

# CINEQUEST™

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## Asian-Pacific Artists Present Works of Film and Immersive Fantasy at Cinequest Film & VR Festival

The Cinequest Film & VR Festival 2018 (CQ2018) returns for its 28<sup>th</sup> season, February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>. Reflecting the vibrant voices, artistry and culture of the Asian Pacific community, this year's program of feature, short and virtual reality (VR) films include outstanding that spotlight the stories and people of China, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, and other countries of this region.

Renowned for the exceptional quality and diversity of its program, CQ2018 will screen 258 feature, short and VR works from 45 countries, and invite attendees to immerse themselves in a new storytelling medium at its curated VR Cinema and VR Experience Lounge. Over the 13-day program, Silicon Valley becomes the epicenter of tech and entertainment as filmmakers, futurists, writers, technologists, actors and artists from around the world converge to celebrate their work in one of the most diverse metros in the world.

To learn more about the full festival lineup, and to purchase festival passes, tickets to screenings and special events, visit [www.cinequest.org](http://www.cinequest.org).

*Highlights of Asian Pacific Cinema at CQ2018:*

### FEATURE FILMS

***Arun*** (Directed by Sarah Hanks; World premiere)

Living on the outskirts of Bangkok, three childhood friends haven't the slightest clue what the real world will look like for them once they become adults. One night, Isara, the only girl of the group, is suddenly plucked from her life of innocent bliss and relocated to Bangkok. Her friends Arun and Kasem remember Isara's fear that she would be sent to "work" at a bar, but they didn't know it was going to happen so suddenly. Worried for Isara, Arun and Kasem venture out of their village and into Bangkok in search of the girl they once knew, only to find the woman she's become.

***End of Summer*** (Directed by Zhou Quan; US premiere)

Summer of 1998: as the World Cup and soccer fever consumes the globe, Xiaoyang, a fifth grader in China, revels in the frenzy. Alienated, Xiaoyang finds companionship and solace in his old neighbor, another crazy soccer fan. This beautiful friendship develops into something special and transformative as they help each other tide over strained relationships and reconnect with their families.

***The Kiss Addict*** (Directed by Li Yanning; US premiere)

One night after a performance, a young, talented violinist named Wen Feng receives a kiss from a

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mysterious woman. Head over heels in love with this woman now, Wen sets out to find her by the only means he has: kissing her again. Wen Feng soon discovers he is “Number 37” and this woman was his lover in a past life. And the more they kiss, the more they understand who they were – for better or worse.

***The Poet and the Boy*** (Directed by Kim Yang-hee, US premiere)

Taekgi, a sexually lukewarm poet who married late in life, struggles with the desires that arise after witnessing a young boy making out with a girl in a restroom at the local donut shop. As Taekgi entangles himself in the boy’s life, we wonder what kind of desire this is: companionship, paternal affections, pederasty, or simple pity for a troubled youth? The film’s dynamic ride exposes an emotional space that defies labels while exploring marriage, family roots, and social taboos.

***Skull (Tengkorak)*** (Directed by Yusron Ruadi; World premiere)

An earthquake rips through Indonesia and reveals a shocking discovery: a nearly one-mile-long, 170,000-year-old skull. This massive skull sparks controversy among scientists and religious leaders alike, who debate revealing or hiding the existence of the head in order to preserve peace and sanity. Satya, a humble college student working at the skull research center, finds herself embroiled in a much more violent and sinister plot to keep the skull under wraps. Why are they targeting her, and why is the secret of the skull worth killing for?

## SHORT FILMS

***Plastic Girls*** (Directed by Nils Clauss)

Seoul-based director Nils Clauss captures the phenomenon of ‘plastic welcomers’ in the city that surrounds him.

***Valley of the White Birds*** (Directed by Cloud Yang)

From Wolf Smoke Animation studio in Shanghai, this fable of fear and rebirth unfolds as a man pursue a mysterious white bird.

## VIRTUAL REALITY

***Hutong In Live*** (Directed by Weimin Zhang)

A compelling reflection recaptures the traditional courtyard residences of Hutong life in Beijing.

***Ultraman Zero VR*** (Directed by Katsutoshi Machiba and Kiyotaka Taguchi)

Eleking, the giant monster, duels with Ultraman Zero in Minato-ku, Tokyo - and you have a front row seat.

***Doctor X: Pale Dawn*** (Directed by Hyun Suk Lee)

Race along with one of the top geneticists in the world fighting mutants inside a labyrinth that has gone haywire.

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More than 105,000 attendees will experience the work of internationally renowned and emerging artists and technologists, representing a spectrum of genres, genders, ethnicities, orientations, and viewpoints. Honoring the careers of icons, legends and risk takers in film, Cinequest will present its coveted Maverick Spirit Award to **Nicolas Cage** (*Leaving Las Vegas, Raising Arizona*), **Andie MacDowell** (*Sex, Lies & Videotape, Four Weddings and a Funeral*), **Tatiana Maslany** (*Orphan Black, Stronger*) and **Tom Cullen** (*Downtown Abbey, Black Mirror*). Director, producer, tech entrepreneur **Travis Cloyd** will be honored with this year's VR Visionary Award, recognizing his work in immersive entertainment. Additionally, this year's Media Legacy Award will be presented to **Ben Mankiewicz**, Primetime Host Turner Classic Movies (TCM) celebrating his incredible life and impact on the industry, as a writer, journalist and co-founder of *The Young Turks*.

This year's program includes 74 World and 55 U.S. premiering films, starring award winning actors including past Maverick Spirit Award winners William H. Macy, Rosario Dawson and Peter Fonda, as well as Kal Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer, James McAvoy, Hilary Swank and Stanley Tucci. Visit [www.cinequest.org](http://www.cinequest.org) for the full Cinequest Film & VR Festival 2018 program.

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## **About Cinequest**

A vanguard organization set in the Silicon Valley, Cinequest fuses the worlds of the filmed arts and technology to empower artists, innovators, and audiences to create and connect - driving transformations and a better tomorrow. Cinequest's uniqueness and impact result from being ahead of the curve in the powerful integration of creativity and innovation.

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