

KCCLA Launches Inaugural LA Korean Film Festival: New Waves, New Voices (Sept. 24–26)

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, September 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles (KCCLA) is proud to announce the launch of the inaugural Los Angeles Korean Film Festival: New Waves, New Voices, taking place from September 24 to 26, 2026, at the Harmony Gold Preview House and KCCLA.

Moving beyond commercial mainstream cinema, this landmark three-day event presents 19 groundbreaking Korean independent, art, and short films—many of which are making their North American premieres—to introduce new and artistic perspectives to Los Angeles audiences.

The festival will bring Korean filmmakers, actors, audiences and film professionals together in Los Angeles, fostering communication and exchange between the Korean and U.S. film industries.



Curated by programmer Kim Young-woo, the festival features three core program sections alongside guest visits (GVs), special program on AI and networking events.

The New Voice section showcases six contemporary independent and art films, headlined by the opening film *The World of Love* directed by Yoon Ga-eun. Notably, this celebrated title is the first Korean film ever selected for the Platform competition at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and a FIPRESCI Prize winner at the Warsaw International Film Festival (WIFF).

The Spotlight section highlights four signature films remembering the two legendary figures in Korean cinema: acclaimed genre director Kim Jee-woon and iconic actor Yoo Ji-tae (*Oldboy*), both of whom will attend the festival as special guests for in-person Q&A sessions.

Completing the main lineup, the Next Scene section presents seven award-winning short films in their North American premieres from the prestigious 2026 *Mise-en-scène* Short Film

Festival—Korea’s premier breeding ground for visionary genre filmmakers, whose alumni include director Na Hong-jin (Hope) and Jang Jae-hyun (Exhuma).

Expanding into modern cinematic frontiers, the festival will also host a special AI & Cinema program. This event explores the evolving role of artificial intelligence in the creative process through a panel discussion titled "Who Gets to Make a Movie? Cinema in the Age of AI" alongside screenings of two AI-crafted short films by graduates of the Korean Academy of Film Arts (KAFA).

Additionally, the festival will bring together visiting directors and actors, U.S. film industry professionals, and media guests for an exclusive Korean Cinema Night at the KCCLA.

KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said, “Los Angeles is a city where filmmakers and audiences from around the world come together. We hope this festival will add new and distinctive Korean voices and perspectives to that conversation and create opportunities for meaningful connection between the two film industries.”

The inaugural Los Angeles Korean Film Festival (LAKFF) is presented by the Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles, in collaboration with the Korean Film Council (KOFIC), King Sejong Institute Center, U.S., Mise-en-scène Short Film Festival and Korean American Leaders in Hollywood (KALH).

All festival screenings and programs are free and open to the public. Full program details, screening schedules and reservation information will be available through the KCCLA’s official website and social media channels. Audiences are encouraged to follow KCCLA’s channels for the latest festival updates.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

SCREENING SCHEDULE			
Korean Cultural Center LA			
Screening Timetable			
Korean Cultural Center LA			
	Thursday, Sep 24	Friday, Sep 25	Saturday, Sep 26
2:00 PM			
3:00 PM			2:30PM The World of Us
4:00 PM		3:30PM Yoo Ji-tae Fan Meet Up	GV Yoon Ga-eun
5:00 PM			
6:00 PM		6:00PM AI & Cinema Talk	
7:00 PM			
8:00 PM			
9:00 PM			
10:00 PM			
*Check-in begins 30 minutes before each screening			
*Tickets are limited. RSVP early.			

SCREENING SCHEDULE			
Harmony Gold Preview House			
Screening Timetable			
Harmony Gold Preview House			
	Thursday, Sep 24	Friday, Sep 25	Saturday, Sep 26
11:00 AM	11:00AM	11:00AM	11:30AM
12:00 PM	En Route To	Mise-en-scène Shorts 01 GV Wi Eun-kyung Son Gwang-min	Mise-en-scène Shorts 02
1:00 PM			
2:00 PM		1:30PM	1:30PM
3:00 PM		3670	The Fin GV Park Sye-young Goh Woo
4:00 PM			
5:00 PM		4:30PM	4:00PM
6:00 PM		Hana Korea	The Good, the Bad, the Weird
7:00 PM	6:00PM Opening Film The World of Love GV Yoon Ga-eun Seo Su-bin	7:00PM	7:00PM
8:00 PM		One Fine Spring Day GV Yoo Ji-tae	A Tale of Two Sisters GV Kim Jee-woon
9:00 PM			
10:00 PM			

2026 The 1st Los Angeles Korean Film Festival: New Waves, New Voices

Dates: September 24–26, 2026

Venues:

Harmony Gold Preview House

Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA)

Presented by: Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles

In collaboration with: Korean Film Council (KOFIC), King Sejong Institute Center, U.S., Mise-en-scène Short Film Festival, Korean American Leaders in Hollywood (KALH)

ABOUT KCCLA

The Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles (KCCLA) is a government agency under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea and serves as the cultural arm of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles. KCCLA promotes Korean culture and fosters cultural exchange between Korea and the United States through a diverse range of programs spanning traditional heritage and contemporary art, film, music, literature and other cultural expressions.

Website: <https://la.korean-culture.org/en>

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Guest participation, film lineup, schedule and program details are subject to change.

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