

**FAR EAST
FILM
FESTIVAL
26**

24 April/2 May 2024 - Udine, Italy, Teatro Nuovo and Visionario

**Japan triumphs at FEFF 26:
Takano Tofu takes home the
Golden Mulberry and
Confetti wins the Silver Mulberry!**

**On the third step of the podium,
Hong Kong's *Time Still Turns the Pages*.**

**The 2024 edition concludes with three new records:
65,000 spectators, 3,000 guests and 1,700 pass
holders.**

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UDINE – "It's the first time I've been to the **Far East Film Festival**, which is a very big and very important event for us Asian filmmakers. You know: it's rare today to find 1,200 people attending a film screening. It's rare anywhere in the world. And I am deeply moved to see such a full cinema, without empty seats, and to see how much you love our work! I will be coming back here to the **Teatro Nuovo in Udine**, which is a beautiful city, because you have really moved me..."

Zhang Yimou's words contain more than just happiness at an enthusiastic welcome for an art form – cinema – which is once again starting to soar: they contain the very meaning of the **Far East Film Festival**. A freewheeling,

exuberant journey through Asia's pop-culture soul. A long love affair which **since 1999** has never stopped **forging bonds between East and West**.

In confirmation of the fact that cinema is once again starting to fly, **FEFF 26** brought to **Udine 79 films** (**12 world premieres, 22 international premieres, 23 European premieres and 19 Italian premieres**), **228 guests of honour** (including, of course, the legendary **Zhang Yimou**, winner of the **Golden Mulberry Award for Lifetime Achievement** and protagonist of a **memorable masterclass**) and **65,000 spectators**. And, in line with a tradition dating back to **FEFF 01**, it was the **votes of the public** itself that decided this year's winners.

Japan dominated the **2024 Audience Awards**, triumphing with **Mihara Mitsuhiro's** moving ***Takano Tofu*** (**Golden Mulberry**) and also coming second with **Fujita Naoya's** deeply touching ***Confetti*** (**Silver Mulberry**). Third place went to one of the cinematic highlights of the season: ***Time Still Turns the Pages*** by **Hong Kong** director **Nick Cheuk** (**Crystal Mulberry**). **Japan** also made sparks with **Black Dragon** pass holders (who voted for **Shiraishi Kazuya's** samurai movie ***Bushido***) and the **MYmovies** community (who chose ***Takano Tofu***).

The jurors of the **first feature section** (Anthony Chen, Edouard Waintrop and Matsuzaki Kaoru) awarded the **White Mulberry** to **South Korean** romance ***Mimang*** by **Kim Tae-yang** while the **Mulberry for Best Screenplay** went to action comedy ***Citizen of a Kind*** by **South Korean** director **Park Young-ju** (selected by some of the jurors of **Gorizia's "Sergio Amidei" International Best Screenplay Award**: Massimo Gaudioso, Marco Risi, Doriana Leondeff and Francesco Munzi).

A record number of more than 3,000 guests were lodged in accommodation around the city by **FEFF 26**, and the number of pass holders also reached a **record high: 1,700** - an **increase of 25%** over 2023 - made up of enthusiasts, journalists, experts, professionals, and the **FEFF-curious**, it's worth underlining, **130 university cinema students** (from Italy, United Kingdom, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Singapore), showing just how much interest there was even among **younger Fareasters**.

Over 200 professionals arrived from **all over Europe** for the **Focus Asia** industry sessions and around **15,000 people** took part in the **FEFF Events** taking place across the centre of **Udine**. And last but not least, the **online FEFF**, streaming on the **MYmovies ONE** platform, recorded **8,775 attendees** from **200 Italian municipalities**. The top city for online users was **Milan**, followed by **Rome** and **Turin**, and the most streamed films were the ***Alienoid*** saga (with **1,500 hours of viewing**) and ***Takano Tofu*** (with **624 hours of viewing**).

So all that remains to do is make a note in your diary of the dates of the next edition, when the **Far East Film Festival** will be turning **twenty-seven**: see you in **Udine from 24 April to 2 May 2025!**

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