

	<h1>Press Release</h1>		JEONJU International Film Festival
Distribution date	2025. 04. 04.	Requested release date	2025. 04. 04.
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The 26th JEONJU IFF Announces 10 Selected Films for the International Competition

- 662 submissions from 86 countries... Asia led with 328 entries, documentaries with 200 submissions for the second consecutive year!
- Programmer Chun Jinsu, "*We celebrate all directors who submitted their work for their efforts to view and express the world through their unique visual languages.*"

The JEONJU International Film Festival (JEONJU IFF, Festival Co-Directors Min Sungwook and Jung Junho) announced 10 selected films for the International Competition.

The International Competition is a section aimed at the first or second feature-length films of directors, which will have their Asian Premiere.

For the Pre-selection Advisors for International Competition, Paola Buontempo, Son Cecile Hyojeong, Moon Seok, Sung Moon, and Chun Jinsu participated. On behalf of the juries, programmer Chun Jinsu stated, "*Documentaries continued their strong showing with over 200 submissions for the second consecutive year, with many being 'personal documentaries' based on directors' individual experiences*", adding that this phenomenon reflects "*the challenging production environment following the COVID-19 pandemic, which underscores the urgent need for support for filmmakers.*"



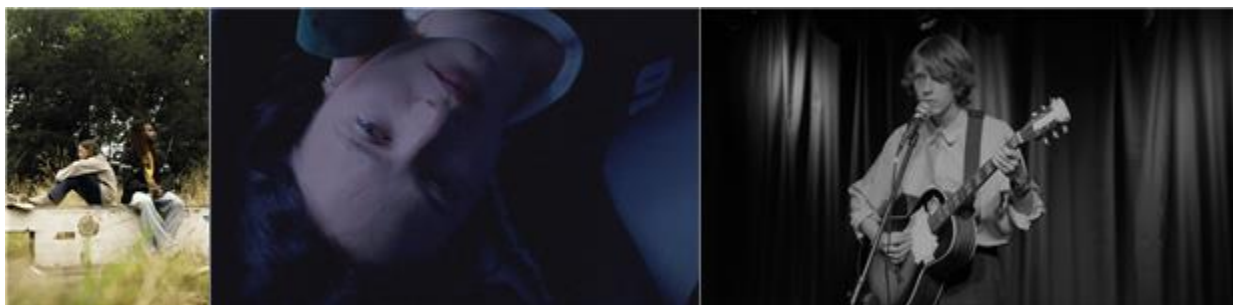
▲ From the left: *Always*, *Ulysses*, *Mad Bills to Pay (or Destiny, dile que no soy malo)*

Chinese director Chen Deming's *Always* is a documentary that follows a rural Chinese boy crafting his life through poetry, capturing his transformation over time with beautiful visuals. Japanese filmmaker Uwagawa Hikaru presents *Ulysses*, a three-part film that quietly observes and savors the minute details in characters' lives. Furthermore, Joel Alfonso Vargas' *Mad Bills to Pay (or Destiny, dile que no soy malo)* provides an authentic portrait of Dominican Americans in the Bronx, New York.



▲ From the left: *CycleMahesh*, *Cherub*

From India, Suhel Banerjee's *CycleMahesh* recounts the journey of a young man who travels 2,000 kilometers home on his bicycle during the pandemic, skillfully blending documentary and fictional elements. Canadian director Devin Shears offers *Cherub*, a nuanced character study examining body image and identity through the overweight protagonist.



▲ From the left: *Ollie*, *Sugarland*, *The Swan Song of Fedor Ozerov*

In *Ollie*, French filmmaker Antoine Besse crafts a tender story of friendship between a young boy and an outsider through skateboarding, set in a rural French village. Austrian director Isabella Brunäcker makes her impressive debut with *Sugarland*, demonstrating remarkable control in a narrative largely confined to a car's interior, elevated by the cast's powerful performances and minimalist directorial style. Yuri Semashko, who was born in Belarus but currently lives in exile in Poland, presents *The Swan Song of Fedor Ozerov*, a surprisingly innocent and uplifting portrayal of the creative generation and their efforts to transcend difficult realities.



▲ From the left: *Then, the fog*, *Resistance Reels*

Argentine director Martín Sappia's debut film *Then, the fog* offers a man's moving exploration of personal reconciliation with his past, while Spanish co-directors Alejandro Alvarado Jódar and Concha Barquero Artés present *Resistance Reels*, a fascinating documentary that revisits and reinterprets an unfinished work of filmmaker Fernando Ruiz Vergara—who, after completing his only documentary *Rocío* in 1980, faced censorship and confiscation amid Spain's political turbulence and was ultimately forced to flee to Portugal.

The selected films in the International Competition will engage with the audience at the 26th JEONJU IFF, taking place from April 30 (Wed) to May 9 (Fri) throughout Jeonju.

The 26th JEONJU IFF International Competition Selected Films

Title	Director	Country
<i>Always</i>	CHEN Deming	United States, France, China, Taiwan

<i>Cherub</i>	Devin SHEARS	Canada
<i>CycleMahesh</i>	Suhel BANERJEE	India
<i>Mad Bills to Pay (or Destiny, dile que no soy malo)</i>	Joel Alfonso VARGAS	United States
<i>Ollie</i>	Antoine BESSE	France
<i>Resistance Reels</i>	Alejandro ALVARADO JÓDAR, Concha BARQUERO ARTÉS	Spain, Portugal
<i>Sugarland</i>	Isabella BRUNÄCKER	Austria
<i>The Swan Song of Fedor Ozerov</i>	Yuri SEMASHKO	Lithuania, Germany
<i>Then, the fog</i>	Martín SAPPPIA	Argentina
<i>Ulysses</i>	UWAGAWA Hikaru	Japan, Spain

**** 10 title, alphabetical order**