



NGILNGIG ASIAN FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL (NgAFFF) 2026

THEME: METAMORPHOSIS

October 24–28, 2026 | Davao City, Philippines

Festival Venues: Cinematheque Centre Davao • The Green House Cinema • The Commons, MTS

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Ngilngig Asian Fantastic Film Festival (NgAFFF) is a Davao-based film festival dedicated to genre cinema from the Philippines and across Asia. Named after *ngilngig*, a Bisaya term evoking the fantastic, magical, eerie, and macabre, the festival draws inspiration from Asia's rich traditions of horror, folklore, myths, legends, and the supernatural.

Organized by Pasalidahay, Inc., a collective of Davao filmmakers and film enthusiasts, NgAFFF champions regional cinema, nurtures diverse creative voices, and explores how film can preserve, transform, and reimagine cultural narratives. Through bold and imaginative storytelling, the festival fosters cross-cultural exchange and expands the possibilities of fantastic cinema in the Philippines and beyond.

THE 2026 THEME: METAMORPHOSIS

Now in its 10th edition, the Ngilngig Asian Fantastic Film Festival celebrates a decade of festival editions of Asian *ngilngig* and fantastic cinema with the theme **Metamorphosis**. From intimate regional voices to cross-cultural encounters, the festival explores how stories transform our understanding of ourselves and the "Other."

Through shifting identities, altered realities, and evolving cultural perspectives, NgAFFF 2026 invites audiences to venture beyond the familiar and discover cinema's power to challenge conventions, reimagine worlds, and reveal new possibilities.

PRE-FESTIVAL (Oct 19 - 22)

The **Ngilngig Film Camp 2026** is a four-day learning platform for aspiring filmmakers and storytellers to develop their ideas, deepen their understanding of cinema, and explore their creative potential. The camp features mentors Sherad Anthony Sanchez, Joshua Caesar "Wowa" Medroso, and Dodo Dayao, whose works have helped shape and push the boundaries of Philippine genre and fantastic cinema. Through mentorship, hands-on learning, and creative exchange, participants can connect with fellow filmmakers, gain insights from established practitioners, and discover new possibilities for their own filmmaking journeys.



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS (Oct 24 - 28)

This year's short film selection brings together **50 new works from the Philippines and across Asia**, showcasing diverse stories and creative perspectives. Philippine entries come from various regions and cities, including Ilocos, Quezon City, Marikina, Batangas, Leyte, Sagay, Cebu, Butuan, and Davao, while the Asian selections feature films from Cambodia, Nepal, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and other countries across the region. Together, these films reflect the richness of Asian cultures and the many ways filmmakers explore the fantastic through distinct experiences, traditions, and cinematic visions.

Feature Films and Special Premieres (Oct 24 - 28)

The feature film program presents a selection of contemporary Asian cinema, including the Asian premiere of *I Grew an Inch When My Father Died*, a film by a filmmaker from Leyte; *Stinker (Sasyq)*, the debut feature of a filmmaker from Kazakhstan; the Philippine premiere of Vietnam's *Antithesis of Gemini*; the Philippine premiere of *The Curse*, a Japan–Taiwan production; and the Mindanao premiere of *The Mothering (Mag-iina)*, an award-winning film from the recently concluded Cinemalaya 2026.

Learning, Dialogue, and Community (Oct 25 - 26)

NgAFF fosters learning and collaboration through a cinematography workshop led by Neil Daza, LPS, and a film industry talk titled "Tambayayong: Imagineering a Sustainable Film Ecosystem." These activities bring filmmakers and members of the creative community together to exchange knowledge, explore industry challenges, and imagine more sustainable futures for Philippine cinema.

Work-in-Progress (WIP) Night (Oct 27)

WIP Night provides a space for filmmakers to share projects while they are still taking shape. It invites participants to present their work, exchange ideas with fellow filmmakers and practitioners, and build connections that may help move their projects forward. By encouraging creative exchange and collaboration, WIP Night supports the development of new stories and strengthens the independent filmmaking community.

Closing and Awards (Oct 28)

The five-day festival culminates on October 28, 2026, with a closing reception and awards ceremony celebrating the filmmakers and films featured in this year's edition.

CONTACT

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