KILIFI CREEK FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH 92 FILMS, OSCAR CONTENDERS AND A NEW VR VILLAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23rd -31st October 2026, Kilifi Creek, Kenya

KILIFI, KENYA - 8th October 2026

Kilifi Creek Festival (KCF) returns for its second edition from **23–31 October 2026**, bringing nine days of film, art, music and industry conversations to the Kenyan coast.

The festival received **260 film submissions from more than 50 countries**, and the 2026 programme will feature **92 films**, spanning shorts, features, experimental and immersive works. **38 films will compete across 17 award categories** where there will win cash awards supported by various local and international organisations.

The programme brings together African and international cinema, including ***Variations on a Theme***, South Africa's official submission for the 99th Academy Awards and winner of the Tiger Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, and ***One Woman One Bra*** by Vincho Nchogu, Kenya's 2026 Oscar submission. The festival opens with ***Tides***, directed by Reuben Odanga - starring Sarah Hassan.

A new **VR Village** will introduce audiences to virtual reality and immersive cinema, while the wider programme includes masterclasses, panels, workshops, filmmaker conversations, live music and theatre performances and networking sessions.

KCF's industry programme brings together filmmakers, emerging creatives, funders, journalists and cultural organisations for conversations exploring filmmaking, funding and distribution, the relationship between film and journalism, social impact and activism, AI and technology, women in film, equitable co-production, music and film, and queer stories and belonging.

The festival unfolds across **17 venues along Kilifi Creek**, with The Terrace Art Space as its headquarters, bringing screenings, industry sessions, live performances and cultural experiences from *Silent Cinema* on dhows to live braiding and henna - inviting audiences to experience film, culture and community beyond the screen.

KCF is co-founded by **Zippy Kimundu, Mumo Liku and Saitabao Kaiyare**, and has grown from a monthly African film screening programme into a platform connecting audiences, filmmakers and creative communities on the Kenyan coast.

'As filmmakers and co-founders of Kilifi Creek Festival, we are deeply invested in expanding the culture and access to cinema beyond the traditional centers, bringing exceptional international films to Kilifi while creating a space where African cinema, filmmakers and stories can take centre stage. We are grateful to the growing network of partners who share our commitment to promoting the arts and creative industries and have joined us in building a festival that connects Kilifi to the wider world through cinema, while creating meaningful opportunities for filmmakers, artists and audiences.'

Saitabao Kaiyare – Co-Founder

KCF 2026 AT A GLANCE

23–31 October 2026, Kilifi Creek, Kenya
92 films
260 submissions from 50+ countries
38 films in competition
17 award categories
17 locations
New VR Village
Film, industry, arts and cultural programming

Opening film: *Tides* — Reuben Odanga – Starring Sarah Hassan, ***Tides***, is a coastal musical drama rooted in love, family and the rich musical traditions of the Kenyan coast.
Closing film: *One Woman One Bra* - Vincho Nchogu - Kenya's 2026 Oscar Submission and Tribeca Film Festival Award winner
International film highlight: *Variations on a Theme* — South Africa's 2026 Oscar submission and Rotterdam Tiger Award winner

Cash awards supported by: -
African Film Press(AFP) - *Best African short film*
International Documentary Association (IDA) - *Best documentary short and feature*
Chicken and Egg Films - *Best film by an African Woman*
Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands - *KCF social Impact Award (short and feature)*
Global Girl Media -*Best emerging filmmaker*

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Media Resources; Films in Competition and highlights , Jury, Partners , Venues & Map , Industry Programme , Press Photos , Video & B-roll , Media Accreditation

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