

September 19th, 2024
UNI JAPAN

The 5th Tokyo Gap-Financing Market welcomes 15 Projects + 5 Italian Focus Projects

for Financing and Project Development

Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2024 at TIFFCOM (Tokyo International Film Festival’s affiliated content market)

Many previously participating films have been highly acclaimed at festivals and cinemas around the world

TIFFCOM (an affiliated content market of the Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF)) will hold the 5th Tokyo Gap-Financing Market (TGFM) at TIFFCOM 2024, which will open at Tokyo Metropolitan Industrial Trade Center Hamamatsucho-Kan from October 30 to November 1, 2024. TGFM serves as a platform for selected feature-length film projects in the financing stage; TIFFCOM provides one-on-one meeting opportunities with industry professionals in order to support project development and financing. TGFM features film projects which have secured at least 60% of the entire budget and contain Asian elements.

This year's TGFM will spotlight projects from Italy in celebration of the call for entries for co-productions under the Italy-Japan Film Co-Production Agreement, which opened in August, 2024. Including these 5 projects specially-selected thanks to the Directorate General for Cinema and Audiovisual of the Italian Ministry of Culture and Cinecittà, 20 projects (14 live-action and 6 animation) in total will participate.

Projects by established producers and emerging directors from 24 countries/regions

Many projects by globally-proven producers teaming up with young directors were selected.

The projects include: Sompot Chidgasornpongse’s second feature **9 Temples to Heaven** produced by Cannes Palme d’Or winner **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**; Arvin Belarmino’s **Ria** co-produced by Alembert Ang, known as the co-producer for Chie Hayakawa’s **Plan 75**; new Mongolian director Juefang Zhang’s **Where the Mountain Women Sing**, teaming with international-film-festival-favorite producer Patrick Mao from **Tiger Stripes**, **Moneyboys**, **In the Belly of Tiger** and others; Jemima James’s **Cold Enough For Snow** based on the Australian best-selling novel, produced by Eve Gabereau, CEO of Modern Films, UK; and a variety of other projects.

From Japan, the selection includes: Japan-Taiwan-US co-production directed by **Tetsuya Mariko** of **From Miyamoto to You** and **Destruction Babies**; a project by director Masanori Tominaga from **Between the White Key and the Black Key** and **Dynamite Graffiti**; Naoko Watanabe’s first directorial project **The Moon Is Watching**, adapted from her father Junichi Watanabe’s famed novel. Also selected, as one of the projects from Italy, is the international co-production **Children of the River** directed by Lisa Takeba from **The Horse Thieves. Roads of Time**.

Other projects include: a project by Canada-based Vietnamese documentary director Quan Luong; a Thailand-Luxembourg-Singapore-Taiwan-US co-production by accomplished director **Pen-ek Ratanaruang** from **Last Life in the Universe** and other hit films; a project by director Vajiko Chachkhiani, the first TGFM participant from Georgia; and Jun Li’s Noir project by Hong Kong’s major production company mm2 Studios.

20 Selected Projects for the 5th Tokyo Gap-Financing Market (TGFM)

Project title (Country/Region), Director, Production Company

Feature Film – Fiction 11 projects

- **9 TEMPLES TO HEAVEN** (Thailand, Singapore, France) by Sompot Chidgasornpongse, Kick the Machine Films
- **BEFORE ANYONE ELSE** (Japan, Taiwan, USA) by Tetsuya Mariko, ROJI Film
- **COLD ENOUGH FOR SNOW** (UK, Japan, Australia) by Jemima James, Modern Films
- **CONTAINER** (Vietnam, Canada) by Quan Luong, Farpoint Films Inc. (Container Film Inc.)
- **THE DOG IS BARKING** (Georgia, Japan, Germany) by Vajiko Chachkhiani, Nushi Film, Fuga Films
- **THE MOON IS WATCHING** (Japan) by Naoko Watanabe, Dragonfly Entertainment, Inc.
- **MORTE CUCINA** (Thailand, Luxembourg, Singapore, Taiwan, USA) by Pen-ek Ratanaruang, 185 Films Company Limited (Thailand)
- **NUMBER 4 KILLER** (Hong Kong) by Jun Li, mm2 Studios Hong Kong Limited
- **RIA** (Philippines, Japan, Singapore) by Arvin Belarmino, WAF Studios
- **STRANGERS IN KYOTO** (Japan) by Masanori Tominaga, Tokyo Theatres Co., Ltd.
- **WHERE THE MOUNTAIN WOMEN SING** (Mongolia, Germany, Taiwan, Denmark) by Juefang Zhang, Flash Forward Entertainment, When Pigs Fly Films

Feature Film – Animation 4 projects

- **BATIK GIRL** (Malaysia) by Irwan Junaidy, The R&D Studio
- **THE DRIFTING ROOM** (China, Singapore) by Zhang Kang, AHAVVERSE PTE.LTD.
- **NIGHTLING** (Norway) by Rasmus A. Sivertsen, Qvisten Animation AS
- **WILDHEART** (France, Belgium) by Marceau Nakayama, Keytales

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Italian Projects – Fiction 3 projects

- *CHILDREN OF THE RIVER* (Japan, Italy) by Lisa Takeba, Antropica
- *DEATH HAS NO MASTER* (Venezuela, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg) by Jorge Thielen Armand, Volos Films Italia
- *POMPEI* (Italy) by Giuseppe Gaudino, Minerva Pictures

Italian Projects – Animation 2 projects

- *AIDA AND THE BREATH OF THE MOUNTAIN* (Italy, France) by Lorenzo Latrofa, La Sarraz Pictures
- *THE STATE OF SOULS* (Italy, France) by Peter Marcias, Movimento Film

What is Tokyo Gap-Financing Market (TGFM)?

TGFM is one of the initiatives by TIFFCOM, Asia's leading content market, to actively support projects that include Asian or Japanese elements as well as international co-productions. TGFM selects feature film projects in the fund-raising stage and provides one-on-one meeting opportunities during TIFFCOM with industry experts who are looking for projects to fund. This year will be the second on-site edition, after being held online during the pandemic for three years from the launch in 2020. The selected projects of TGFM, which aims to fill a gap in the total budget, are characterized by a high level of viability, in comparison with other similar project markets. For sponsors such as producers, sales agents, distributors, financiers, broadcasters and investors, TGFM is an excellent opportunity to find probable high-quality projects, which are carefully selected for TIFFCOM market professionals, from among projects which have already secured a certain amount of production budget. Many of the TGFM projects from 2020 to 2023 have been completed and received great acclaim at film festivals and theaters around the world. In recent years, an increasing number of Japanese projects have also participated in the search for influential international partners.

Successful projects from past events Year of TGFM participation, Title, County, Director, Year, Main Result

- 2023 *ELEVEN REBELS* (Japan) dir.Kazuya Shiraishi, Release in Japan in November 2024, **Tokyo International Film Festival (2024) Opening Film**
- 2022 *Sidonie in Japan* (Switzerland, Japan, Germany, France) dir. Élise Girard Venice International Film Festival(2023) Venice Days
- 2022 *Who were we?* (Japan) dir.Tetsuya Yomina, Tokyo International Film Festival (2023) competition
- 2022 *In the Belly of a Tiger* (India, USA, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Taiwan) dir. Siddhartha Jatla, Berlin International Film Festival (2024) Forum section
- 2021 *Winter in Sokcho* (France, Korea) dir.Koya Kamura, Toronto International Film Festival (2024), San Sebastián International Film Festival (2024)
- 2021 *ADABANA* (Japan, France) dir.Sayaka Kai, Release in Japan in October 2024
- 2021 *Electric Child* (Switzerland, Germany, Philippines) dir. Simon Jaquetmet, Locarno Film Festival (2024) Piazza Grande
- 2021 *The Shameless* (Switzerland, France, Bulgaria) dir. Konstantin Bojanov, Cannes Film Festival (2024), Un Certain Regard, Best Actress Award
- 2021 *All Shall Be Well* (Hong Kong, China) dir. Ray Yeung, Berlin International Film Festival (2024) Panorama Teddy Award
- 2021 *Schirkoa: In Lies We Trust* (France, Czech Republic, Slovakia) dir. Ishan Shukla, International Film Festival Rotterdam (2024)
- 2020 *Performing KAORU's Funeral* (Japan, Spain, Singapore) dir. Noriko Yuasa, Osaka Asian Film Festival (2024) Japan Cuts Award, Release in Japan in November 2024
- 2020 *SHAMBHALA* (Nepal, France, Norway, Turkey, Singapore, Hong Kong) dir. Min Bahadur Bham, Berlin International Film Festival (2024) Competition

< TIFFCOM / Tokyo Gap-Financing Market Outline >

- TIFFCOM 2024 <https://tiffcom.jp/en>
Dates: Oct.30(Wed)-Nov.1(Fri), 2024
Venue: Tokyo Metropolitan Industrial Trade Center HAMAMATSUCHO-KAN
Organizer: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) / Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) /UNI JAPAN
- Tokyo Gap-Financing Market (TGFM) in TIFFCOM2024 <https://tgfm.tiffcom.jp>
- ※TIFFCOM is the affiliated content market of the 37th Tokyo International Film Festival <https://2024.tiff-jp.net/en/> (October 28th – November 6th, 2024)

- TIFFCOM Press Contact -

- TIFFCOM PR Team press@tiffcom.jp *Currently, we are working remotely. Please email us for any inquiries.
- Download images related to TIFFCOM press releases <https://bit.ly/tiffcom2024pressdownload>

- Press Accreditation -

Press Registration for TIFFCOM has been integrated with the press pass for the Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) starting this year. By obtaining a TIFF press pass, you will also be accredited to cover TIFFCOM. (Please note that there will be no separate press accreditation for TIFFCOM.) All press members wishing to access the TIFFCOM venue are requested to apply for a Tokyo International Film Festival press pass.

For details, please visit https://bit.ly/tiffcom_press

- For inquiries regarding the press registration and application - Press Pass Management: tiff-press@tiff-jp.net
- For press inquiries about TIFFCOM (event, schedule, etc.) - TIFFCOM PR: press@tiffcom.jp