Masumi to reflect, from their respective perspectives as a director and producer, on the filmmaking process, its challenges, and the approaches they have taken to bring projects to life. Looking at the “Commission Project” program at the Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, where Kaori’s work was presented in 2025, the conversation will also turn to the very act of “screening/exhibiting” and how it can serve as a means of connecting not only works, but also the creatives and audiences around them.

Date & Time:

10:30 AM, Sunday, November 8

Guest Speakers:

ODA Kaori (Director, TT2015)

Born in Osaka (Japan), 1987. Filmmaker/Artist.

Internationally recognised for *Aragane* (2015), *Cenote* (2019), *Underground* (2024), among others.

Finalist for the 2nd edition of “Commission Project” of the Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions in 2025, where Kaori’s latest work, *Recording with Mother “Working Hands”*, was featured as part of the program.

SOGA Masumi (Producer, TT2011)

Founder of “Spanic Films” and organiser of the Philippines-Japan Film Festival.

Actively produces and distributes international co-productions across Asia.

Masumi’s credits include the Japan-Malaysia-Philippines co-production *Diamonds in the Sand* (2024), the Japan-Philippines co-production *This Place* (2026), among others.

Moderator:

SHIMIZU Yu (Tokyo International Film Festival Programmer)

Programmer for the Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions from 2017 to 2020, and guest programmer in 2022.

In 2022, Yu participated in the International Film Festival Rotterdam through the Agency for Cultural Affairs’ “Emerging Artists Overseas Study” program, working on the experimental programme “DINAMO: Obscurity”.

Since 2024, Yu has been a programmer for films from outside Asia at the Tokyo International Film Festival, and in 2026 joined the selection teams for the “Women’s Empowerment” and “Youth” sections.

**The talk will be conducted in Japanese only.*