



KINO
AUROVILLE

16th - 23rd December

15th - 17th December

Presskit

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About the festival

The Auroville Film Festival (AVFF), Auroville's biennial film event, is ready with its fifth edition, starting December 16, 2017. The festival, which concludes on December 23, will coincide with the 50th anniversary celebrations of Auroville, which falls on 28 February 2018. Like previous editions, AVFF '17 will focus on themes of human unity, and will feature films across four categories – films by residents of Auroville and the bio-region; films about Auroville and the bio-region; films by students of Auroville and the bio-region; and international films that develop the theme of human unity.

The coming edition will feature more than 60 films by Aurovilians, 25 films about Auroville, 20 films by students around Auroville and the bio-region, and around 50 hours of films that tackle themes related to human unity. The jury will include such eminent figures as Nora Bateson, award-winning

filmmaker, educationist and president of the International Bateson Institute, Sweden, and Aravindan GP, cinematographer from the bio-region.

The AVFF aims to showcase films that attempt to foster a deeper understanding of the aspirations of Auroville through a creative engagement with the medium of cinema, as well as turning film-viewing from a passive activity into an intimate dialogue between artist and audience. The festival will screen films that reflect the creative, experimental and spiritual research Auroville is dedicated to.

The event is a project of the MMC/CP (Multimedia Centre/Cinema Paradiso), which holds daily screenings of films from around the world at the MMC auditorium, a 124-seater, state-of-the-art facility in the Town Hall area of Auroville.





History and Goals

The Auroville Film Festival was launched as a biennial event in September 2009, with support from Stichting de Zaaier and a number of units and individuals in Auroville. The opening edition drew a phenomenal response with 117 films being screened, and the success was repeated in the three editions that followed. The screenings were held at three venues (one of them outdoor) and were complemented by outdoor music performances, discussions, art installations and poster exhibitions.

With anywhere close to ten films screened a week, film-viewing is very much a part of the cultural life of Auroville. But what makes AVFF unique from other festivals is that the participants are very often indistinguishable from the audience – they are one and the same. What you have, therefore, is not an event where audiences passively watch films made by auteurs from distant lands, but one where people collaborate, create and share their films within the community.

The proliferation of digital cameras and the constantly improving quality of smartphone cameras have made it possible for just about

anyone to make their own movie, and part of the goals of the AVFF is to showcase and encourage local talent in this field.

The importance of festivals in our day can never be overstated, especially in the way they contribute to local vitality and stimulate cultural development. The outdoor screenings and performances and the crowds they drew further testify to the power of outdoor arts to bring together audiences that might otherwise not take the trouble to attend art events.

Every edition of the Auroville Film Festival has been organised with the following principles, otherwise called the five Es – Entertain, Educate, Enliven, Elevate and Enrapture. Through these principles, the festival aims to bring people and cultures together within Auroville and beyond, thereby furthering the aspiration of human unity.

With the fifth edition of the AVFF, by far the biggest in terms of scale, the experience promises to be one that goes beyond film-viewing, turning into a truly fulfilling cultural experience.

Event Categories

Films by residents of Auroville/bio-region

Made with local participation, the films in this category form a mosaic depicting Auroville as it appears to people in it and around the bio-region, besides bringing together the local creative community in an exchange of ideas and stories.



Films that develop the theme of human unity

This segment features a selection of international short and feature-length films that dwell upon themes of human unity and values similar to that of Auroville, accompanied by discussions that further elaborate on these themes.



Films by students of Auroville/bio-region

As a way to spot and nurture upcoming talent, films by local students are featured in this category, alongside which various educational outreach programmes are held.

Films made about Auroville and the bio-region

How does the world look at Auroville? This selection of films by visiting filmmakers about Auroville and the bio-region, its various projects, people and undertakings brings home the image of Auroville as it appears to the world outside.

Running alongside the AVFF are a host of other events adding to the cultural variety:

Art installations and Live Music

by artists residing in Auroville

Panel discussions

on the role of cinema in developing human unity

Poster exhibitions

where posters of the participating films will be displayed

Exhibition of paintings

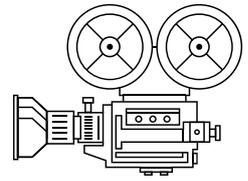
by Dominique Jacques, featuring postage stamp designs commemorating 50 years of Auroville

The Auroville Food Festival

which represents Auroville's seamless blend of multiple cultures through their respective cuisines.

Kino Kabaret

A filmmaking challenge, where participants write, shoot, edit and present a film within 48 hours. The Auroville Kino Kabaret has generously stretched the time limit to 50 hours as an ode to the 50th anniversary celebrations of Auroville.



Kino Kabaret in Auroville

After a successful trial run in September, the Auroville Film Festival (AVFF) and the Multimedia Centre Auditorium in Auroville are organising another Kino Kabaret in December, as part of the fifth edition of the AVFF.

The Kino movement began in Canada in 1999, where participants would gather once every month to screen short films made using the barest of technical or financial resources. There are over **60 Kino cells** operating worldwide, and Kino Auroville is proud to be part of it. Kino Kabarets are events where invited artists collaborate to create films. The Kino Kabaret in Auroville is open to just about anyone who dreams of making a film. Filmmakers from other Kino cells are warmly invited to participate.

The Kino Kabaret will begin at **4pm on December 15th** and end at **6pm on December 17th** (50 hours). The results will be screened at the **Multimedia Centre Auditorium** in Auroville on **December 17th** as part of the festival.

Participation in the Kino Kabaret is free of charge and open to anyone. Those interested can register by emailing kino@auroville.org.in with the subject line '**Registration for Kino Kabaret**' and with the following information:—

- Name
- Phone number
- Area of interest (direction, camera, editing, sound, acting, etc.).

Participants are invited to bring equipment they have.

kino@auroville.org.in



Auroville Food Festival

Auroville is gearing up for its 50th anniversary, and as a prelude to the occasion – which falls in February 28, 2018 – is the first edition of the Auroville Food Festival. The event will bring together several traditional cuisines from across the world.

Running from December 16 to 23 in collaboration with the Auroville Film Festival, the event is organised by Anveshan, a centre for experiential learning, along with the Auroville community at large. The festival intends to reflect how Auroville has assimilated people from multiple cultures, and each day of the event will celebrate the cuisine of a particular region. Apart from the rich variety of cuisine in India, the Auroville Food Festival will feature the culinary traditions of Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, and one day will be devoted exclusively to vegan food. The food service will reflect the spirit of Auroville and the intent is not to make profit, but to bring together the widely diverse Auroville community and showcase the food habits of their respective cultures. The event will be held at the Town Hall area, outside the Multimedia Centre Auditorium, and separate stalls will be set up for the purpose.

Detailed programs available online.

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