

3:00 PM **SPECIAL SCREENING | てっぺんの向こうにあなたがいる (Climbing for Life)**
dir: Sakamoto Junji
130 min | Japan | 2025
A feature film about the life and times of Junko Tabei, the first woman to climb Everest.

6:00 PM **Girl From Nepal** – World Premiere
dir: Ernest Almasbekovich Abdyzhaparov/ Usha Rajak (In Person)
11 min | Nepal/ Kyrgyzstan | 2025
Hema from Nepal, travels to Kyrgyzstan and finds Kairat to give him a letter from her mother, Uma, whom he had met 40 years ago.

My Sweet Pala – Nepal Premiere
dir: Tao Okamoto
22 min | United States | 2025
An unexpected incident reveals the harsh realities 11-year-old Pema's father, a Tibetan immigrant parent in America, has been shielding her from.

7:30 PM **I Listen for the Sound of Ashes** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Mihir Pyakuryal (In Person)
16 min | Nepal/ United States | 2026
Recorded phone conversations unfold between the filmmaker and his parents during a period of political unrest in Nepal.

Um passo a mais (The Extra Mile) – Asia Premiere
dir: Rafael Duarte
52 min | Brazil/ Nepal | 2025
A mountaineer embarks on a challenging journey to climb Everest to highlight the importance of conserving mountain environments, showcasing both their beauty and vulnerability.

AUDI 1
30 May | SATURDAY

12:00 noon **Que faisaient-ils là-haut? (What On Earth Were They Doing Up There?)** – Asia Premiere
dir: Clement Guillot/ Cecile Moreau
62 min | France/ Austria/ Italy/ Switzerland | 2025
An adventurer journeys across the Alps to explore how climate change has melted glaciers and impacted people's lives in the past and present.

1:30 PM **Aisha Can't Fly Away** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Morad Mostafa
115 min | Egypt/ France/ Germany/ Sudan | 2025
Aisha, a young Sudanese caregiver in Cairo, witnesses the tension between her fellow African migrants and local gangs as she struggles to cope with her fears and lost battles.

4:00 PM **What's in a Story? Cinema and Censorship – Panel | FREE EVENT**

6:00 PM **Il Rospo e il Diamante (The Toad and The Diamond)** – Asia Premiere
dir: Beniamino Casagrande (In Person)
76 min | Italy/ India | 2025
A 20-year-long friendship and a past similarly marked by tragic events unite a European filmmaker and an Indian Buddhist, unveiling the deeply human need of accepting death.

7:30 PM **The Sweet Perfume**
dir: Mohammad Reza Mohammadi
15 min | Iran | 2025
A female student Ruqiya has an allergy to perfume; during an exam an unknown student harasses her about her weakness.

Charcobloc – Asia Premiere
dir: Pablo Leon Alvarez
43 min | Mexico | 2025
A young Mexican climber determined to take on an iconic route, confronts the doubts, fears, and obstacles that follow him both on and off the rock.

AUDI 2
31 May | SUNDAY

11:30 AM **Samuel Volery: The Slackline Legend** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Jonas Konijnenberg
29 min | Netherlands/ Switzerland | 2025
A portrayal of slacklining legend Samuel Volery's journey as he pushes the different disciplines of jumplining, highlining and freestyle highlining.

Mirase Baad (Wind's Heritage)
dir: Nasim Soheili
30 min | Iran | 2024
A 68-year-old man is the last miller in his village who knows the techniques of building and repairing traditional Iranian windmills.

1:30 PM **Ha Lyngkha Bneng - The Elysian Field** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Pradip Kurbah (In Person)
123 min | India | 2025
In a village home to only six souls owing to urban migration, Livingstone and his fellow villagers grapple with the intertwined forces of loss, love, and resilience.

5:00 PM **kimff 2026 Closing | Awards**
Audience Award Recipient Screening

AUDI 1
31 May | SUNDAY

11:00 AM **水東游 (As The River Goes By)**
dir: Zhaoxiang HU
96 min | China | 2024
An earthquake triggers Xiao Li's memory of what happened twelve years ago, when his father disappeared and a tragic accident occurred during a game of hide-and-seek.

1:00 PM **Ko će pokucati na vrata mog doma (At The Door of The House Who Will Come Knocking)** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Maja Novaković
84 min | Serbia/ Bosnia-Herzegovina | 2024
The story of an elderly man and grief as a universal human experience that can be both isolating and unifying, unfold through the patient observation of the natural world and routines of daily life.

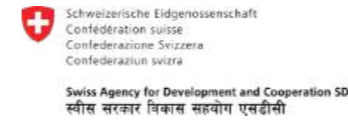
3:00 PM **The Oldest Munro Bagger** – Asia Premiere
dir: Christina Golian/ Jay Golian
57 min | United Kingdom | 2025
A moving, authentic story of enduring love and growth, told against the breathtaking backdrop of the Scottish Highlands.

EXHIBITIONS @ Kala Salon, Chhaya Center, Thamel

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MAY 27-31
2026

QFX Chhaya Centre
Thamel, Kathmandu

kathmandu
international
mountain
film festival
23rd edition

kiMff

AUDI 2
27 May | WEDNESDAY

1:00 PM **Her Climate Story – Screening & Panel** | FREE EVENT
Presented by YUWA and Plan International Nepal

4:00 PM **kimff 2026 Opening | Screening**
(by invitation only)

छोरा जस्तै (Shape of Momo) – Nepal Premiere

dir: Tribeny Rai (In Person)
114 min | India | 2025
Plagued by the deaths of male family members, Bishnu quits her job and returns to her Himalayan village where she must choose between conforming to tradition or claiming her independence.

AUDI 1
27 May | WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon **Kathmandu Doc Lab Pitch** | FREE EVENT
Live documentary pitching event for projects incubated.

4:30 PM **Screening** (by invitation only)
छोरा जस्तै (Shape of Momo) – Nepal Premiere

dir: Tribeny Rai (In Person)
114 min | India | 2025
Plagued by the deaths of male family members, Bishnu quits her job and returns to her Himalayan village where she must choose between conforming to tradition or claiming her independence.

AUDI 2
28 May | THURSDAY

11:00 AM **रुमानी सपना (Rumani Sapana)** – World Premiere
dir: Shyam Limbu (In Person)
9 min | Nepal | 2025
Saurav, a young graduate who finds himself trapped in an endless cycle of job interviews, decides to take matters into his own hands.

Sweet Border
dir: Hadi Ahmadi
15 min | Iran | 2024
A woman bakes cookies to sell across the border despite imminent danger from border security agents.

The Road to Til – World Premiere
dir: Rajan Kathet (In Person)
15 min | Nepal | 2026
Disability rights advocate Chhitup Lama travels to Til Village in Nepal's Humla district, to explore what happens when climate change impacts remote mountain communities.

Route 138 (Road 138) – Asia Premiere
dir: Sarah Warren
19 min | Canada | 2024
A contemplative yet engaging documentary, exploring a brother's odyssey to complete a 138 kilometer race, in an expression of how much he fears losing his sister to cancer.

1:00 PM **Khumbu – Whispers of an Ancient Glacier** – Asia Premiere
dir: Théo Livet
5 min | France | 2025
In a poetic and intimate monologue, an ancient glacier speaks to us, sharing its story.

Saanjhakaa Rangaharu (Colors of Evening) – World Premiere
dir: Suraj Katuwal (In Person)
10 min | Nepal | 2024
An 11-year-old city boy sets out to buy alcohol for his father at the command of his mother.

The Thin Air Between – World Premiere
dir: Simon Hipkins
27 min | Portugal/ United Kingdom/ France/ Italy | 2025
A former pro cyclist embarks on a heart-pounding, visually breathtaking journey into the thin air between success and failure.

2:30 PM **Bandaidis** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Sushil Sapkota (In Person)
14 min | Nepal | 2026
A young boy works in a factory to support his impoverished family; the experience forces him to grow up fast.

Best Day Ever – Nepal Premiere
dir: Ben Knight/ Berne Broudy
48 min | United States | 2025
Mountain bikers Greg and Allie navigate disability and regain independence with humor, attitude, and grit on mountain bike trails that dismantle ableism and build community.

4:00 PM **기계의 나라에서 (In The Land of Machines)** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Kim Ok-young (In Person)
92 min | South Korea/ Nepal | 2025
Three Nepalese workers—Dilip, Jiwan, and Sunil—reclaim their integrity through poetry while documenting their struggles amidst unforgiving conditions as migrant workers in Korea.

6:30 PM **I Have Become a Rhododendron** – World Premiere
dir: Safal Pandey (In Person)
17 min 30 sec | Nepal | 2026
Maiya Devi Pandey, a 70-year-old Nepali woman and her grandson, bond over and discover each other through football.

Mokhsya – World Premiere
dir: Subarna Poudel (In Person)
51 min | Australia/ Nepal | 2025
In a post-apocalyptic future, humanity teeters on the brink of extinction as Karna, an immortal being, is tasked with locating a gemstone capable of shaping humanity's fate.

AUDI 1
28 May | THURSDAY

11:30 AM **A Thousand Words**
dir: Dom Bush/ Matt Sharman
57 min | United Kingdom/ Italy/ Nepal | 2025
Two filmmakers set out for Nepal to find the exact spot from where legendary mountaineer and photographer Vittorio Sella captured the first images of Mount Everest 125 years ago.

1:00 PM **छोरा जस्तै (Shape of Momo)**
dir: Tribeny Rai
114 min | India | 2025
Plagued by the deaths of male family members, Bishnu quits her job and returns to her Himalayan village where she must choose between conforming to tradition or claiming her independence.

3:30 PM **Alpine Alliances: New Wave of Nepali Cinema** | FREE EVENT
(Navigating world cinema and audiences through Swiss partnerships.)
Award-winning Nepali directors in conversation with International Film Programmer Deepthi DCunha.

6:00 PM **Light Through the Blindfold** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Alireza Kazempour
25 min | Canada | 2025
An Iranian-Canadian goalball athlete with only five percent vision, contemplates on what it truly means to see.

L'escalade du Future (The Future of Climbing)
dir: Guillaume Broust
52 min | France | 2025
Starring Swiss climber Cédric Lachat, this documentary film explores the evolution of climbing and the legacy left for future generations.

AUDI 2
29 May | FRIDAY

11:00 AM **Asha: Dreams In Motion – Screening & Panel** | FREE EVENT
Capturing the aspirations of young people across Nepal.
Presented by EU and UNICEF

1:30 PM **A Dance With Rainbows** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Yi-Shan Lee
122 min | Taiwan | 2025
A 20-year-old boxer, Ling, channels her inner turmoil into the ring, where hardship and training ignite a newfound self-belief.

4:00 PM **Lakhey** – World Premiere
dir: Veemsen Lama
15 min | Nepal | 2026
A reckless gambler must outrun fate, gambling his soul for one last chance to deliver his daughter's birthday cake.

Wiraz (The Dogleg)
dir: Piotr Szubra
25 min | Poland | 2025
Young motocross riders enjoy the summer in a Polish village until their idyll is violently disrupted by the return of the infamous Henryk.

My Mum is a Bodybuilder – World Premiere
dir: Prashanna Shakya (In Person)
30 min | Nepal | 2026
Two sons confront their inherited perception of gender, strength, and motherhood as they set out to film their mother's journey as she prepares for a national bodybuilding competition.

6:00 PM **Goodbye Sisters** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Alexander Murphy
90 min | Nepal/ France | 2026
Two Nepali sisters leave Kathmandu to harvest valuable yarsagumba in their mountain village in hope for a better future.

AUDI 1
29 May | FRIDAY

12:00 noon **Chalachitra Lab Pitch** | FREE EVENT
Live short fiction pitching event for projects incubated.

2:30 PM **Alpine Warriors**
dir: Stipe Bozic (In Person)
90 min | Croatia | 2026
A story about the successes of Slovenian mountaineering led by mountaineer and filmmaker Stipe Bozic, across the frozen, steepest, and most dangerous Himalayan peaks in the world.

4:30 PM **Loving Karma** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Johnny Burke/ Andrew Hinton
80 min | India/ United Kingdom/ United States | 2025
A heart-warming story about life and times in a home for wounded children in the Indian Himalayas and how pain can be transformed into love.

6:30 PM **Lutka (Doll)**
dir: Dalibor Matanic
15 min | Croatia | 2025
A father dresses his daughter like a doll and rents her out as a prostitute; one night will change the roles in their lives.

Mokshyam – Nepal Premiere
dir: Nibhaya Nakarmi (In Person)
15 min | Nepal | 2024
A businessman struggling to fix a deal for his startup while attending a temple ritual is stalked by a mysterious ascetic.

The Anti Expedition – Asia Premiere
dir: Elena Jean
40 min | Canada/ Nepal | 2025
Modern day adventurers question what it means to travel with respect, purpose, and humility in a world struggling to connect with what is still sacred.

AUDI 2
30 May | SATURDAY

11:00 AM **Redemption Song** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Ashim Khanal
17 min | Nepal/ United Kingdom | 2025
A former Gurkha soldier is losing his grip on reality as he lives in self-imposed isolation in the UK.

I Will Be Back with a Pen – World Premiere
dir: Deepali Shrestha (In Person)
22 min | Nepal | 2026
A meditative documentary about a forgotten railway project in eastern Nepal where stories linger in places shaped by memory and loss.

Echoes of the Night – Nepal Premiere
dir: Tamara Sangdow
24 min | Thailand/ United States | 2025
As she navigates long-buried emotions and unfamiliar roads, Neptune's journey takes a turn as she comes face-to-face with an unexpected encounter.

1:00 PM **ALI** – Nepal Premiere
dir: Adnan Al Rajeev
15 min | Bangladesh/ Philippines | 2025
Ali, 15, is a talented singer with a secret. His mother urges him to take part in a singing competition so they can migrate to the other side of the mountain.

Unreachables – World Premiere
dir: Samrat Khanal (In Person)
18 min | Nepal | 2026
Two young friends share a drink and reminisce about their past and ponder over their uncertain futures.

Luis' Letzte Reise (Luis' Last Journey) – Asia Premiere
dir: Alix von Melle/ Tom Bergsteiner
29 min | Austria/ Germany | 2025
A German mountaineer travels to Nepal to fulfill her husband's last wish - scatter his ashes on Dhaulagiri VII in the land of his dreams.