



Vienna, April 4, 2025

**RED LOTUS • ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL VIENNA 2025:
A Celebration of Visionary Cinema and Cultural Exchange**

From April 24 to 27, 2025, **RED LOTUS • ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL VIENNA** is returning to Stadtkino and Gartenbaukino, presenting an exquisite selection of 14 outstanding films that redefine cinematic artistry, narrative depth, and social relevance. The festival once again provides an important platform for the diverse voices of Asian cinema, showcasing works that captivate with their visual power, narrative sophistication, and thematic boldness.

A Focus on Feminist Narratives

With its expertly curated selection, this year's festival highlights not only the stylistic and thematic breadth of Asian cinema but also its commitment to artistic innovation and social discourse. Among the featured works are poignant feminist narratives that challenge conventions and redefine perspectives on gender and empowerment.

Opening Film: *Village Rockstars 2*

Rima Das (IND, SGP, CHN | 2024 | 108 min | OmeU)

Acclaimed filmmaker Rima Das presents *Village Rockstars 2*, a mesmerizing continuation of her cinematic exploration of resilience and dreams. Set in a remote Indian village, the film follows a young girl's unwavering pursuit of her passion for music despite societal and familial constraints. Winner of the prestigious Kim Jiseok Award at the Busan International Film Festival, this Austrian premiere is a testament to the enduring power of self-determination and artistic ambition.

Closing Film: *Don't Cry, Butterfly*

Dương Diệu Linh (VNM, SGP, PHL, IDN | 2024 | 97 min | OmeU)

Vietnamese director Dương Diệu Linh crafts a richly layered genre-bending tale that intertwines traditional beliefs with contemporary feminist discourse. *Don't Cry, Butterfly* explores a woman's unconventional journey to liberation from patriarchal constraints, rendered through a visually compelling, symbol-laden aesthetic that dissolves the boundaries between reality and mysticism.

Spotlight on Hong Kong: Cinema as a Reflection of Social Transformation

Again this year, with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Berlin (HKETO), the festival places a special emphasis on Hong Kong's dynamic production landscape. Among the highlights is *The Way We Talk* by Adam Wong, an evocative drama that examines identity, language barriers, and the political undercurrents of a city in flux. By blending documentary elements with fictional storytelling, Wong crafts a profound meditation on communication, belonging, and social inclusion.

Honoring Legends & Pioneering Traditions

The **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025** recognizes the pioneering work of the **Shanghai Animation Film Studio**, an institution that has shaped the aesthetics of Chinese animation since the 1950s. Renowned for its masterful fusion of traditional ink painting and paper-cut animation with contemporary techniques, the studio will present the Austrian premiere of *A Story about Fire*, offering a glimpse into its groundbreaking artistic legacy.



24. April – Stadtkino

18:30 – **Village Rockstars 2** – Rima DAS (IND, SGP, CHN | 2024 | 108 Min | OmeU)

21:00 – **An Errand** – Dominic BEKAERT (PHL | 2024 | 83 Min | OmeU)

25. April – Stadtkino

15:30 – **The Way We Talk** – Adam WONG (HKG | 2024 | 132 Min | OmeU)

18:30 – **Fight for Tomorrow** – CHAN Tai-lee (HKG, CHN | 2024 | 101 Min | Omchin/eU)

21:00 – **The Chronicles of Libidoists** – YANG Ya-che (TWN | 2024 | 105 Min | OmeU)

25. April – Gartenbau Kino

21:30 – **The Killers** – KIM Jong-kwan, ROH Deok, CHANG Hang-jun, LEE Myung-se (KOR | 2024 | 118 Min | OmeU)

26. April – Stadtkino

13:30 – **To Kill A Mongolian Horse** – JIANG Xiaoxuan (MYS, HKG, KOR, JPN, SAU, THA, USA | 2024 | 97 Min | OmeU)

16:00 – **A Story About Fire** – LI Wenyu (CHN | 2025 | 85 Min | OmeU)

18:30 – **Silver Apricot** – JANG Man-min (KOR | 2024 | 119 Min | OmeU)

21:15 – **Blue Sun Palace** – Constance TSANG (USA | 2024 | 116 Min | OmeU)

27. April – Stadtkino

13:30 – **We Are Aliens** – UGANA Kenichi (JPN | 2024 | 93 Min | OmeU)

16:00 – **The Blue Veiled** – Rakhshan BANIETEMAD (IRN | 1995 | 87 Min | OmeU)

18:15 – **An Unfinished Film** – LOU Ye (SGP, DEU | 2024 | 107 Min | OmeU)

21:00 – **Don't Cry, Butterfly** – DƯ'ÔNG Diêu Linh (VNM, SGP, PHL, IDN | 2024 | 97 Min | OmeU)

A Multi-Sensory Festival Experience

Beyond the silver screen, **RED LOTUS** extends into an immersive cultural experience:

- **IN-DISH** will delight opening guests with an exquisite selection of Indian cuisine, celebrating the rich culinary heritage of the subcontinent.
- **FLORI** will transform the festival space with artistic floral installations, enhancing the ambiance with a touch of nature's beauty.
- **JADE TEE & CERAMICS** invites audiences to engage in an intimate journey through Asian tea culture, offering a sensory exploration of tradition and craftsmanship.

Film, Dialogue, and Cultural Exchange

The official festival hotel, **GRAND HOTEL VIENNA** will serve as a hub for filmmakers and guests, fostering discussions on cinema's role in shaping societal narratives and global perspectives.

A Bold, Inspiring, and Thought-Provoking Program

RED LOTUS • ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL VIENNA remains a beacon of fearless storytelling and cultural exchange. With an ambitious lineup that challenges, inspires, and provokes, the festival continues to push the boundaries of cinematic discourse. The full festival program is now available.

Do stay tuned, and see you at the movies!

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