

**Nippon Connection – 25th Japanese Film Festival
May 27 – June 1, 2025, Frankfurt am Main / Germany**

Festival Regulations

Article I

The Nippon Connection Film Festival is the largest showcase of Japanese film worldwide and takes place in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The festival's aim is to contribute to the development and promotion of Japanese film culture and it presents the whole range of Japanese cinema: blockbusters, dramas, animation and experimental films, documentaries as well as short films. Nippon Connection gives special attention to young and innovative talents and independent productions.

Article II

The festival is organized by the non-profit organization Nippon Connection e.V., Schwedlerstr. 1-5, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and takes place for the 25th time at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Produktionshaus NAXOS, DFF – Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum, Eldorado Arthouse Cinema and other venues in Frankfurt am Main from May 27 to June 1, 2025.

Article III

The program is divided into seven sections: NIPPON CINEMA, NIPPON VISIONS, NIPPON DOCS, NIPPON ANIMATION, NIPPON RETRO, NIPPON KIDS and NIPPON CULTURE. All films are selected by the festival program committee. Not all selected films take part in the competitions. Accepted entries are short and feature films as well as documentaries, experimental films, music videos and TV series.

Accepted screening formats are: DCP, Blu-ray and mp4. The films must have English or German subtitles or be dubbed in English or German. The festival prefers unencrypted DCPs. If only an encrypted DCP can be provided, the KDM must be valid from May 19 to June 2, 2025 in order to test the film on the cinema servers.

The submission deadline is February 1, 2025. There is no submission fee. The online entry form is available at NipponConnection.com and must be completed in Romaji (with the title and name of the director in Kanji/Kana and Romaji). Submission requires the rights holder's consent. The selection process will be completed by April 11, 2025, at the latest.

Article IV

The festival hosts five competitions with the following awards:

The NIPPON CINEMA AWARD is endowed with EUR 4,000 (courtesy of Bankhaus Metzler) and determined by audience vote. The director of the film is the recipient of the award.

Films competing for the NIPPON CINEMA AWARD must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) Have at least a German premiere at the festival
- 3) Be at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) Produced in 2024 or 2025

All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON CINEMA AWARD are shown in the NIPPON CINEMA section.

The NIPPON VISIONS JURY AWARD is granted by an international jury. The jury is named by the festival organization and consists of three members. The director of the film is the recipient of the award. The director will be granted an English subtitling for their next film (courtesy of Japan Visualmedia Translation Academy), provided it is produced in Japan and primarily in the Japanese language. The jury may give a special mention to one other film.

Films competing for the NIPPON VISIONS JURY AWARD must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) Have at least a German premiere at the festival
- 3) Be at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) Produced in 2024 or 2025

All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON VISIONS JURY AWARD are shown in the NIPPON VISIONS section.

The NIPPON VISIONS AUDIENCE AWARD is endowed with EUR 2,000 (courtesy of Japanisches Kultur- und Sprachzentrum Frankfurt am Main) and determined by audience vote. The director of the film is the recipient of the award.

Films competing for the NIPPON VISIONS AUDIENCE AWARD must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) Have at least a German premiere at the festival
- 3) Be at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) Produced in 2024 or 2025

All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON VISIONS AUDIENCE AWARD are shown in the NIPPON VISIONS section.

The NIPPON STORYTELLING AWARD for the best screenplay in the NIPPON VISIONS section is endowed with EUR 1,000 (courtesy of Storymaker Agentur für Public Relations) and granted by the NIPPON VISIONS jury. The screenwriter of the film is the recipient of the award.

All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON STORYTELLING AWARD must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) Have at least a German premiere at the festival
- 3) Be at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) Produced in 2024 or 2025

All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON STORYTELLING AWARD are shown in the NIPPON VISIONS section.

The NIPPON DOCS AWARD is endowed with EUR 2,000 (courtesy of Nippon Connection e.V.) and determined by audience vote. The director of the film is the recipient of the award.

All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON DOCS AWARD must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) Have at least a German premiere at the festival
- 3) Be at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) Produced in 2023, 2024 or 2025

All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON DOCS AWARD are shown in the NIPPON DOCS section.

The winners of all awards will be announced at the award ceremony held on June 1, 2025.

Please note that the festival's program committee will make the final selection of films participating in the competitions.

Article V

Submitted films that do not comply with the award regulations will also be accepted but do not take part in the competitions. The festival program and all screening schedules are decided by the festival's program committee. The festival organization reserves its right to decide the section in which the film participates. There are no legal rights to participate either in the festival program or in one of the competitions.

Article VI

For sustainability reasons, all digital screening formats (DCP, mp4) should be transferred online. The festival's preferred platform is filmfetch.net. In exceptional cases, files can also be transferred via other cloud systems or on a hard disk by mail.

The costs for shipping Blu-rays, analog film copies and hard disks to Frankfurt will be covered by Nippon Connection. Return costs must be covered by the next festival. If the material is to be returned directly to the distribution company or the rights holder, Nippon Connection will cover the costs. Nippon Connection will ensure that Blu-rays, hard drives and analog prints are insured from their arrival at the festival until their return.

IMPORTANT: All materials sent by mail from non-EU member states must be clearly marked with a customs declaration stating the following: 'For cultural purposes only. No commercial value.' They must be accompanied by a proforma invoice stating a value of no more than USD 15.

Press materials, including EPKs, trailers, stills, synopses, and credits required for promotional purposes, must be provided by the specified deadline following confirmed participation. The festival reserves the right to use a short excerpt (up to 3 minutes) of the film for promotional purposes without prior notice.

Article VII

The submission to the festival includes the acceptance of these regulations.

Article VIII

The festival director reserves her right to make decisions in unclear cases.