



**TAIWAN
DOCUMENTARY
FILM FESTIVAL
2020**

**EUROPEAN RESEARCH CENTER
ON CONTEMPORARY TAIWAN**

WATCH ONLINE FROM NOVEMBER 13-22.

**A TAIWAN FILM FESTIVAL
IN THE CORONA ERA
HOW DOES IT WORK?**

**13-22. November
The Films**

With COVID-19 cases rising across Europe, this year's Taiwan Documentary Film Festival will be entirely online. The films will be free to access between the 13. and 22. November for those who register via the Eventbrite link on the ERCCT website.

16. November

"Space, Time, and Indigeneity in Contemporary Taiwanese Documentary Film"

Professor Karim Friedman from the National Dong Hwa University in Taiwan will be giving a presentation on time and indigeneity in contemporary Taiwanese documentary film.

20. November

Q&A with Director Pilin Yapu

As well as access to the movies, we have also arranged for Director Pilin Yapu to discuss both his Atayal heritage and how it has impacted his work.

Register via the ERCCT website.

**WHERE HAS THE LAND GONE?
(PILIN YABU, 1997, 34 MIN.)
比令·亞布 《土地到哪裡去了》**

Mabanan is an Atayal settlement in Miaoli County, where the filmmaker was born.

During the Japanese colonial rule of Taiwan, most of the indigenous community's land was seized and registered as state-owned forest. Later, the Kuomintang (KMT) government imposed even more restrictions on the use of the land. How would the Mabanan community reclaim their homeland when the government still refused to recognise proof of residence of their ancestors?

**THE STORIES OF THE RAINBOW
(PILIN YABU, 1998, 55 MIN.)
比令·亞布 《彩虹的故事》**

In the legends of the Atayal people, it is said that the souls of the dead use rainbows to travel to heaven. However, there is no way through the rainbow for a person without facial tattoos, which are examined by the souls of their forefathers.

This documentary film asks Atayal elders, who tattoo their faces in preparation, what they think of this practice. Visiting various tribes, the director portrays the elders' everyday life in the mountains and shows how deeply they long for lost family members, friends and their homeland, as well as their feelings about their own impending journey towards the rainbow.

THE MOUNTAIN
(SU HUNG-EN, 2015, 73 MIN.)
蘇弘恩 《靈山》

In his first full-length documentary film, Su Hung-En, who himself is of half-aboriginal and half-Han-Taiwanese descent, tells the life story of his maternal grandfather Teymu Teylong. A hunter from the Truku-Tribe in Hualien, he relates how he grew up, married, had children and worked to earn a living for his family as a farmer, later in a deep-sea fishing crew and then in construction.

The narrative is interwoven with documents and footage from Taiwan's 20th century experience of colonization and decolonization. With quietly elegant photography, Su follows his grandfather through his daily life in the mountain village and surrounding forests to show the conditions and difficulties of present-day aboriginal life in Taiwan.

COMING HOME
(HUANG SHU-MEI, 2018, 99 MIN.)
黃淑梅 《回家》

"Coming Home", directed by Shu-Mei Huang, is about a group of middle-aged Paiwan and Rukai aborigines in Pingtung County, and their effort to deal with the gradual disappearance of indigenous culture and how they seek to hand this culture down to the next generations.

The film reminds its audience of the importance of cultural preservation in education and captures these young adults' passion and love for their homeland.

GUEST DIRECTOR PILIN YABU (比令·亞布)

From his early childhood, when he grew up in the tribal village of Mapihaw in Miaoli County, Pilin Yabu was deeply influenced by the teachings in traditional cultural of his maternal grandfather and from the Atayal ethos of the forefathers to the hunters' wisdom, he inherited the cultural thinking of his tribe, exactly as he claims "I am Atayal". But following the impact of the educational system of mainstream society, he returned to his tribe in the early 1990s and from then on continuously engaged in cultural revitalization and documentary filmmaking.

He founded the Atayal Beishi-Community Cultural Studio together with Baunay Watan and Yuma Taru in order to do research into the cultural history of the tribe and to pass on traditional weaving techniques, and he took part in the Training Project for Local Documentary Film Makers, from where his career in documentary film making unfolded. He uses documentary films to change and promote social movements, and tours over 300 villages in Taiwan with his work on Atayal ancestral sacrifices, thereby prompting many tribes to revive their own ceremonial traditions.

Today, besides working as documentary film maker and aboriginal activist, Pilin Yabu is founder and headmaster of the P'uma-Indigenous-Experimental Primary School, the first of its kind in Taiwan.

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