

Background

From Japan to Cambodia, a project proposal was established after joining an Open Draft – Asia Film programmers Lab 2nd edition in Tokyo 2025 organized by Japan Foundation as part of its comprehensive project “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0”, which aims to foster exchange and human resource development among the next generation in Japan and ASEAN countries.

An Open Draft – Asia Film programmers Lab is divided into 3 phases,

Phase 1 of this project includes workshops on organizing Japanese film screening programs, as well as network building with film professionals from Japan and ASEAN countries and conducting research on Japanese cinema.

Phase 2 of this project includes screenings and other events organized by participants from ASEAN countries to present the outcomes of Phase 1.

Phase 3, based on the experiences gained during the first and second phases, participants from Japan organize a screening program in Japan that includes works from Southeast Asia, accompanied by reports on their participation.

Overview

Cinema Adrift is a deeply resonant way to describe a cinema theatre that is currently navigating across time from the past to an uncertain future. Cinema is not just a place to watch movies, it is a vessel. Today, that vessel is unmoored. We find ourselves caught in between a century of tradition and a future that is moving faster than a frame rate of a projector. We see glimpses of AI-generated content, virtual reality, and 'day-and-date' digital releases. The uncertainty is not just about technology, it is about meaning. If a movie can be seen anywhere, what makes the 'Cinema' special? For cinema, that point is not the technology, it is the community. Theaters that survive will be the ones that act as 'curators' and 'hosts.' The future of a cinema is not just 'showing' a film, it is 'hosting' an experience that cannot be downloaded. Cinema Adrift is not a tragedy, it is an odyssey. We are in the middle of a great transition. The theater of the past is fading and the theater of the future is still being built. But as long as we still want to sit together in the dark to see the light, the ship will stay afloat.

Acknowledgement

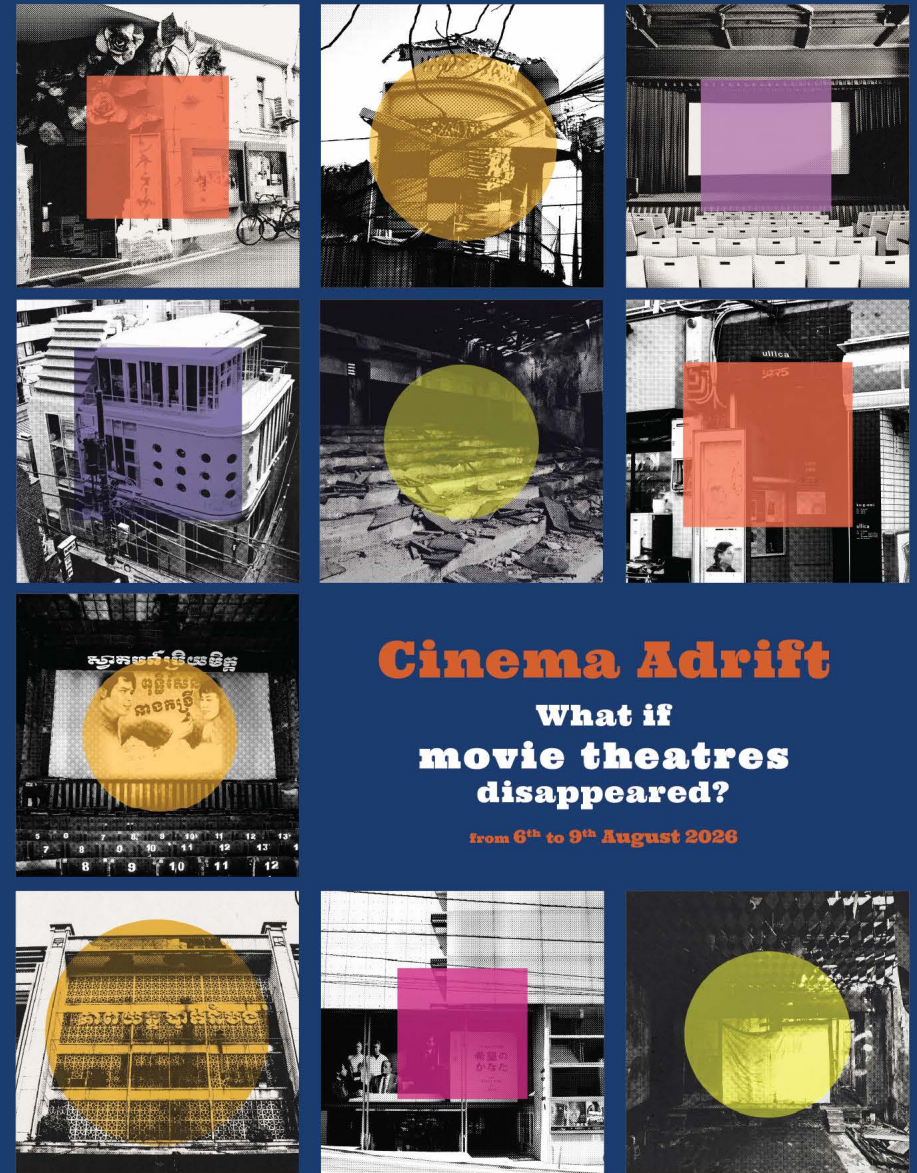
Programme Curator: Rochivorn THEN

Organizer: Japan Foundation, Phnom Penh Liason Office

Photo credit: Suong Ratha, Fujita Sayana, Rong Kon Project, Eurospace, Image Forum, Takada Sekaikan, Ciné nouveau, Cinema Onomichi, Cinema5

Partners: Institut français du Cambodge, Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center, Anti-Archive, Legend Cinema, PSE, DMC, Rong Kon Project, Cambodia Filmmaker Network

Scan for
more information:



Cinema Adrift

What if
movie theatres
disappeared?

from 6th to 9th August 2026

A Project under the Asia Film Programmers Lab 2025 of the Japan Foundation



rochivorn.then@ifcambodge.com



Cinema Adrift



Cine.Adrift

Partners »



Organizer



Programme

06/08/2026

18h00 IFC // Free entry

Photos exhibition from 6th to 9th August 2026

Welcome to a visual dialogue between two distinct yet deeply parallel cinematic worlds. This exhibition brings together 20 photographs 10 from Cambodia and 10 from Japan to explore the architecture, nostalgia, and cultural resilience of independent and historic movie theaters. Through the lens, these spaces transform from mere structures of concrete and wood into living monuments of community, art, and history.

19h00 IFC Cinema

Becoming Human

Discussion w/ Ly Polen



Director: POLEN LY
Year: 2025
Country: Cambodia
Category: Fiction
Runtime: 99 mins
Language: Khmer
Subtitle: English

07/08/2026

18h30 IFC Cinema

This Magic Moment

Discussion w/ Lim Kah Wai



Director: LIM KAH WAI
Year: 2023
Country: Japan
Cat: Documentary
Runtime: 90 mins
Language: Japanese
Subtitle: English

15h30 IFC Cinema

Your Lovely Smile

Discussion w/ Lim Kah Wai



Director: LIM KAH WAI
Year: 2022
Country: Japan
Category: Fiction
Runtime: 103 mins
Language: Japanese
Subtitle: English

08/08/2026

10h00 IFC Cinema

Cinematic Liars of Asahi-za

Director: YUKI TANADA
Year: 2021
Country: Japan
Category: Fiction
Runtime: 114 mins
Language: Japanese
Subtitle: English



13h00 IFC Cinema

Golden Slumbers

Discussion w/ Davy Chou



Director: DAVY CHOU
Year: 2011
Country: Cambodia
Cat: Documentary
Runtime: 96 mins
Language: Khmer
Subtitle: English

18h00 IFC // Free entry

Pannel Discussion

Lim Kah Wai, Davy Chou, Polen Ly,
Moderator : Fujita Sayana

Imagine a city where the lights dim, but the silver screen stays dark. Imagine a world where cinema is consumed purely in isolation fragmented across algorithms, laptop screens, and smartphones. We live in an era of unprecedented access to moving images, yet the physical spaces that birthed the art form face an existential question: What happens to culture, community, and the art of storytelling if the movie theater disappears?

09/08/2026

13h00 Legend Exchange Square

Filmlovers !

Director: Arnaud DESPLECHIN
Year: 2024
Country: France
Cat: Docufiction
Runtime: 88 mins
Language: French
Subtitle: English



15h00 Legend Exchange Square

The Burnt Theatre



Director: RITHY PANH
Year: 2005
Country: Cambodia
Category: Fiction
Runtime: 82 mins
Language: Khmer
Subtitle: English

"A movie theater is not just a building, it is a time machine, a collective dreamscape, and a sanctuary of celluloid memories."

Book your tickets via

IFC Cinema
N°218 street 184,
Phnom Penh



Legend Exchange Square
Ave 106, Phnom Penh

<https://www.legend.com.kh>