

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL SELECTION 2026

IN-COMPETITON

GANDHARA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2026 – EDITION 7 BRINGS YOU 30 INDEPENDENT FILMS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN-PERSON,
EXCLUSIVELY ON 2ND – 4TH OCTOBER, 2026 AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS (NAPA), KARACHI

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BRUTE

A FILM BY JÉRÉMY COMTE / 18 MIN 15 SEC

BRUTE IS AN EXPERIMENTAL AND FANTASTICAL SHORT FICTION FILM, BOTH VISCERAL AND POETIC IN TONE. THE VIEWER WILL FOLLOW THE PROTAGONIST AS HE SLIPS FROM REALITY INTO THE SUBCONSCIOUS, ENTERING AN ALTERED STATE WHERE EVERYDAY FEARS, ANXIETIES, AND STRESS TAKE THE FORM OF UNSETTLING CREATURES.

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MY PLASTIC MOTHER

A FILM BY AMAR HAIKAL
19 MIN

EKI, LIVING BY THE LANDFILL, SEARCHES FOR A MEMENTO TO HONOR HIS LATE MOTHER. BATTLING THE RELENTLESS RAIN, LANDSLIDES, AND LOOMING THREATS FROM SCAVENGERS AND MACHINERY, HE FEARS HER MEMORY COULD BE LOST BENEATH THE WASTE FOREVER.



CANDY BAR

A FILM BY NASH EDGERTON
06 MIN 19 SEC

A YOUNG GIRL THINKS A MAN IN THE CANDY BAR LINE LOOKS LIKE HER DAD. THEIR SWEET INTERACTION MAKES HIM LONG FOR FATHERHOOD.

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PERMANENT GUEST

A FILM BY SANA ZAHRA JAFRI / 14 MIN 36 SEC

IN LAHORE, 26-YEAR-OLD FATIN AND HER MOTHER YASMEEN PREPARE FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD WEDDING WHEN YASMEEN'S 70-YEAR-OLD BROTHER-IN-LAW, SHABEER, UNEXPECTEDLY ARRIVES FOR THE WEDDING AND MEDICAL TESTS. FATIN, UNCOMFORTABLE DUE TO PAST ABUSE, FACES PRESSURE TO CARE FOR HIM, INCLUDING DRIVING HIM TO HIS APPOINTMENTS, FORCING HER TO CONFRONT UNRESOLVED TRAUMA WHILE BALANCING FAMILY OBLIGATIONS.

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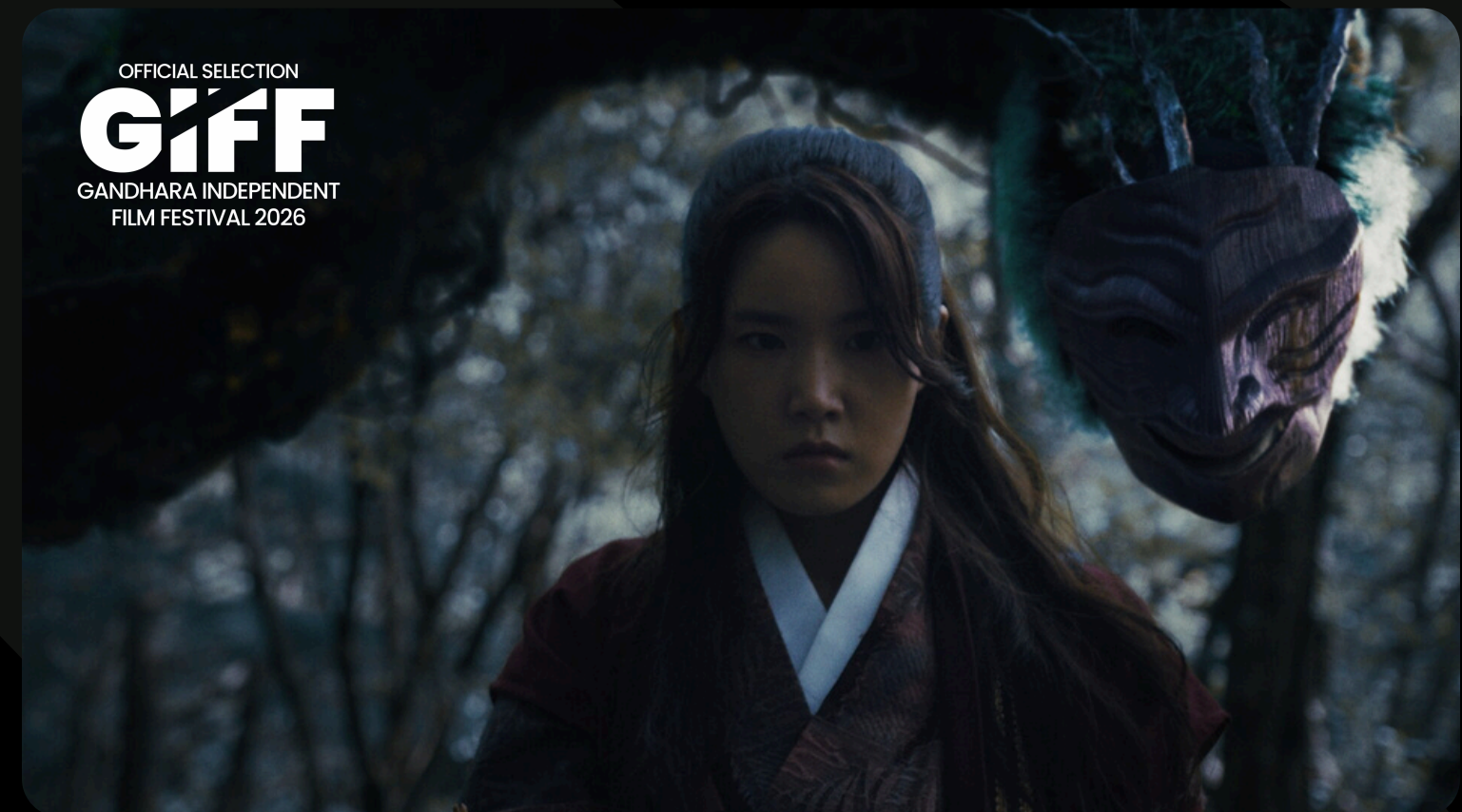
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JAZZ INFERNAL

A FILM BY WILL NIAVA
16 MIN 20 SEC

KOFFI, A YOUNG IVORIAN TRUMPETER, ARRIVES IN MONTREAL WITH NOTHING BUT THE LEGACY OF HIS FATHER TO GUIDE HIM. LOST BETWEEN THE CITY'S NOISE AND THE SILENCE OF HIS PAST, HE MUST CONFRONT HIS ROOTS TO FINALLY FIND HIS OWN VOICE.



THE LEGACY OF THE SUN AND MOON

A FILM BY KIYUN GABRIEL SUNG
24 MIN 32 SEC

FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, THE WATCHERS — PROPHETS BLESSED WITH DIVINE POWER — SAFEGUARDED THE KINGDOM OF GORYONG. WHEN GORYONG FELL TO THE QONQIRAT EMPIRE, THE WATCHERS VANISHED... UNTIL NOW. AS THE QONQIRAT ARMY PUSHES TOWARD THE LAST FREE KINGDOM, MIRAN, ITS ELITE WARRIOR CHOYON IS SENT TO ESCORT THE FINAL WATCHER, ARA, TO SAFETY. TRAPPED IN THE HAUNTED GWAMYO FOREST, ARA AND CHOYON FACE A DEMONIC SPIRIT THAT FORCES THEM TO RELIVE THEIR DEEPEST REGRETS. TO ESCAPE, THEY MUST ACCEPT THE PAST, RECLAIM THEIR PURPOSE, AND STAND TOGETHER AGAINST THE DARKNESS — BEFORE THE EMPIRE SWALLOWS THE WORLD.

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KHAZANA

A FILM BY BASIR AHMED / 19 MIN

A DEAF WASTE COLLECTOR IN KARACHI STUMBLES UPON A SHOCKING DISCOVERY AT A LANDFILL, LEADING TO A DANGEROUS CLASH WITH A RUTHLESS GANGSTER – ONLY TO UNCOVER A TREASURE THAT CHANGES HIS LIFE FOREVER.

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PARADISE HEIGHTS

A FILM BY KARL KAI, ROBERT MENTOV
23 MIN

A 7 YEAR-OLD NARCOLEPTIC GIRL DISCOVERS AN OTHERWORLDLY BOND TO HER LATE MOTHER'S PAST WITHIN DREAMS OF THE BURMESE JUNGLE.



NOBODY BARKS

A FILM BY JÚLIA COLDWELL SERRA
19 MIN 52 SEC

CANDELA HAS A MONOTONOUS LIFE IN AN INLAND TOWN. DURING THE TOWN FESTIVAL, SHE ACCIDENTALLY RUNS OVER HER NEPHEW'S DOG, BUT DECIDES NOT TO CONFESS. INSTEAD, SHE INVENTS A LEGEND ABOUT A DOG PILGRIMAGE TO A SACRED TREE AND INVITES HIM TO JOIN HER IN THE SEARCH. SLOWLY, THE LIES BEGIN TO CONSUME HER.

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WRAP – WE REALLY ARE PAKISTAN

A FILM BY SABA KARIM KHAN / 27 MIN 52 SEC

BY DAY THEY ARE SERVICE WORKERS IN KARACHI; BY NIGHT THEY BECOME UNDERGROUND RAPPERS, USING MUSIC TO CHALLENGE THE LIMITS OF CIRCUMSTANCE AND REWRITE WHAT THE WORLD THINKS IT KNOWS ABOUT PAKISTAN.

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THE MONSTER

A FILM BY DIEGO DE GRACIA
14 MIN

TOÑO, AN 11 YEAR OLD BOY, TAKES ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARING FOR HIS SICK SISTER DUE TO HIS FATHER'S NEGLECTFUL BEHAVIOR. WHEN HE LEARNS THAT ORPHANS CAN HAVE A BETTER LIFE IN A SHELTER, HE DECIDES TO POISON HIS FATHER WITH HER SISTER'S COLD MEDICINE. HOWEVER, HE FACES THE DILEMMA OF WHETHER HE'S TRULY CAPABLE OF GOING THROUGH WITH IT. HE MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN LETTING HIS SISTER'S CONDITION WORSEN OR BECOMING A MONSTER HIMSELF.



PETTICOATS

A FILM BY GAËLLE GRATON
18 MIN

IN 19TH-CENTURY QUEBEC, CLAIRE, A KITCHEN HAND FOR A GROUP OF FISHERMEN, DREAMS OF LEARNING THE MEN'S TRADE. WHEN SHE'S INVITED ON A MIDNIGHT FISHING LESSON, A NIGHTMARE UNFOLDS, AND SAULE, A NURSE, DEVOTES HERSELF TO SAVING HER. TOGETHER, THE TWO WOMEN FACE THEIR OWN WOUNDS AND JOIN FORCES TO SURVIVE.

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ATTOCK

A FILM BY AWAIS GOHAR / 15 MIN 59 SEC

IN ATTOCK, A SMALL TOWN IN PAKISTAN, A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY RETURNS HOME FROM SCHOOL ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT HIS BELOVED PET PIGEON HAS BEEN EATEN BY HIS FATHER, WHO BELIEVED IT WOULD HELP TREAT HIS ILLNESS, BELL'S Palsy. HEARTBROKEN AND FEELING BETRAYED, THE BOY WANDERS OUTSIDE, CLIMBS TO THE ROOFTOP, AND DRIFTS INTO SLEEP. WHEN HE AWAKENS, HE ENCOUNTERS A MAGICAL MOMENT OF LOVE DESCENDING FROM THE SKY, AN UNEXPECTED GIFT THAT TRANSFORMS HIS SORROW INTO WONDER.

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WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND

A FILM BY JEAN-SÉBASTIEN HAMEL, ALEXANDRA MYOTTE
10 MIN 47 SEC

DAN HAS A GAPING HOLE IN HIS NECK THAT WON'T HEAL. WHY? HE CAN'T REMEMBER, NOR TALK ABOUT IT. BACK IN THE SINISTER ARENA OF HIS CHILDHOOD, HE MUST FIND THE PART OF HIMSELF HE ONCE LEFT BEHIND THAT PREVENTS HIM, NOW AN ADULT, FROM BEING WHOLE.



WHEN THE TIGER ROARS

A FILM BY LAM CAN-ZHAO
15 MIN

A TIGER'S ESCAPE SHATTERS THE LONG SILENCE BETWEEN A FATHER AND HIS SON, WITH SUPPRESSED LOVE SHINING THROUGH THE CRACK.

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RAAT JAAGAY

A FILM BY MAHNOOR NAWAB / 16 MIN 02 SEC

A YOUNG MOTHER'S LONG NIGHT OF WAITING FORCES HER TO CONFRONT THE FRAGILE SPACE BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR, AND THE FUTURE THAT AWAITS BEYOND IT.

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WHO LOVE THE SUN

A FILM BY ARSHIA SHAKIBA
19 MIN 30 SEC

SET IN WAR-TORN NORTHERN SYRIA, "WHO LOVES THE SUN" DELVES INTO THE WORLD OF MAKESHIFT OIL REFINERIES AND THE STARK REALITIES OF LIFE WITHIN THIS POST-APOCALYPTIC LANDSCAPE. MAHMOOD IS A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THESE OPERATIONS, NAVIGATING HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS AND COMPLEX LOCAL DYNAMICS.



THE VEIL

A FILM BY GABRIEL MOTTA
19 MIN

DURING THE STRANGE RITUALS OF HIS FATHER'S CULT, JÚNIOR IS COVERED WITH A LONG VEIL AND PRETENDS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEAD. THE TRANSGRESSION OF A DISILLUSIONED CONGREGANT AWAKENS THE MEDIUMSHIP OF JÚNIOR'S TEENAGE SISTER, WHO, POSSESSED BY AN ENTITY, URGES HIM TO CHALLENGE THEIR FATHER'S AUTHORITY.

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BLENDER

A FILM BY SYED NABIL HASAN RIZVI / 09 MIN 54 SEC

AN ISOLATED ELDERLY MAN IN KARACHI SEEKS A BLENDER TO VENTURE OUT, FIND HUMAN CONNECTION, AND REGAIN A SENSE OF PURPOSE.

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UNDER THE WHETHER

A FILM BY PUTRI SARAH AMELIA
20 MIN

A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN WHO'S GOING THROUGH A PERIMENOPAUSE PHASE, TRIES TO REPLACE HER BUSY DAUGHTER WITH A CAT, BUT TOO BAD, THE CAT IS IN PUBERTY.



BUFFALO

A FILM BY CRISTIAN FIDEL
17 MIN

BÚFALO IS A YOUNG WOMAN WHO GREW UP IN THE SUBURBS OF BARCELONA. DAUGHTER OF THE MATRIARCH OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD WHERE CLAN TENSIONS HAVE BEEN AT THEIR HIGHEST FOR YEARS. THE RECENT MURDER OF HER BROTHER CROSSES A RED LINE SHE WON'T FORGIVE.

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THE SEND OFF

A FILM BY AMINA IMRAN / 11 MIN 04 SEC

AN INCIDENT PLACES AN ESTRANGED PAIR OF MOTHER AND DAUGHTER IN THE SAME ROOM TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.

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OCTOPUS

A FILM BY GEORGE DOGARU
12 MIN

A YOUNG BOY'S IMAGINATION BEGINS TO BLUR THE LINES OF REALITY, LEAVING THE ADULTS AROUND HIM UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT'S REAL. AS HIS UNCANNY ABILITIES BEGIN TO GROW, THEY'RE FORCED TO ASK: IS IT A GIFT—OR A CURSE?



THE MAN WHO STUMBLED BY HIS WORDS

A FILM BY MUBARAK ALI AL-ZAWBA
22 MIN 20 SEC

NAIF, A RENOWNED WRITER IN HIS LATE FORTIES, ISOLATES HIMSELF IN AN ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME WRITER'S BLOCK AND BEGIN HIS NEW NOVEL. AS ISOLATION DEEPENS, MEMORIES AND REALITY BEGIN TO BLUR, TURNING HIS STRUGGLE WITH WRITING INTO A CONFRONTATION WITH FEAR, SOLITUDE, AND IDENTITY. WHAT STARTS AS A SEARCH FOR THE FIRST LINE SLOWLY BECOMES A JOURNEY THROUGH SILENCE, AND THE UNSETTLING POSSIBILITY OF LOSING HIS CONNECTION TO WORDS ALTOGETHER.

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HOW TO KILL YOUR HUNGER?

A FILM BY MEHROZ AMIN / 12 MIN 51 SEC

LIVING OFF LEFTOVER FOOD AND DESPAIR, A STRUGGLING MIDDLE-AGED MAN REVISITS A FANCY RESTAURANT FROM CHILDHOOD, HOPING TO RELIVE HAPPIER TIMES, BUT THE NIGHT SPIRALS INTO A HAUNTING ORDEAL THAT MIRRORS HIS INESCAPABLE DESCENT INTO POVERTY.

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THE MOULD

A FILM BY MOHAMMAD REZA NOURMANDIPOUR
24 MIN 23 SEC

A FATHER CONFRONTS SOME PROBLEMS WITH HIS ONLY SON AFTER DEATH OF HIS WIFE, AND TRIES TO RAISE HIM IN HIS OWN WAY.



FINIR AU SOLEIL

A FILM BY EPHREM KOERING
22 MIN

THE MOTHER OF LOUIS, 9 YEARS OLD, ACTS INCREASINGLY DISTANT. LOUIS DOESN'T REALLY REALIZE IT UNTIL THE DAY SHE GOES AWAY FOR AN ENTIRE EVENING. A FEELING OF ANXIETY THEN TAKES HOLD OF HIM. WOULD SHE BE ABLE TO ABANDON HIM AND HIS BROTHER ?

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