

Niseko Film Festival 2026 Concludes with Record Participation and Strong Community Turnout



IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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NISEKO, Hokkaido – 2026 Niseko Film Festival successfully concluded this season on Sunday, March 29th at Park Hyatt Niseko Hanazono, marking a milestone year with record participation and its first-ever ticketed event.

This year, the festival received an unprecedented 35 film submissions, with 23 films selected and screened, showcasing a diverse range of storytelling across adventure, culture, and independent cinema.

Filmmakers from across the globe were represented, including Japan, Australia, the UK, Czech Republic, Spain, France, South Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Hong Kong, China, Argentina, Austria, Canada, and the United States. It highlights the festival's growing international reach.

The 2026 judge panel featured an esteemed group of industry professionals: Paul Wright, Torah Bright, Kentaro Hoshi, Aaron Jamieson, Winse Heyward, Eric Pollard, Ryunosuke Tanaka, Taro Tamai, and Matt Hampton.

Drawing strong community interest, the festival welcomed approximately 850 attendees,

underscoring Niseko's emergence as a cultural hub beyond its world-renowned winter sports scene.

The event also featured a highly anticipated raffle draw, with prizes including a two-night stay at Park Hyatt hotels, a Gentemstick snowboard, and Armada x Rhythm Japan 20th anniversary limited-edition skis, among others, offering attendees the chance to win exclusive items from festival partners and sending a buzz through the crowd.

This year also marked a significant step forward for the festival, as it introduced **ticketed entry for the first time**, reflecting both increased demand and the continued growth of the event.

"We're incredibly proud of how the festival has evolved this year," said Acme Wu, one of the founders of Niseko Film Festival. "The level of submissions, audience turnout, and overall energy exceeded expectations, and it's exciting to see the community and interest continue to grow."

Beyond the screenings, the festival created a vibrant atmosphere for filmmakers, residents, and visitors to connect and celebrate the season and the community in the unique alpine setting of Niseko.

Building on this year's success, the Niseko Film Festival looks ahead to future editions with plans to expand programming and further support emerging filmmakers.

The 2026 Niseko Film Festival is proudly presented by Powderlife, Rhythm Japan, Park Hyatt Niseko and JetSet.

All submitted films are available to watch via Niseko Shootout YouTube.

Follow Niseko Shootout on Facebook & Instagram for the latest updates.

For more information and future updates, please visit: <https://www.nisekoshootout.org/>

Award Winners:

1st Place: Noah Regan - *The Salary Man*

2nd Place: Dylan Robinson - *Shirokuro*

3rd Place: Noah Eldridge - *Graubuden*

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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Press Contact

Alex Callan

alex.c@rhythmjapan.com

General Inquiries

info@rhythmjapan.com

+070 4193 3164 (JP)

+61 0 8002 0164 (AU)