

Rhythm Japan and Powderlife Join Forces To Announce The Return Of The Niseko Film Festival



IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Niseko, [2025/03/03] -

NISEKO, Hokkaido – [The Niseko Film Festival](#) returns this spring, transforming Park Hyatt Niseko Hanazono Event Village into a one-night showcase of local short films.

And the kicker – a **¥500,000 cash grand prize** on the line for filmmakers, and guest-raffle prizes including a stay at the Park Hyatt Niseko or a Gentemstick snowboard.

A highlight of **Niseko's spring calendar**, the festival brings together filmmakers, locals, and visitors for an evening of screenings, awards, and celebration.

It also adds to Niseko's growing cultural scene, giving independent filmmakers a stage to share their work in front of a live and online audience.

"Taking inspiration from mountain storytelling showcases like Sundance and Banff, we're calling for creative short films that entertain, teach us something new, make us laugh... or maybe even bring a tear to the eye," said Powderlife Magazine Managing Editor, Kristian Lund.

"The festival was born out of winter, but we want it to be about more than skiing and

snowboarding – we want films that make us think and feel, and add a new layer to the history of Niseko year round.”

General Manager of Park Hyatt Niseko Paul Wright said they were thrilled to welcome the Niseko Film Festival in 2026.

“The festival continues to evolve as a dynamic platform for creativity, community connection, and global storytelling, all inspired by the spirit and beauty of Niseko, Hokkaido.”

This year’s judging panel includes Olympic Gold Medallist Torah Bright; Gentemstick snowboard founder Taro Tamai; and other local identities Paul Wright, Kentaro Hoshi, Matt Hampton, Winse Heyward, Aaron Jamieson, and Ryunosuke Tanaka.

[Submissions are open worldwide for original shorts up to 5 minutes featuring footage shot in Hokkaido.](#)

Free entry to submit is open now through March 18, 2026.

FAQ

Entry Fee: ¥1,000 including 1 free drink + 1 raffle ticket

[BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW – LIMITED AVAILABILITY](#)

Date & Time: Sunday, March 29, 2026

- Doors open 4:30pm with taiko drum performance and live set from Daniel Park before film screenings
- Film screenings begin at 6:00pm followed by awards presentation and celebration through to 9:30pm

Location:

- [Park Hyatt Niseko Hanazono Event Village](#)

Community Experience:

- Guests can enjoy a variety of delicious food and beverages at affordable prices
- Complimentary shuttle service from Kutchan and Hirafu for a smooth and convenient evening

Prizes & Giveaways:

- ¥500,000 cash grand prize
- Guests have the chance to win raffle prizes including a 2-night stay at Park Hyatt Niseko Hanazono or one of its partner properties, a Gentemstick snowboard, and more.

Submission Details:

- Filmmakers around the world can submit original short films (up to 5 minutes) that include footage shot within Hokkaido.
- Registration is free and open now through March 18, 2026.
- More details [HERE](#).

About Niseko Film Festival:

Founded as part of the Niseko Shootout photography and film series, the Niseko Film Festival has grown into one of the region's premier cultural events and brings together film, adventure, and community in a vibrant spring celebration at Park Hyatt Niseko Hanazono.

In 2026, Powderlife and Rhythm Japan joined forces to further elevate the festival, strengthening its position as a signature spring event and enhancing Niseko's appeal as a dynamic, year-round destination.

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