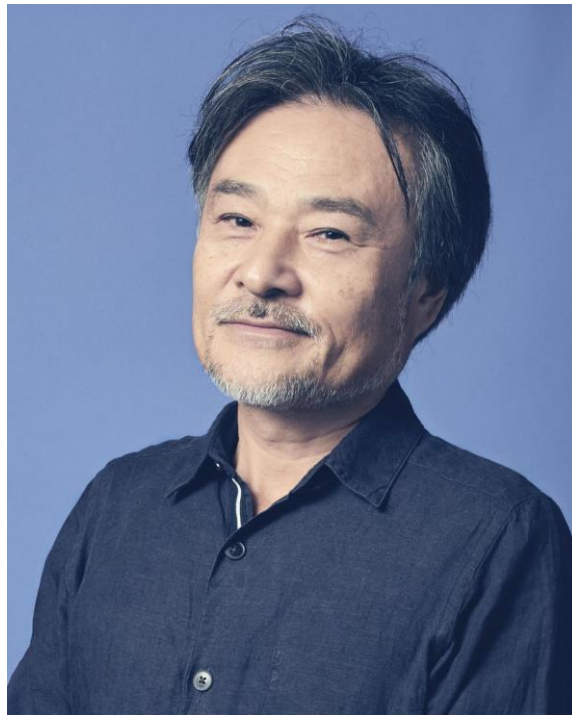




Kiyoshi Kurosawa (*Cure*, *Pulse*, *Cloud*) Guest of Honour at the Imagine Fantastic Film Festival 2026



Legendary Japanese director to receive the Imagine Career Achievement Award and be honoured with an extensive retrospective during the 42nd edition

Japanese director Kiyoshi Kurosawa is this year's guest of honour at the Imagine Fantastic Film Festival, which takes place in Amsterdam from 29 October to 8 November 2026. The director of films including *Cure*, *Pulse* and *Cloud* will receive the Imagine Career Achievement Award during the festival in recognition of his exceptional contribution to fantasy cinema. Imagine will also be presenting a special programme dedicated to Kurosawa, featuring his latest film *The Samurai and the Prisoner* and a selection of films from various stages of his multifaceted career. Kurosawa will be available for interviews and a press conference in Amsterdam from 29 October to 2 November.

Kurosawa is regarded as one of the most important contemporary Japanese filmmakers. He gained international renown for his unsettling psychological horror

films, but for decades he has moved effortlessly between genres such as thriller, drama, fantasy, science fiction and horror. In doing so, he delights in blurring the boundaries between these genres and between reality and imagination. His films are characterised by an eerie atmosphere, ambiguous narratives and characters who grapple with feelings of alienation, meaning and connection.

Kiyoshi Kurosawa was born on 19 July 1955 and studied sociology in Tokyo and filmmaking in the United States. Kurosawa made his international breakthrough with the psychological thriller *Cure* (1997). This was followed by, amongst others, *Charisma* (1999), *Pulse* (2001), *Bright Future* (2003), *Doppelgänger* (2003), *Tokyo Sonata* (2008), *Journey to the Shore* (2015) and *Creepy* (2016). His work has frequently been screened at major international film festivals such as Cannes, Venice and Berlin. In 2020, he won the Silver Lion for Best Director at Venice for *Wife of a Spy*. His latest film, *The Samurai and the Prisoner*, had its world premiere at Cannes this year and went on to become the most successful Japanese film of the year at the Japanese box office.



A still from *The Samurai and the Prisoner*.

A programme dedicated to Kiyoshi Kurosawa

In honour of Kurosawa, Imagine is presenting a programme that highlights different periods and aspects of his body of work. Alongside **The Samurai and the Prisoner**

(2026), the programme includes **Pulse** (2001) and **Creepy** (2016). Two further titles from his body of work will be announced later.

A special feature of the programme is an in-depth post-screening discussion about *Pulse*. The 2001 film, in which a mysterious internet connection appears to break down the barrier between the living and the dead, ties in directly with this year's themed programme, *Ghost in the Feed*.



A still from *Pulse*.

GHOST IN THE FEED

Ghost in the Feed

With *Ghost in the Feed*, Imagine is exploring this year the fears and fascinations that arise time and again whenever new media technology enters our lives. From the mesmerising television screen and the mysterious video cassette to the early internet, the endless online feed and today's immersive world: the festival journeys through different eras of media technology and explores how old fears keep resurfacing in new forms. Through films, talks, an immersive programme and an exhibition, *Ghost in the Feed* brings the ghosts of old and new media to life.

About the Imagine Fantastic Film Festival

Imagine is the largest film festival for fantasy films in the Netherlands, showcasing the very best in fantasy, horror and science fiction. At Imagine, everything revolves

around the imagination. Every year, Imagine challenges the audience to use their imagination to reflect on the future of humanity and society. It does so by harnessing the power of fantasy film, which enables you to discover future worlds, develop a different perspective on reality, explore the unknown and, in doing so, broaden your horizons. Imagine regards the fantasy genre as a rich source of thought experiments, which often anticipates or reflects on social and technological developments. Through in-depth programmes, the festival provides background, history and context, and links fantasy film to current developments in society.

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Are you interested in an interview or press conference with Kurosawa? He will be available in Amsterdam from 29 October to 2 November. Please contact publiciteit@imaginefilmfestival.nl

Download [hier](#) the poster of Imagine Fantastic Film Festival 2026.

Download [hier](#) the portret of Kiyoshi Kurosawa.

Download [hier](#) stills of Pulse.

Download [hier](#) stills of The Samurai and the Prisoner.

