



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 14
20-23 MARCH 2024
WIDESPREAD IN VENEZIA

web: <http://cafoscarishort.unive.it> - *email:* cafoscarishort@unive.it

EAST ASIA NOW

During the fourteenth edition of the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival**, four short films will be presented during the special program **East Asia Now**, curated as usual by **Stefano Locati**. The short films, being the result of the work of four young directors from Japan, Myanmar, Singapore and the Philippines, present a multitude of themes - from friendship to loneliness, from guilt to a sense of displacement in modern society - united however by an intimate, almost metaphysical angle. The final judgement of the character's actions is left to the viewer, who accesses the conflicting emotions of the protagonists thanks to the immediacy of their representation in the short film format. This shortness though does not affect the depiction of the characters, who maintain their complexity and demonstrate the contradictions of the human soul.

PROGRAMME OF THE SELECTED WORKS:

TWO OF US by Kohei IGARASHI (Japan/France, 2023, 20')

At the end of a trip to an ocean resort, two childhood friends get into a fight, while one of their phones rings incessantly in the background. Igarashi, who has already participated at Locarno Film Festival with his work *Hold Your Breath Like a Lover* (2014), carries out an ode to friendship and disillusionment, with a deliberate style full of ellipses.

THE ALTAR by Moe Myat May ZARCHI (Myanmar, 2023, 11')

An experimental film that combines photography, animation and ambient sounds, in which the story takes the form of a Buddhist fairy tale about guilt, framed by an intimate and confessional style. The Burmese director Moe Myat May is also a visual artist who has been active in promoting experimental cinema in her country, with the organization of 3-Act Films.

BAGASI by Nelson YEO (Singapore/Indonesia, 2023, 15')

Composed with a melancholic style characterized by silences and full of surreal accents, this short film portrays the efforts of a woman dragging a heavy bag through suburban streets, stopping every so often. Yeo was the winner of Pardo d'oro - Cineasti del presente prize at Locarno Film Festival with *Dreaming & Dying* (2023).

PRIMETIME MOTHER by Sonny CALVENTO (Philippines, 2023, 15')

In this joyful and merciless satire about the entertainment society, the protagonist is a mother who has nothing to lose. She engages in an exhausting audition for a television program dedicated to

combative mothers. Sonny Calvento, director of the psychological thriller *The Decaying* (2017), is once again part of the East Asia Now selection after participating in 2021.