

Vienna, April 2, 2026 – **Red Lotus** is pleased to present this year’s festival program, forthcoming April 23–26, 2026, at Stadtkino and Gartenbaukino.

### **OPENING 2026**

This year, the festival opens with ***Light Pillar*** (Xu Zao, CHN 2026), set in a largely abandoned film studio. There, a complex structure of routines, virtual experiential spaces, and cinematic imagination unfolds. The combination of live action and animation continuously shifts the boundaries between material and simulated reality, allowing reality and imagination to merge seamlessly.

### **PROGRAM 2026**

This year, Red Lotus has once again focused its selection on the most exciting and eye-opening developments in Asian cinema. These include an focus on Chinese animation art - ***Light Pillar*** as the opening film, a tribute to experienced female filmmakers - Mary Stephen will receive this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and a closer look at emerging film regions — particularly South Asia and South Korea, whose contributions were especially impressive this year. In addition, there is a special interest in re-examining Asian diaspora communities - with ***Summer School, 2001*** (CZK 2025) offering a rare insight into the Czech-Vietnamese community.

“One could certainly say that this year’s viewing process was like a rollercoaster – difficult decisions had to be made and some favorites had to be set aside. Nevertheless, Red Lotus is very proud of the final program that has been assembled.” – Cao Liuying, Artistic Co-Director

In cooperation with HKETO (Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Berlin), **RED LOTUS** turns its focus to two recent productions from Hong Kong that explore identity, memory, and social change in different ways. While *The Shadow’s Edge* tells the story of a former surveillance specialist returning to a technologically transformed working world, the film centers on questions of control, experience, and moral responsibility. Between digital precision and human intuition, a field of tension emerges that also reflects a generational conflict.

***Montages of a Modern Motherhood***, on the other hand, stays very close to a young mother and her daily life after childbirth. The film portrays exhaustion, pressure, and conflicting expectations—and presents an unvarnished picture of how motherhood is negotiated between personal aspirations and societal role models.

Both films represent a Hong Kong cinema that connects individual experiences with broader social issues.

23. April – Stadtkino

18:30 – *Light Pillar* – XU Zao (CHN | 2026 | 90 Min | OmeU)

21:00 – *SAL: Disaster* – SEKI Yutaro, HIRASE Kentaro (JPN | 2025 | 128 Min | OmeU)

24. April – Stadtkino

15:30 – *Crown Shyness* – CHANG Chun-yu (TWN | 2024 | 80 Min | OmeU)

18:30 – *All My Sisters* – Massoud BAKHSHI (AUT, FRA, DEU, IRN | 2025 | 78 Min | OmeU)

21:00 – *Mergen* – Chingiz NARYNOV (KGZ | 2025 | 105 Min | OmeU)

24. April – Gartenbaukino

21:45 – *The Fin* – PARK Syeyoung (KOR, DEU, QAT | 2025 | 85 Min | OmeU)

25. April – Stadtkino

13:30 – *Delupi* – Mohammad TOUQIR ISLAM (BGD | 2026 | 94 Min | OmeU)

16:00 – *Lali* – Sarmad Sultan KHOOSAT (PAK | 2026 | 116 Min | OmeU)

18:30 – *The Shadow's Edge* – Larry YANG (CHN, HKG | 2025 | 141 Min | OmeU)

21:15 – *En route to* – YOO Jaein (KOR | 2025 | 106 Min | OmeU)

26. April – Stadtkino

11:00 – *Take Off* – Pengfei (CHN | 2025 | 118 Min | OmeU)

13:30 – *Montages of a Modern Motherhood* – Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen (HKG | 2024 | 112 Min | OmeU)

16:00 – *Summer School, 2001* – Dužan DUONG (CZE, VNM | 2025 | 104 Min | OmeU)

18:30 – *Palimpsest: The Story of a Name* – Mary STEPHEN (FRA, HKG, TWN | 2025 | 108 Min | OmeU)

21:00 – *Songs of Forgotten Trees* – Anuparna ROY (IND | 2025 | 78 Min | OmeU)

All screenings are Austrian (theatrical) premieres. Information on guests and interview opportunities will follow shortly.

### EUROSTAR GRAND HOTEL

Eurostar Grand Hotel serves as our festival hotel - and central meeting point of the festival, offering space for encounters and exchange between filmmakers and audiences. Beyond the screen, conversations about cinema, society, and cultural perspectives are taking place here — a place where the dynamics of the festival continue beyond the film screenings.

For inquiries or further press materials, please contact:

Avia Seeliger, Press Relations  
press@red-lotus.org

Stay tuned, and see you at the movies!