

DAY 2

TUESDAY, MARCH 25 2014

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Film & TV Market (FILMART)
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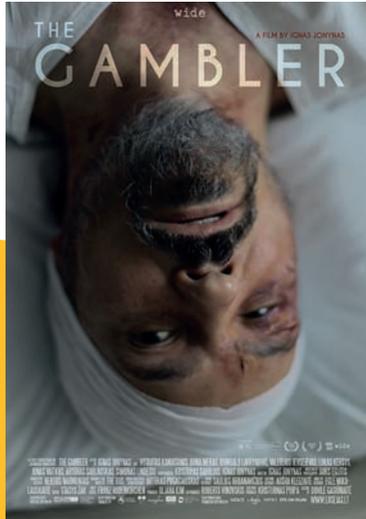
25/03 12PM
HKCEC Meeting Room N204-N205

Directed by TOMISLAV MRŠIĆ
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26/03 10AM
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Directed by TAMAR VAN DEN DOP
DCP/HD • 2014 • THE NETHERLANDS,
GERMANY, BELGIUM • 102MIN • DRAMA



26/03 12PM
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- Gowizmi developed an Eye on Films channel on its App and is providing, thanks to QR Codes and Push technology, an attractive way to watch movies on smartphones and tablets.



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Chermarn 'Ploy' Boonyasak

NEWS

Cult drama

Chermarn 'Ploy' Boonyasak to star in *Samui Song*

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Three Charmed Lives

Triptych of shorts is impressively made and bleakly striking

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FEATURE

Hot picks

Cinematic highlights from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan

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Media Asia touts Break Up 100, Triumph

Hong Kong's Media Asia unveiled a slate of new productions at Filmart yesterday, including Lawrence Cheng's romantic comedy *Break Up 100* and a big-screen adaptation of hit TV series *Triumph In The Sky*.

Co-directed by Wilson Yip and Matt Chow, *Triumph In The Sky* is produced by Tommy Leung and will star Julian Cheung, Francis Ng and Louis Koo. Starring Ekin Cheng and Chrissie Chau, *Break Up 100* tells the story of a couple who try to run a business together after breaking up and reuniting 99 times.

The slate also includes Johnnie To's *Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2*, starring Koo, Miriam Yeung and Vic Chou, along with romantic drama *She Remembers, He Forgets* from Adam Wong (*The Way We Dance*).

In addition, Leon Lai is making his directorial debut for Media Asia with action drama *Wine War*, in which he also stars. Lai is also producing Media Asia's first 3D animated feature, *Monkey King Reloaded 3D*.

Among other projects, Media Asia is planning a sequel to 2005 drifting hit *Initial D*, with Andrew Lau returning as director, and has Sunny Luk and Longman Leung's action thriller *Helios* in post-production.

Media Asia recently appointed Hong Kong director-producer Gordon Chan as head of film to oversee film production across Asia. Chan's directing credits include *Fist Of Legend* and *Painted Skin* and he recently directed *The Four* action trilogy for China's Enlight Pictures.

Liz Shackleton

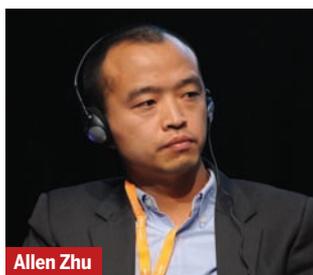
China online video sites ramp up production

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

China's online video giants are increasing investment in original content, from microfilms and web serials to feature films, in a bid to retain viewers in a fast-growing but increasingly competitive market.

Speaking on a Filmart panel yesterday, Youku Tudou senior vice-president Allen Zhu explained how the company has started investing directly in features such as action thriller *Firestorm* and comedy *Old Boys: The Way Of The Dragon*. Since 2012, Youku has also worked with HKIFF on the *Beautiful* omnibus films. "We are able to observe audience behaviour through big data technology so we can see where we should invest," Zhu said.

Co-produced by Youku, Le Vision Pictures and Ruyi Films, *Old Boys* is based on Xiao Yang and Wang Taili's hit microfilm and will receive a theatrical release in June. Le Vision Pictures is a subsidiary



Allen Zhu



Gong Yu

of another online video platform, LeTV, highlighting the trend of Chinese internet companies moving into production, just as Netflix and Amazon have in the West.

iQiyi CEO Gong Yu also explained how content distributed through online platforms, such as Chinese web serial *Love Apartments*, is attracting more viewers than top-rating TV shows. He added that iQiyi is exploring in-house production but has so far been cautious, preferring revenue-sharing deals with semi-professional producers who upload content. "Our investment in original content is based on monetisation — for each dollar we invest, how much revenue will we get from that?" Gong said.

Some web serials are now being acquired by regular broadcasters such as Youku's *On The Road* travel show, picked up by CCTV. China's online video companies are also becoming more involved in marketing theatrical film releases — Youku linked with Disney and Marvel on the marketing of *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, which had its Asian premiere in Beijing last night.

Aberdeen stars (from left) Louis Koo and Gigi Leung attended the film's world premiere at the opening of Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) last night, with director Pang Ho Cheung. Also starring Miriam Yeung, the film was one of two opening films along with Fruit Chan's *The Midnight After*. The opening of the tenth edition of Entertainment Expo was also celebrated last night at a reception attended by Hong Kong chief executive CY Leung, Hong Kong Trade Development Council chairman Jack So and Hong Kong Entertainment ambassador Leon Lai.



Nay Myo 'Day' Thant

Handmade takes first step to Heaven

BY JEAN NOH

Thailand's Handmade Distribution is making its debut at Filmart with a slate of independent films led by *Heaven Or Hell* and *The Last Executioner*.

Inspired by actual events, *Heaven Or Hell* features hip hop artist Nay Myo 'Day' Thant as a gang leader in Pattaya, a city known for its sex, drugs and gambling. Set to start shooting in June, the film is due out in 2015. Director Alongod Uabhaibool has worked with the star on his music videos.

Starring Vithaya Pansringarm (*Only God Forgives*), *The Last Executioner* is directed by Thai-British film-maker Tom Waller. Inspired by true events, the story follows a former rock n' roller who takes the job of Thailand's last gun executioner. In post-production, the film is set for a June release.

Locally, Handmade plans to release four to five local films and six to seven international films a year. Since September 2013, releases have included *The Butler*, *Charlie Countryman* and *The Monkey King 3D*, which topped the local box office and took \$7m.

CJ cooks up Final Recipe sales

BY JEAN NOH

Korea's CJ Entertainment has announced a raft of deals on *Final Recipe*, starring Henry Lau from Asian pop group Super Junior-M and Michelle Yeoh (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*).

The film sold to Spain (Kiss), Italy (Officine), the Middle East (Gulf Film), Switzerland (Praesens Film), German-speaking Europe excluding Switzerland (Viz Media) and ex-Yugoslavia (Discovery).

Directed by Gina Kim (*Never Forever*), the family drama is a Korea-Singapore-Thailand co-production about a young man who takes part in an international cooking competition.

The film made its world premiere in San Sebastian's Culinary Zinema section and played in the Berlinale's Culinary Cinema programme. Fortissimo Films handles European sales while CJ handles the rest of the world.

Richie Jen brings Love to Filmart

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Taiwanese star Richie Jen attended Filmart yesterday to promote his directorial debut, *All You Need Is Love*, in which he stars with Shu Qi.

Produced by Taiwan's Power Generation Entertainment and Shangri La Music, the film tells the story of a man who returns home to Penghu Island to open a bed & breakfast and look after his younger brother, but discovers he

faces losing the family home. Shu plays a writer who turns up on the island to solve a mystery involving her mother.

Jen and Shu are Taiwanese actors who became famous working in the Hong Kong and mainland China film industries, but are finding more reasons to return home due to the recent production boom in Taiwan. Jen recently starred in Arvin Chen's Taipei-set *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?*



Yasmine

Origin swings for Yasmine

Brunei's Origin Films has launched sales on coming-of-age martial-arts film *Yasmine*, the first feature to come out of the country in several years.

Siti Kamaluddin, who has a background as an AD in films and a director of commercials, is making her feature directorial debut with the story of a girl who takes part in competitive silat fighting, against her father's wishes. Featuring Kuntau, the Brunei form of the Southeast Asian martial art of silat, the action was directed by Chan Man Ching, whose credits include *Hellboy II: The Golden Army* and Jackie Chan's *Drunken Master II* and *Rush Hour*.

Made on a budget of \$2m, with a \$120,000 development grant from Brunei Economic Development Board, the film is in post-production, set for an August local release.

"This is the first time you are seeing [contemporary] Brunei on film," said Kamaluddin.

The film stars Liyana Yus with veteran actor Reza Rahadian playing her father.

Jean Noh

Headshot duo reunites to sing *Samui Song*

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Thai director Pen-ek Ratanaruang is reuniting with his *Headshot* producer Raymond Phathanavirangoon on drama *Samui Song*, set to star Chermarn 'Ploy' Boonyasak.

Chermarn will play an actress who is worried by her French husband's growing obsession with a cult-like religious sect and its charismatic leader, the Holy One. A mysterious stranger offers to rid her of the problem, but she ends up taking drastic measures to escape falling under the influence of the Holy One.

The cult leader will be played by Vithaya 'Pu' Pansringarm, who recently starred in Nicolas Windling Refn's *Only God Forgives*.



Vithaya Pansringarm

Chermarn has credits including *The Love Of Siam*, *Eternity* and a supporting role in Pen-ek's 2003 *Last Life In The Universe*. The filmmakers are also hoping to cast a

French lead to play the husband. Despite *Samui Song*'s dark themes, Pen-ek and Phathanavirangoon describe it as less serious than award-winning 2011 noir thriller *Headshot*.

"Using Alfred Hitchcock as a starting point, it serves as an homage to the kinds of movies I enjoy, from Bollywood and Shinya Tsukamoto to Luis Bunuel and Thai cinema from the 1960s," Pen-ek said.

Produced by Blue Ring Company, *Samui Song* is expected to start shooting in late 2014.

Phathanavirangoon worked on the story with Pen-ek and is also producing with Arunee Srisuk and Rasarin Tanalettararom.

Euro-Chinese writers cement east-west relations

BY MELANIE GOODFELLOW

A group of European producers is launching a new scriptwriting programme called Bridging the Dragon, aimed at developing Chinese and European projects spanning the two cultures.

The programme will select 14 projects per year with a China-Europe link and will revolve around two five-day residential workshops spread over 12 months. Applicants can be either a screenwriter or director writing their own scripts. Producers joining the initiative

include Isabelle Glachant, who operates under the Chinese Shadows banner and is also the greater China representative for French film export agency Unifrance, and Leontine Petit of Amsterdam-based Lemming Film, which is developing David Verbeek's Shanghai-set vampire film *Dead & Beautiful*.

Others include Italy's Cristiano Bortone, whose company Orisa Produzioni operates between Italy and Germany, and former Ateliers du Cinéma Européen CEO Sophie Bordon, who will act as director of

the programme. The group is aiming to set up partnerships with film festivals in Europe and China to host the workshops. Tutors will hail from both Europe and China.

At the end of the workshops, one project with strong potential for Chinese European collaboration, will win a grant.

The group is preparing a funding application to the European MEDIA programme and hopes to put out its first call for entries later this autumn, with an eye to kicking off the first edition in 2015.

Toronto announces Seoul for City to City programme

BY JEAN NOH

Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) artistic director Cameron Bailey has announced the festival's 2014 City to City programme will focus on Seoul, South Korea.

"Seoul is one of the most exciting film cities. There are always new, interesting films and directors from a number of different levels from very commercial to arthouse," says Bailey. The last time TIFF showcased Korean cinema was in 2002 with programme strand Harvest: South Korean Renaissance.

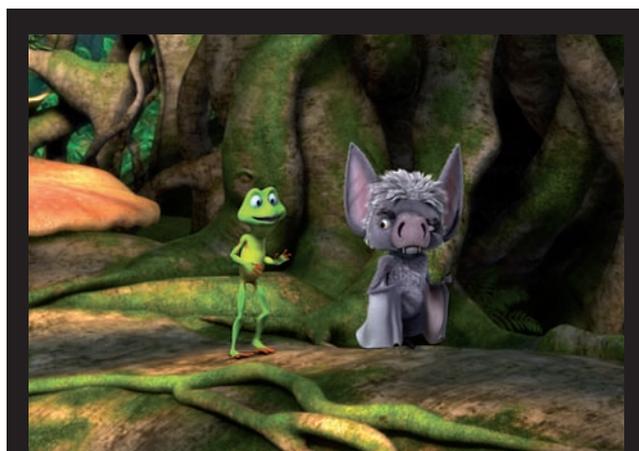
"There's been a huge change in those 12 years. Directors like Bong Joon Ho and Park Chan-wook are now working internationally. Anyone who follows international cinema knows Korean film-makers take challenges and push limits,"



Cameron Bailey

he said. Bailey will be programming eight recent feature films for the section with TIFF programmer Giovanna Fulvi.

"With films like *Stoker* and *Snowpiercer*, we're seeing Korean film-makers pushing outwards. It's an interesting moment in Korean cinema and I think there are more to come. We'll be looking for the next truly global film-makers coming out of Seoul, too," he said.



Ribbit hops around the world

Malaysia's United Studios has pre-sold 3D animation comedy adventure *Ribbit* to multiple territories including the UK (Lionsgate), South Korea (Korea Screen), CIS (Premium Films), Poland (Monolith Films) and Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg (Splendid). Following a frog with an identity crisis, the animation — directed by Chuck Powers — is voiced by Sean Astin (*The Lord Of The Rings*), Tim Curry, comedian Russell Peters and Cherami Leigh.

Jean Noh

MDA revamps Singapore Media Festival

BY JEAN NOH

Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA) has announced the inaugural Singapore Media Festival will run December 4-14 this year.

The umbrella event encompasses the revamped Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) — back after missing two years — Asia TV Awards, ScreenSingapore and Asia TV Forum & Market (ATF).

"Last year ScreenSingapore/ATF drew 4,000 participants from 1,200 companies and 60 countries," said Angeline Poh, assistant CEO, Industry Group at MDA. "As for SGIFF, for the number of years it was in session, it became the platform for Southeast Asia and aspiring film-makers and that role will continue, especially as the Southeast Asian market is one of the fastest growing," she said.

SGIFF also announced producer, curator and arts manager Yuni Hadi (*Ilo Ilo*) as executive director. She was festival director of the 21st SGIFF and festival manager for the 20th edition. The new festival director is Zhang Wenjie, who headed the National Museum of Singapore Cinematheque and was co-director of the 22nd SGIFF.

The 25th SGIFF will run December 4-14, the Asia TV Awards December 11 and ScreenSingapore/ATF December 9-12.

Telefilm Vietnam preps for return

BY JEAN NOH

Telefilm Vietnam representatives are at Filmart to talk about their second edition, set to run June 5-7 in Ho Chi Minh City. Organisers expect 5,000 international and local participants with more than 300 exhibitors from countries including Japan, Denmark and Thailand.

Subjects covered include monetisation of video content through advertisements, subscriptions and pay-per-view. Vietnam Television (VTV) will also host a dialogue about 4G, i-Cloud applications and new HD systems.

"The government is seeking to revitalise the film industry and there is definitely a market for feature films and potential co-productions in Vietnam," said Ha Thi Phuong Lam, general director at organiser ADPEX Joint Stock Co.



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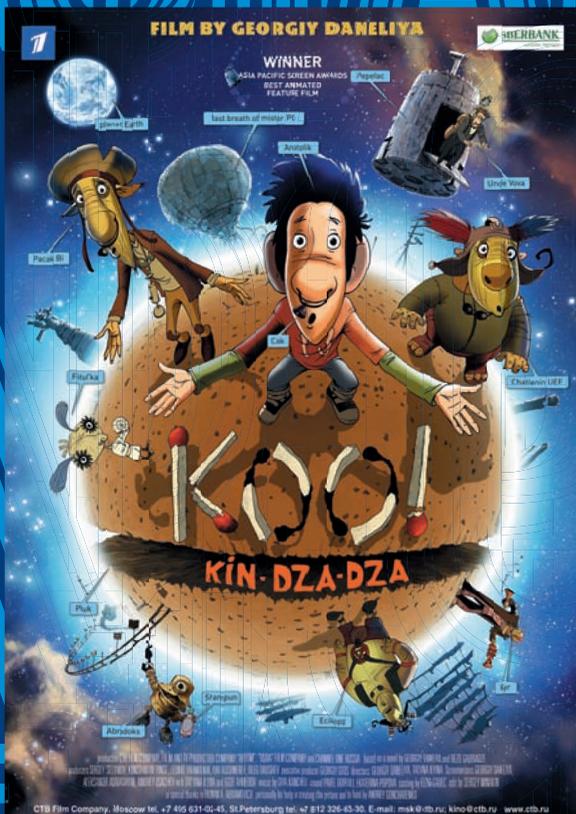
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Action, 100 min
RUSSIAN WORLD
VISION



**CHAGALL
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Historical/Drama,
120 min
INTERCINEMA



**KOO!
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Animated sci-fi
comedy, 90 min
REFLEXION FILMS



KISS THEM ALL
Comedy, 101 min
BAZELEVS
DISTRIBUTION

HKIFF IN BRIEF

Be My Baby

Dir: Hitoshi One. Jap. 2014. 138mins.

International premiere — I See It My Way

The intertwined love affairs and passions of nine Japanese twentysomethings are impressively unveiled in Hitoshi One's low-budget second film, shot over just four days and revealing in its soap-opera style sexual intensity. The nine initially come together at a party, and over the following weeks the film follows their complex relationships. It dwells on emotional manipulation, petty viciousness, unrequited love, insecurity, infidelity and self-respect, and while shrill and rather clumsy to begin with the film settles into a nice pace as the true personalities of the intriguing bunch of characters are slowly revealed, with some nice twists towards the end.

Mark Adams

CONTACT CINEMA IMPACT

www.cinemaimpact.net

Otso

Dir: Elwood Perez. Phil. 2013. 84mins.

International premiere — Glories of Filipino Cinema

A surreal and quirky experimental film, *Otso* — which marks director Elwood Perez's return to the screen after a 10 year absence — is a freewheeling film set against the backdrop of a Manila apartment complex. New resident Lex (Vince Tanada) returns to the city to write a screenplay, but finds himself distracted by the residents, who include beautiful prostitute Sabina (the striking Monique Azerreda) and screen diva Alice Lake (Anita Linda). The opening scenes are in colour, but the film soon switches to black-and-white as Lex narrates his experiences as he adjusts to a life that is interrupted by sex, comedy, politics and mystery. An intriguing but chaotic film, with some striking moments.

Mark Adams

CONTACT www.facebook.com/pages/Otso-the-Movie

Lessons In Dissent

Dir: Matthew Torne. HK-Chi. 2014. 97mins.

World premiere — Hong Kong Panorama

An intriguing and thoughtfully composed documentary that dwells on two secondary-school classmates whose passion for the future of democracy in Hong Kong takes them in different directions, Matthew Torne's film is a fascinating affair. While Scholarism (an alliance against reforms in the national education system) founder Joshua Wong becomes a media celebrity through his well-reasoned objections to government plans, dropout Ma Jai is jailed for desecrating the flag. *Lessons In Dissent* charts the routes taken by these two determined individuals (Wong laments that while his friends are playing video games he is busy with social movements), rallying support as Hong Kong heads towards an uncertain future.

Mark Adams

CONTACT www.facebook.com/lessonsindissentmovie

Three Charmed Lives

Reviewed by Mark Adams

Three of Asia's most acclaimed actors — Chang Chen, Jung Woo-sung and Francis Tg — step behind the camera for this watchable package of three short films, telling the varied stories of three men having epiphanies of different kinds. Impressively made and bleakly striking, they are fine debut films and likely to feature further on the festival circuit, whether as part of this package or as individual shorts.

The triptych, produced by Youkou and Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, premiere at HKIFF where they are likely to be met with a warm response.

The film opens with Francis Ng's *The Tangerine*, which follows a desperate criminal trying to live on the streets after contemplating suicide while running through a forest. Stumbling through the city, he steals food but is bemused to be handed tangerines by a sweet-natured girl running a fruit stand. The shattered man sees no hope in life, but after again being offered fruit by the same girl he decides to give the only kindness he can — telling her there is a reward for him if she calls the police.

Second up is Jung Woo-sung's *The Killer Behind The Old Man* — perhaps the most stylish and best sustained of the three — about a hitman hired to assassinate an elderly man but who finds himself transfixed by the man's slow-moving and ordered life. He hesitates to carry through with his mission

WORLD PREMIERE
— GALA

Tai. 2014. 83mins

Directors Chang Chen, Jung Woo-sung, Francis Ng

Production companies

Fushan Features, Youkou, Hong Kong International Film Festival Society

International sales Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, Erica_ho@hkiff.org.hk

Main cast Shih Chin-Hang, Wang Hsin-Yuan, Andy Choi, Woo Sang-jeon, Cheng Taishen, Zhang Xinyuan



as he observes the man in the gym, walking slowly down the street (in a scene reminiscent of Tsai Ming-liang's *Walker*) or buying flowers.

The Jaguar-driving killer is hassled to complete the hit, eventually entering the man's home but again hesitating when he hears the old man crying behind a closed door.

The final film, Chang Chen's *Inchworm*, tracks the downward spiral of a man who loses his job and proceeds to spend all of his time playing video games. Ignoring his wife and young daughter he seeks solace in a virtual world, finally emerging from his depression when he is forced to spend time with his daughter and realises what he has been missing.

At heart they are a gloomy threesome, with none of the men breaking into a smile let alone experiencing real happiness, and while it is difficult to see any of them have 'charmed lives' the films do a good job of detailing how their experiences at least offer perspective and alternatives to the downward cycle in which they have found themselves.

Exit

Reviewed by Mark Adams

A gently enthralling film about the banalities of middle-aged life, against all the odds — and mainly thanks to a mesmeric lead performance by Chen Shiang-chyi — the astutely observed *Exit* offers a quiet and subtle portrait of a woman who finds her own way to conquer hopelessness.

On paper it should be a less-than-enthralling film, but it is a smartly observed chronicle of an ordinary woman's struggle against despair. Strong performances and impressive direction could see the film attracting arthouse distributors and it is also likely to feature at further film festivals.

With her husband not on the scene, 45-year-old Kaohsiung garment worker Ling (Chen) fills her time tending to her crumbling flat, working, bickering with her rebellious daughter (Pai) and visiting her hospital-bound mother.

When Ling loses her job and her daughter storms out, her world gets even smaller and she increasingly feels trapped in her faded flat with trips to the hospital her only dubious escape. When menopause starts to have an impact, she becomes even more introverted.

Caring for her mother, she becomes aware of a man (Dong) on the same ward whose eyes are covered with bandages and whose moans of pain

WORLD PREMIERE
— YOUNG CINEMA
COMPETITION

Chi. 2014. 94mins

Director Chienn Hsiang

Production company

Crazy Wolf International Productions

International sales Wen Hsaio, +886 916 193 883

Producer Chan Pao-ying

Cinematography Hsiang Chienn, Hsu Fang-hoo

Production design Penny Pei-ling Tsai

Music Summer Lei

Main cast Chen Shiang-chyi, Easton Dong, Pai Ming-hua



from further injuries annoy others on the ward. Eventually she decides to go over to him, hold his uninjured hand and stroke his chest with a wet flannel to ease his pain.

There is a real sense of sexual tension — despite the fact nothing happens — to these moments, which is heightened when the man's eyes are uncovered. She still tends to him, but insists on covering his eyes again, giving her still wordless ministrations a real frisson of repressed sexual energy.

Chen Shiang-chyi's graceful and charming performance defines the film — she also fills her time listening to tango music; hearing a couple next door having sex and attempting to stick back an errant piece of wallpaper — with small and telling moments helping to remind her and the viewer that she is still a vibrant woman.

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掃毒
 A Benny CHAN Film
The White Storm



Market Screening | Date: 25 March 2014
 Time: 16:00
 Venue: Theatre 2, HKCEC

Louis KOO **Nick CHEUNG** **Sean LAU**



A Pang Brothers Film
逃出生天
OUT OF INFERNO 3D

Sean LAU **Louis KOO** **Sinje LEE** **CHEN Si Cheng**

五個小孩的校長
Little Big Master

PRODUCED BY BENNY CHAN A FILM BY ADRIAN KWAN



COMING SOON

巴黎假期
 PARIS HOLIDAY

A Film by James Yuen



COMING SOON

Louis KOO **Fiona SIT**

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IN BRIEF



Once Upon A Time In Shanghai

Dir/scri: Wong Ching Po. HK-Chi. 2014. 96mins. Market

Melodrama and martial arts mix to great effect in Wong Ching Po's lush and often exhilarating film *Once Upon A Time In Shanghai* (*Shanghai Tan Ma Yongzhen*) that follows Ma Yongzhen (Philip Ng), a country boy with iron fists who arrives in Shanghai in the early 1900s determined to make his fortune. Despite promising the pretty girl-next-door (Michelle Hu) that he won't fight, he is befriended by a wannabe gangster (Long Qi) who ends up angering gang lords who hold the city in a tight grip. In a stunning climax, Ma takes on all of the gangs in a wonderfully staged series of martial-arts battles.

Mark Adams

CONTACT MEGA-VISION PICTURES LTD
www.mvphk.biz

Miss Granny

Dir/scri: Hwang Dong-hyuk. S Kor. 2014. 124mins. Market

An engagingly oddball comedy-fantasy — and possibly ripe for a Hollywood remake — the film features grumpy granny Oh Mal-soon (Na Moon-hee), an expert at causing misery to those around her, who is transformed into a pretty woman 50 years her junior (played by Shim Eun-kyung) after a visit to the Forever Young Portrait Studio. She takes on the name Audrey — after her idol Audrey Hepburn — offering up pithy comments on subjects such as soap operas, plastic surgery and music, while accidentally becoming a K-pop star when she sings in her grandson's rock band. There are sentimental lapses, and it runs a bit too long, but there is fun to be had with Granny's unapologetic interventions.

Mark Adams

CONTACT CJ ENTERTAINMENT
lineup.cjenm.com

White Tiger

Dir: Karen Shakhnazarov. Russ. 2012. 104mins. Market

A resolutely old-fashioned war film, *White Tiger* is an impressively made action-thriller that delivers no-nonsense drama with a little allegorical action on the side. At times it feels like it was made by Mosfilm of old, as a morale-boosting tale of tough Russian soldiers facing up to an indestructible German tank. Solidly directed, the film is set in eastern Germany during the final months of the Second World War, as a Russian tank driver (Aleksey Vertkov) has a nasty close encounter with an almost mystical German tank.

Mark Adams

CONTACT MOSFILM www.mosfilm.ru

No Man's Land

Reviewed by Jonathan Romney

Widescreen sepia deserts, lashings of Spanish guitar and highway mayhem a go-go — Chinese actioner *No Man's Land* (*Wu Ren Qu*) milks them for all they are worth, and more. This boisterous entertainment by Ning Hao is in a vein of pastiche updated spaghetti western action that you might call 'phoney Leone'. In the US, it has been acknowledged by the likes of John Dahl, Oliver Stone and the Coen brothers, and Ning gives the sub-genre a boisterous spin of his own, although the knockabout violence and escape-from-peril twists pile up to eventually numbing effect.

But it is all very slickly executed, if impersonal, with much wham-bam road content. The film was completed in 2009 and released belatedly, though should export healthily and play in festival cult slots — essentially finding a home wherever there is a fanboy following for post-Tarantino genre-twisting fun.

The setting is in the vast, arid expanses of the Gobi Desert, which a Tex-Mex flavoured score gives that old western borderline feel.

The action begins with the arrest of a falcon rustler (Huang) and a car crash caused by his leather-jacketed, dagger-toting boss (a memorably scowling, Lee Van Cleef-like Duo Bujie). Self-serving city slicker attorney Pan Xiao (Xu) breezes into town and uses his cynical wiles to get the Boss acquitted of murder, then leaves with a sleek red car as his down-payment. But once he comically manages to alienate the entire vicinity's rag-tag population, it becomes clear that he will not be seeing the big city again in a hurry.

Trying to manage his escape, with some caged

GALA PRESENTATION

Chi. 2013. 117mins

Director Ning Hao

Production companies

China Film Group, Injo Films

International sales China

Film Company, katerina.

warren@gmail.com

Producers Sanping Han,

Haicheng Zhao

Screenplay Ning Hao, Shu

Ping, Xing Aina

Cinematography Du Jie

Editor Cheung Yuan

Production designer

Hao Yi

Music Nathan Wang

Main cast Xu Zheng, Yu

Nan, Huang Bo, Duo Bujie



falcons, a pile of loot and an apparently dead body, Pan Xiao ends up with no allies except a roadside hooker (Yu) — although her main role is the traditional one of screaming a lot and being bound and gagged by whichever heavy wanders along next.

Engagingly cast with assorted plug-uglies giving their all, the film goes gangbusters at the start, but once it hits the desert roads, the action really has nowhere much to go. More cars crash, more guns are fired, more — increasingly brutal — blows come Pan Xiao's way, more mariachi trumpet blares on the soundtrack.

Intermittently, the hero offers ponderous voice-over theories about man, monkeys and the dog-eat-dog world. Splashes of black humour and the occasional authentically knockout action moment at least make it hard to dislike the film or to lose interest for too long.

The caged wild birds don't seem to have too happy a ride, though.

Black Coal, Thin Ice

Reviewed by Dan Fainaru

The unadorned, unflattering, raw and lifelike portrait of a midsize northern Chinese town in winter, frozen and covered in thick layers of snow, is the best thing in *Black Coal, Thin Ice* (*Bai Ri Yan Huo*), the latest film from Diao Yanan (*Night Train*). What's missing is a solid, well-told plot to keep audiences alert and justify the painstaking trouble taken with the background.

The film — which won the Golden Bear at Berlin International Film Festival — is a mystery story presented almost exclusively from the point of view of an ex-cop, and deals with a series of grisly murders, with the victims' bodies chopped to pieces and spread over a large territory, hundreds of miles apart.

Divorced policeman Zhang Zili (Liao) is seriously wounded and two of his colleagues are killed while attempting to arrest a couple of culprits suspected of having committed the first in this series of crimes. Once released from hospital after a long convalescence — or so it seems — he is retired from the force and has to take a job in security, drowning his frustration in alcohol.

Five years later he understands, after meeting Wang (Yu), an old colleague who is now a police inspector, that more crimes of the same kind have been committed and gone unsolved, and decides to

ASIAN PREMIERE — GALA PRESENTATION

Chi. 2014. 106mins

Director/screenplay

Diao Yanan

Production company

Jiangsu Omnijoi Movie

Company

International sales

Fortissimo, www.

fortissimo.nl

Producers Vivian Qu, Wan

Juan

Executive producers

Bu Yu, Daniel Jonathan

Victor, Han Sauping, Hong

Tao, Hang Xiaoli

Cinematography Dong

Jinsong

Editor Yang Hongyu

Production designer Liu

Qiang

Music Wen Zi

Main cast Liao Fan, Gwei

Lun Mei, Wang Xuebin,

Wang Jingchun, Yu Ailei,

Ni Jingyang



investigate on his own, if only to give some reason to his empty existence.

All the victims seem to have been connected at some time with the same woman, Wu Zhizhen (Gwei), who works in a small laundry. Zhang tries to approach her, inevitably falls in love but, once a lawman always a lawman, and he goes on digging for new facts and information that might reveal the truth.

From this point on, major leaps of faith are required to follow the story. Once the case seems to be solved, there is a coda, the plot twisting itself around for a final revelation, before ending in a spectacular display of fireworks.

Busan International Film Festival

October 2-11, 2014

Asian Film Market

October 5-8, 2014

Asian Project Market

Deadline for Submission: June 30, 2014

Application & Information on apm.asianfilmmarket.org

Contact apm@asianfilmmarket.org



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» **Malegaon: Tales From The Terror Trail** p14
» **Five Star Billionaire** p14



Instant Love

Dir Yang Jin

Project's country of origin China

Inspired by his love for Japan, Chinese writer-director Yang Jin has chosen Tokyo as the main location for his new project, *Instant Love*. The story follows a 40-year-old Chinese film director who attends a film festival in Tokyo and falls for a Japanese girl after saving her from jumping under a train.

Yang's widely travelled and award-winning films, such as *The Black And White Milk Cow* and *Er Dong*, have taken the film-maker to many countries but Japan has a special place in his heart. "People will open up after a few days in many passionate cities. But Japanese people always keep a distance, with a slight bow. I want to know what the Japanese are like when they fall in love," says Yang.

With a \$1.65m budget, *Instant Love* will be Yang's biggest to date. Unlike his earlier documentary-style dramas, it will also be his first love story and his first film made outside China. The project will be produced by Yang's regular collaborator, Zhang Jun, who produced his last three films through their jointly owned Beijing-based production company HI Film. Both are originally from Shanxi province.

Zhang has brought on board an as-yet-unnamed Japanese producer who has experience of filming Chinese productions in Japan. She is seeking Japanese investors for the project as well as Japanese talents for three roles in the film. The Chinese cast will include real-life Chinese directors and producers. The film will be mostly Chinese language with some Japanese dialogue.

Beijing-based Heaven Pictures Culture & Media, which has a director's contract with Yang, has boarded the project as a financier. Established in 2010 to support young Chinese film-makers, the company produced Yang's most recent film, *Don't Expect Praises* (2012).

WY Wong

Instant Love

Producers Zhang Jun **Production companies** HI Film **Budget** \$1.65m **Finance raised to date** \$329,400 from Heaven Pictures **Contact** Zhang Jun
✉ zhangjunte111@126.com



Follow You

Dir Lin Yu Hsien

Project's country of origin China

Follow You will reunite *Jump Ashin!* director Lin Yu Hsien with his leading man Eddie Peng in a real-life love story about two newly met friends who embark on a road trip from Lhasa to Everest. Although they part after the trip, one of them travels to four cities to look for the other again and they end up being married in London.

Starring opposite Peng is Chinese actress Yang Zishan, who shot to fame in Vicky Zhao's 2013 hit *So Young*. The screenplay is adapted from the book *Love In Tibet* by Wang Kuo Kuang, who previously worked with Lin as a writer on *Jump Ashin!* and his feature debut, *Exit No.6*.

"It really is true belief when you're not swayed by worldly considerations and you give up your career and follow your heart to look for the girl you barely met. I think films are about belief, too, and I want to keep such a belief in myself and in my films," says Lin.

The various filming locations include Hong Kong, Beijing, London, Dali in China's Yunnan province and Tibet. This will be the first time the director has made a film outside his native Taiwan.

Lin is well known for his documentary style: his *Jump! Boys* won the best documentary prize at Golden Horse Film Festival in 2005, while the follow-up feature, *Jump Ashin!*, picked up several awards, including best supporting actor at both Taipei Film Festival in 2011 and the Asian Film Awards in 2012.

Lin's producer is Hong Kong film-maker Stanley Kwan, whose recent producer credits include *So Young*. One of the major backers is Phoenix Legend Films, the Beijing-based producer-distributor that recently produced Jay Sun's *Switch* and Li Fangfang's *Wu Wen Xi Dong*, starring Zhang Ziyi.

WY Wong

Follow You

Producers Stanley Kwan **Production companies** Phoenix Legend Films **Budget** \$5m **Finance raised to date** \$3m from Phoenix Legend Films **Contact** Yu Hao
✉ yuhao@mountsea.com.cn



Gay Messiah

Dir Brillante Mendoza

Project's country of origin Philippines

Award-winning Filipino director Brillante Mendoza is bringing his first documentary/drama project, *Gay Messiah*, to HAF.

Comparing it to his other works, such as *Kinatay* and *Thy Womb*, Mendoza says: "All the films I did before were fiction. All were based on real-life stories, but this time the real guy plays himself."

For five years, the director has been filming Ferdinand Santos, a gay man who has for more than two decades played Jesus Christ in an annual six-day Lent play. Mendoza goes behind the scenes of the hugely celebrated religious holiday in the Philippines, asking questions about Filipinos' contemporary relationship with Catholicism.

"It's a documentary, but we're also recreating. So it's a docudrama," says Mendoza. "There's a narrative behind it. There are some things we tried to recreate, but what we did film was mostly the performances and the stage because I wanted to get footage."

Mendoza adds that, after five years, this could be the year to finally wrap shooting and begin post-production. "Maybe this year is the final stage of this guy's story. A lot of major things happened, from the national level to the personal. We have a new president. The former president died. And this guy was witness to this happening. Also his mother passed away. By March, it will be holy week again. It really depends because it's a documentary and I really don't know what's going to happen."

Center Stage Productions, which produced all Mendoza's films in the Philippines, is also producing *Gay Messiah*. The film-makers will be at HAF looking for funds and co-producers.

Jean Noh

Gay Messiah

Producers Larry Castillo, Brillante Mendoza **Production company** Center Stage Productions (CSP) **Budget** \$500,000 **Finance raised to date** \$100,000 (from CSP) **Contact** Brillante Mendoza ✉ brillante_ma@yahoo.com

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Post-production Fund Covers DI, sound mixing, D-Cinema package	April 20, 2014
AND (Asian Network of Documentary) Fund Supports production and distribution	May 10, 2014

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and@biff.kr (Documentary)





Lucy And I

Dirs Sherman Ong, Birgitte Sigmundstad

Project's countries of origin Singapore-Norway

Singapore-based Malaysian director Sherman Ong and Norwegian director Birgitte Sigmundstad met at the cross-cultural project development programme DOX:LAB, organised by CPH:DOX, in 2013 and have been working on *Lucy And I* ever since.

Both with backgrounds in visual arts, they are creating a mix of documentary and fiction in what Ong describes as a film essay exploring homeland, origin, travel, migration and diaspora through its characters.

"Birgitte will shoot in Norway and I will shoot in Singapore. One episode/monologue will answer or complement the other. It will be like improvised jazz where Norway will throw a bar of music to Singapore and Singapore will reply with another bar," explains Ong.

With a mix of actors and 'real people', the characters in the film include Sigmundstad, who has a young daughter; a married Filipina/Indonesian maid in Singapore working to feed her family back home; and her Bangladeshi boyfriend in Singapore, who has been transferred to work in Malaysia.

Ong has previously blurred the lines between documentary and fiction with films such as *Hashi, Flooding In The Time Of Drought* and *Memories Of A Burning Tree*, which all screened at International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Mainly working in photography and video, Sigmundstad is a visual artist whose shorts and documentaries include *If A Traveler To Serbia On A Winter's Night* and *A Letter To The Minister Of Culture*.

Sigmundstad and Ong plan to have started shooting some scenes before HAF. They are keen to find collaborators for the film to work as a multimedia piece in cinemas as well as galleries and/or museums. Ong's Studio Shermano is producing.

Jean Noh

Lucy And I

Producers Sherman Ong, Birgitte Sigmundstad
Production Company Studio Shermano **Budget** \$125,000 **Finance raised to date** \$18,000 (CPH:DOX's DOX:LAB, Norwegian Film Institute) **Contact** Sherman Ong ✉ shermanong@gmail.com



The Trial

Dir Sheng Zhimin

Project's country of origin China

Chinese director Sheng Zhimin's latest project, *The Trial*, is a courtroom drama about a well-known lawyer defending a nanny who is accused of killing a kidnapper while saving from abduction the child under her care. The lawyer soon finds himself in hot water over the course of the trial.

"The true essence of the story comes from the society we live in today, where we can see ever deepening class division and widespread resentment against the rich," says Sheng. "The story is full of suspense and yet at the same time reflects the deep conflicts facing the characters. I'm keen to explore their internal struggles as their secrets are being revealed."

While casting is in the final stages, Sheng expects to feature top actors in the film. He is working with scriptwriter Huo Xin for the first time on an original script. Huo has penned scripts for several films directed by Zhang Yang and more recently for local blockbusters *Journey To The West: Conquering The Demons* and *The Monkey King*.

The film will be produced by Beijing-based Shenglai TV and Film Culture Company, founded by Sheng and his high-school classmate Yang Dong. The latter previously produced Sheng's *Bliss*, which earned the Netpac award at Locarno in 2006 and best film at Shanghai International Film Festival's Asian New Talent Awards in 2007.

Yang was also involved in production on several big-budget blockbusters such as John Woo's *Red Cliff* and the upcoming *The Crossing*, as well as Feng Xiaogang's *Back To 1942* and *Aftershock*.

Sheng's other works include documentaries *Night Of An Era* and *China, The Empire Of Art?*, as well as recent psychological drama *Zodiac Mystery*. In 2010, he won HAF's Technicolor Asia Award with his project, *Cosplay*.

WY Wong

The Trial

Finance Producers Yang Dong **Production company** Shenglai TV and Film Culture Company **Budget** \$6m **Finance raised to date** \$2m **Contact** Li Kunlan ✉ spacefog@126.com



Angel Whispers

Dirs Carrie Ng (top), Shirley Yung

Project's country of origin Hong Kong

Angel Whispers will mark the directorial debut of award-winning Hong Kong actress Carrie Ng, who is co-directing the suspense thriller with veteran producer-turned-director Shirley Yung.

Fascinated by the genre, the duo came up with the story idea together. "Suspense thrillers used to be a mainstay for Hong Kong cinema during its golden days. Now that many once-popular genres are making a successful comeback, it's time to reinterpret the suspense thriller genre," says Yung.

The story is set in the red-light district of Sham Shui Po, home to many one-woman brothels in which a single prostitute works alone in a small rental apartment. When one such woman has gone missing, her friendly landlord teams up with other working girls to look for her. They soon find out many more prostitutes have previously disappeared in the soon-to-be-demolished old building.

The screenplay is written by Thomas Pang, a regular writer for the Pang brothers, whose recent credits include *Conspirators*, *Sleepwalker*, *The Detective* and *The Detective 2*.

In addition to directing, Ng will play a lead role in the film, which will also feature several newcomers. Ng started her acting career at Hong Kong's TVB before switching to films. She won best actress for Clarence Fok's *Remains Of A Woman* at the Golden Horse Awards in 1993 and best supporting actress for Jacob Cheung's *The Kid* at the Hong Kong Film Awards in 2000.

Sundream is a subsidiary of Hong Kong broadcaster i-Cable Communications. i-Cable's chairman and CEO Stephen Ng serves as producer of the new project.

WY Wong

Angel Whispers

Producers Stephen Ng **Production companies** Sundream Motion Pictures **Budget** \$1.5m **Contact** Joe Ngai ✉ joengai@sundream-pictures.com

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SCREENING TODAY

Tuesday, March 25th

11:30 am

HKCEC
Theatre 2

CRIME / THRILLER

A group of young credit card thieves battle time and each other to repay their \$2 million debt to a dangerous Miami gangster.

STARRING: Ed Speleers (*Downton Abbey*, *Eragon*), Will Poulter (*We're the Millers*, *Son of Rambow*), Alfie Allen (*Game of Thrones*, *Atonement*), Emma Rigby (*The Counselor*), Thomas Kretschmann (*Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *King Kong*)

DIRECTED BY: Julian Gilbey (*Rise of the Footsoldier*)

The Sexy, Thrilling International Heist...Based on a True Story!

HORROR / THRILLER

WHERE THE DEVIL HIDES

SCREENING TODAY

Tuesday, March 25th

2:30 pm

Hong Kong Arts Centre
agnès b. Cinema

When young girls start to go missing within a religious cult, older followers fear a long-told prophecy while the younger members suspect abusive elders are killing them off.

STARRING: Rufus Sewell (*Dark City*, *The Illusionist*), Alycia Debnam Carey (*Into the Storm*), Adelaide Kane (*The Purge*), Leah Pipes (*Sorority Row*, *The Originals*), Thomas McDonell (*The Forbidden Kingdom*, *Prom*), Jennifer Carpenter (*Dexter*)

PRODUCED BY: Mickey Liddell, Jennifer Monroe, Pete Shilaimon

DIRECTED BY: Christian E. Christiansen (*The Roommate*, *At Night*)



The Wedding Terminator

Dir Stanley Law

Project's countries of origin Malaysia-China-Hong Kong

Malaysia-based Hong Kong director Stanley Law describes his latest project, *The Wedding Terminator*, as a “romantic comedy with some action elements”.

The story follows Mimi and Sam who run a discreet business breaking up weddings. Although Mimi does not realise it, Sam is devoted to her and goes to great lengths to help her marry a rich Prince Charming. But at the last moment they end up ruining Mimi’s grand wedding, too.

Law explains his inspiration for the film: “Malaysia has a very interesting culture and various races — the Malay, Chinese and Indians. I have been living in this country for more than 15 years and got the chance to experience different weddings of each race. Although Chinese weddings are nothing new to me, I still can find many differences between local Chinese and Chinese from other regions.”

Following more than 20 years’ production experience in the television industry, Law recently directed feature film *Paper Moon*, which won the award of excellence (international division), best screenplay, best actress and best supporting actor at the fourth Los Angeles Movie Awards.

“I have made many dramas and telemovies about romance and weddings, but the biggest challenge this time is to show four weddings of various races in 90 minutes and crash them before the wedding couples say, ‘I do.’

“As a creative person, I think I should try any genre as long as the story is good and challenging,” says Law.

Stanley Law’s Three Production will produce the project, which is at treatment stage. Law plans to film mostly in Malaysia, with the Chinese wedding scenes filmed in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Budget permitting, the film-makers would also like to shoot the Indian wedding in Bombay.

Jean Noh

The Wedding Terminator

Producer Jess Teong **Production company** Three Production **Budget** \$980,000 **Finance raised to date** \$100,000 **Contact** Jess Teong ✉jessteong@gmail.com



Malegaon: Tales From The Terror Trail

Dir Rakesh Sharma

Project's country of origin India

Rakesh Sharma’s feature-length documentary explores the aftermath of the bomb blasts by Hindu fundamentalists in the predominantly Muslim town of Malegaon in Maharashtra in 2006.

The film explores the effect the bombs have on both Hindu and Muslim local residents. It also documents the rise of Hindu fundamentalism by tracking the president of the organisation held responsible for the Malegaon terror attack, who happens to be the niece of Nathuram Godse, who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi.

Sharma has filmed the documentary for more than three years in Malegaon. As with his previous films, it was self-funded. “I want to exercise absolute control over domestic distribution, as well as have total editorial freedom as my themes are very political,” Sharma explains.

He is attending HAF to look for funding to complete editing and post-production. “I would not like my film to be shaped by any commercial consideration. This is the first time I am approaching a forum like this,” Sharma says.

His first documentary, *Aftershocks: The Rough Guide To Democracy*, has been screened at more than 100 international film festivals and won the best documentary prize at Fribourg International Film Festival in 2002.

His best-known work, *Final Solution* (2004), about the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat, won the Wolfgang Staudte and special jury awards at Berlin International Film Festival and the humanitarian award for outstanding documentary at Hong Kong International Film Festival.

Final Solution was initially banned by the Indian censor board but later certified without cuts following public pressure. It won a special jury award at India’s National Film Awards in 2007.

Nandita Dutta

Malegaon: Tales From The Terror Trail

Producers Rakesh Sharma **Budget** \$70,000 **Finance raised to date** \$45,000 **Contact** Rakesh Sharma ✉rakeshfilm@gmail.com



Five Star Billionaire

Dir Bernard Chauly

Project's countries of origin Malaysia-China

UK-based Malaysian director Bernard Chauly is adapting the Man Booker Prize long-listed novel *Five Star Billionaire* by Tash Aw, a contemporary migration tale about five Malaysian Chinese characters whose lives intertwine as they pursue the ‘Shanghai Dream’.

“What I look for in novels are characters and the essence of their journeys. Tash Aw’s characters instantly grabbed me, and the story has globally understandable themes of aspiration, reinventing yourself in a different country and trying to escape yourself in search of success and possible love,” says Chauly.

Although the novel is in English, the film will be mainly in Mandarin, Shanghaiese and English with subtitles for an international audience.

Known for romantic comedies with strong female protagonists, Chauly has directed five features including *Goalposts & Lipstick* and *Gold Diggers* — both produced by Red Films, which is also producing *Five Star Billionaire*.

“Red Films and I have worked hard to nurture a local audience in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei,” Chauly says. “The films they have produced have been to festivals as well as on the theatrical circuit. I feel I’m at a point in my career where I’m ready to take this big step forward into global film-making. Tash’s characters have done very well in North America and Europe, and shaping this into a film is something I can do.”

The film-makers are currently developing the script as an artistic yet commercially accessible film with a base audience in Malaysia, but aiming for global audiences. They have already secured backing from local partner Marna Films. With *Five Star Billionaire* to be shot in China, they will be at HAF looking for funds, potential co-producers and distributors.

Jean Noh

Five Star Billionaire

Producers Lina Tan, Lee Mee Fung **Production company** Red Films **Budget** \$2m **Finance raised to date** \$500,000 (from Marna Films) **Contact** Lina Tan ✉lina@red.com.my

media luna new films

THE VERDICT

A FILM BY JAN VERHEYEN

Law is no longer synonymous for justice.

MARKET SCREENING:

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MARINA

A FILM BY STIJN CONINX

The love story behind a song, which makes the whole world shake and whistle!



THE DINNER

A FILM BY MENNO MEYJES

Their kids did something terrible. But who knows what?

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

Wed 26th 22:00 (Grand Cinema)

Sat 29th 19:15 (Metroplex @ Kowloon Bay)



ATLANTIDA

DIRECTED BY INES MARIA BARRIONUEVO



A dry summer day in a small town. Two teenage sisters alone, only one day to discover the desire.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

A FILM BY MAXIMILIAN LEO



Gregor's brother disappears without a trace. For Gregor, this could lead to a new identity.

Farewell to the moon

a film by Dick Tuinder



1972. The last man on the moon. A boy's first love...

BLUE AND NOT SO PINK

A FILM BY MIGUEL FERRARI



A gay father, a straight son. Everything depends on how you look at it.

BROKEN GLASS PARK

A Film by Bettina Blümner



Sascha wants revenge and to write a novel ... And then a love triangle unrolls.

HANNA'S JOURNEY

A film by Julia von Heinz



Hanna is German and ambitious. When she goes to Israel her life is changed.

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Aberdeen

Dir Pang Ho Cheung

After shooting *Love In The Buff* in Beijing, Hong Kong's favourite maverick director returns home for this anticipated drama revolving around different members of an extended Hong Kong family and the challenges they face. The cast includes Louis Koo, Gigi Leung and Miriam Yeung, who starred in both *Love In A Puff* and its sequel *Love In The Buff*. The film was produced by Making Film Production and CKF Pictures with backing from Sun Entertainment and Huayi Brothers. Hong Kong's Bravos Pictures is handling international sales.

Contact Ricky Tse, Bravos Pictures
✉ricky.tse@bravospictures.com

Black Coal, Thin Ice

Dir Diao Yinan

Diao Yinan's third feature follows a former detective (Liao Fan) investigating a series of murders, who falls in love with a woman (Gwei Lun Mei) who is linked to all the victims. The film is the first to emerge from a partnership between Jiangsu Omnijoi Media Corp and Daniel J Victor's Boneyard Entertainment China (BEC). Diao previously directed critically acclaimed dramas *Uniform* (2003) and *Night Train* (2007).

Contact Will Lin, Fortissimo Films
✉will@fortissimo-hk.com

Coming Home

Dir Zhang Yimou

Gong Li and Chen Daoming star in Zhang Yimou's latest drama, based on Yan Geling's acclaimed novel *The Criminal Lu Yanshi*, which follows a

Chinese intellectual over several decades. Bill Kong and LeVision Pictures' Zhang Zhao produce and Lava Bear Films' David Linde serves as executive producer. Paris-based Wild Bunch has international rights to *Coming Home* while Sony Pictures Classics recently picked up rights for North America, South America, Australia and New Zealand.

Contact Emmanuelle Castro, Wild Bunch
✉ecastro@wildbunch.eu

The Crossing

Dir John Woo

Scripted by Wang Huiling (*Lust, Caution*), Woo's two-part romantic epic follows three couples from different backgrounds travelling from mainland

China to Taiwan in 1949. Produced by Woo and Terence Chang's Lion Rock Productions, Beijing Galloping Horse and China Film Group, the \$50m film has a stellar ensemble cast including Zhang Ziyi, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Korean actress Song Hye-kyo, Huang Xiaoming, Tong Dawei and Japanese actress Masami Nagasawa.

Contact Ronan Wong, Beijing Galloping Horse
✉huangguoxian@xmbt.com.cn

(Above) *The Crossing*;
(below) KANO



Ex-Files

Dir Tian Yusheng

Pop star Han Geng stars in this romantic drama about a young entrepreneur who meets a new love interest at his ex-girlfriend's wedding ceremony. He decides to put his bachelor days behind him but his ex-girlfriends continue to get in the way of his new relationship. Beijing-based Huayi Brothers is producing the film, which also stars Yao Xingtong (*Chinese Zodiac*) and Zheng Kai (*Personal Tailor*).

Contact Annabelle Hao, Huayi Brothers
✉annabelle.hao@huayimedia.com

The Four 3

Dir Gordon Chan

The third instalment in Gordon Chan's hit action franchise, backed by Beijing-based Enlight Pictures, continues the story of the four members of the Divine Constabulary, who each have special powers. Deng Chao, Liu Yi Fei, Collin Chou and Ronald Cheng resume their roles as the four crime-fighters, with Anthony Wong again playing their chaperone. The first film in the franchise grossed \$30m in 2012, while *The Four 2* grossed \$28m last November. The third film is in post-production.

Contact Ying Ye, Arclight Films
✉ying@arclightfilms.com

Golden Chickensss

Dir Matt Chow

Recent Chinese New Year hit *Golden Chickensss* is the third instalment in a comedy franchise that tracks changes in Hong Kong through the eyes of a prostitute played by Sandra Ng. Picking up the story some 10 years after the second instalment, Ng's character is now a tech-savvy madam managing a stable of high-end prostitutes and hosting parties for rich men. When a former flame is released from prison after 16 years behind bars, she tries to help him adjust to the new Hong Kong. Ng produced through Treasure Island Production. The film has so far grossed more than \$5.7m in Hong Kong.

Contact Katherine Lee, Treasure Island Production
✉kat@wedistribution.com

The Golden Era

Dir Ann Hui

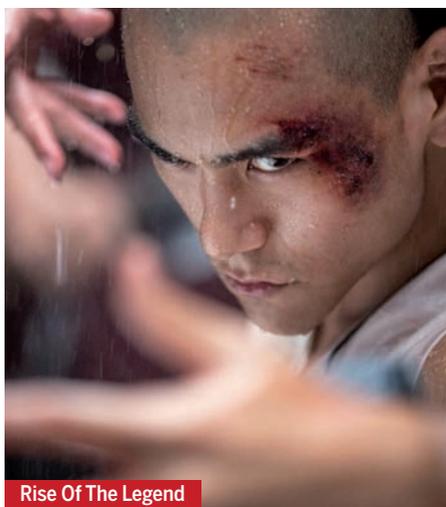
Directed by Ann Hui (*A Simple Life*), *The Golden Era* is a biopic of the female writer Xiao Hong, who lived through turbulent times in China at the beginning of the last century. Tang Wei (*Lust, Caution*) plays the writer while acclaimed actors Feng Shaofeng, Zhu Yawen and Wang Zhiwen play the male writers with whom she had relationships before dying of tuberculosis at the age of 31. Produced by Stellar Mega Films, China Film, Edko Films and Cheerland, the film is scripted by Li Qiang, who also wrote Hui's *The Postmodern Life Of My Aunt* and Vicki Zhao's 2013 hit *So Young*.

Contact Julian Chiu, Edko Films
✉chiujulian@edkofilm.com.hk

Helios

Dirs Sunny Luk, Longman Leung

Sunny Luk and Longman Leung's highly anticipated follow-up to 2012 hit *Cold War* revolves around a South Korean criminal who uses stolen uranium to

**The Golden Era****Rise Of The Legend**

make a nuclear bomb that is set to change hands in Hong Kong. The pan-Asian cast includes Hong Kong's Jacky Cheung, Nick Cheung and Shawn Yue; Korea's Ji Jin-hee and Choi Si-won; China's Wang Xueqi and Taiwanese star Chang Chen. Backed by Media Asia, the action thriller is in post-production.

Contact Fred Tsui, Media Asia
✉ frederick_tsui@mediaasia.com

KANO

Dir Umin Boya

The directorial debut of Chinese-aboriginal filmmaker Umin Boya, this \$10m sports drama is produced by Wei Te-sheng and Jimmy Huang, who worked together on Wei's hit period drama *Warriors Of The Rainbow: Seediq Bale*. Set in the 1920s, when Taiwan was under Japanese rule, *KANO* tells the story of a multi-ethnic baseball team making its way to Japan's high school baseball championships. Their coach is played by Masatoshi Nagase, whose credits include *The Hidden Blade*, and the cast also features Takao Osawa, Maki Sakai, Togo Igawa and Tsao Yu-ning. The film scored \$2.2m on its opening weekend in Taiwan.

Contact June Wu, Ablaze Image
✉ junewu@ablazeimage.com

Kung Fu Jungle

Dir Teddy Chen

Currently in post-production, Teddy Chen's big-budget action thriller stars action supremo Donnie Yen and popular mainland actor Wang Baoqiang. Wang plays a vicious killer who starts targeting martial-arts masters in Hong Kong. Yen plays a martial-arts expert who was imprisoned after accidentally killing a man and offers to help the police catch the killer in return for his freedom.

Contact May Yip, Emperor Motion Pictures
✉ mayyip@emperorgroup.com

The Master

Dir Ke Zhou

Mainland Chinese director Ke Zhou's *The Master* is based on real-life historical figure Chen Xiang who invented the Choy Li Fut style of kung fu. The story follows Chen as he opens a martial-arts school and conquers fighters from Russia, Japan and Germany. But he is pushed to his limits when his students are kidnapped and forced to fight for the corrupt Qing dynasty. The cast includes Shi Hongbo, Cheng Ni, Shi Tianlong and Mai Jintong.

Contact Clarence Tang, Golden Network Asia
✉ info@goldnetasia.com

**That Demon Within**

The Midnight After

Dir Fruit Chan

Based on a popular internet novel, Fruit Chan's thriller revolves around 17 passengers on a late-night minibus, who upon exiting the Lion Rock Tunnel, slowly discover they are the only people left alive in Hong Kong. Produced by Amy Chin and executive produced by Winnie Tsang's Golden Scene, *The Midnight After* features a cast of veteran Hong Kong actors, including Simon Yam, Kara Hui and Lam Suet, along with rising stars such as Wong You-nam, Janice Man and Chui Tien-you.

Contact Will Lin, Fortissimo Films
✉ will@fortissimo-hk.com

Rise Of The Legend

Dir Roy Chow

The first film about legendary kung-fu master Wong Fei-hung in almost 20 years, *Rise Of The Legend* reunites producer Bill Kong with director Roy Chow and screenwriter Christine To following their collaboration on *Nightfall*. Eddie Peng plays the role immortalised by Jet Li in the *Once Upon A Time In China* series. The cast also includes Sammo Hung, Jing Boran and Zhang Jin. Behind-the-camera talent includes Yuen Woo-ping as action director and Ng Man Ching as DoP.

Contact Julian Chiu, Edko Films
✉ chiujulian@edkofilm.com.hk

Temporary Family

Dir Cheuk Wan Chi

Taking a sly dig at Hong Kong's overheated property market, *Temporary*

(Below) **The Midnight After**

Family is a comedy drama about four investors in a luxury penthouse who end up having to live there together when their plans to turn a fast profit go awry. Produced by Hong Kong-based Irresistible Films, the film stars Nick Cheung, Sammi Cheng and Angelababy. Cheuk Wan Chi is a screenwriter, DJ and stand-up comedian who made her directorial debut with *Kick Ass Girls* (2013).

Contact Julian Chiu, Edko Films
✉ chiujulian@edkofilm.com.hk

The Taking Of Tiger Mountain

Dir Tsui Hark

Tsui Hark's highly anticipated 3D spy movie, based on the novel *Tracks In The Snowy Forest*, follows a battle of wits between a small military unit and a gang of ruthless, heavily armed bandits in North-east China during the 1940s. Huang Jianxin is producing the film, which is currently shooting with Zhang Hanyu, Tony Leung Ka-fai and Lin Gengxin heading the cast. The film is backed by Bona Film Group, which also produced Tsui's *Flying Swords Of Dragon Gate*.

Contact Virginia Leung, Distribution Workshop
✉ virginia@distributionworkshop.com

That Demon Within

Dir Dante Lam

Dante Lam's psychological thriller stars Daniel Wu as a police officer who accidentally saves the life of a crime-gang leader, played by Nick Cheung. When the leader is betrayed by his own men, the cop starts working with him to bring down the gang but is haunted by disturbing visions. Produced by Emperor Motion Pictures, the film received its world premiere in the Berlinale's Panorama section. It will open in Hong Kong on April 17.

Contact May Yip, Emperor Motion Pictures
✉ mayyip@emperorgroup.com

The White-Haired Witch Of Lunar Kingdom

Dir Jacob Cheung

Jacob Cheung's 3D wuxia epic centres on the romance between a young sorceress and a righteous Taoist leader, working together to protect famine victims in the twilight of the Ming Dynasty. Fan Bingbing and Huang Xiaoming head the cast, marking the first pairing of these two popular actors, while the award-winning creative team includes costume designer Tim Yip. Backed by Bona Film Group, the film is in post-production.

Contact Virginia Leung, Distribution Workshop
✉ virginia@distributionworkshop.com

Z Storm

Dir David Lam

Marking David Lam's return to directing after a 10-year hiatus, this \$6.5m crime thriller revolves around Hong Kong anti-corruption police investigating a charity that is involved in a ponzi scheme. Louis Koo stars as the officer investigating, while Gordon Lam, Dada Chan and Lo Hoi-pang also star. Co-produced by Pegasus and China's Sil-Metropole Organisation, the film is in production.

Contact Kat Yeung, Pegasus Motion Pictures
✉ kathy.yeung@pegasusmovie.com

EVENTS

09:30 - 12:00

LLOYD'S CLASS OF BUSINESS EVENT – INSURANCE FOR THE FILM & ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Venue Meeting Rooms S224-S225, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

09:30 - 12:00

THE 7TH ASIAN VFX AND DIGITAL CINEMA SUMMIT 2014

Venue Theatre 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

10:00 - 13:00

CHINA'S PEARL RIVER DELTA: OPPORTUNITIES TO FINANCE US PRODUCTIONS

Venue Meeting Rooms S226-S227, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
By invitation only

10:00 - 12:00

SALON FILMS JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

Venue Stage, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

10:30 - 11:30

OPERATION GREENLIGHT

Venue Event Room, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

11:00 - 13:00

'NAKED AMBITION 3D' MOVIE PRESS CONFERENCE

Venue Studio, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

12:00 - 14:00

'OVERHEARD 3' PRESS CONFERENCE

Venue Event Room, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Overheard 3 press conference at 12:00



13:30 - 15:00

'TWO THUMBS UP' PRESS CONFERENCE

Venue Studio, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

13:30 - 15:30

HONG KONG FILM NEW ACTION – 4K MOVIE POWER: SYMPOSIUM

Venue Theatre 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition

15:00 - 18:00

2013-14: THE EXPANSION AND CHALLENGES OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Venue Event Room, Hall 1, HKCEC

15:00 - 17:00

TV WORLD 2014 OPENING CEREMONY AND INTERNATIONAL FORUM: NEW ERA OF ASIAN REALITY SHOWS

Venue Stage, Hall 1, Hong

Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Moderator Peter Lam, vice-president, Hong Kong Television Association

Speakers James Su, founder, EDI Media US; Judy Chan, senior vice-president, Star China Media; Mark Francis, vice-president, production and development, Fox; Shing Bo Ji, deputy chief editor, Hunan Broadcasting System; Kit Szeto, director and CEO, Dim Sum Television

In order to strengthen audience loyalty and magnify viewership of TV programmes, broadcasters and production companies are trying to innovate. The inspiration and empathy

generated by real-life scenarios on screen have given rise to an unprecedented wave of reality TV hits across Asia. This forum will explore this trend as it looks into the essential elements for developing reality shows in the region. Leading figures from the broadcast industry will share their experiences and offer expert tips about how to produce unique TV programmes that can take their place among a world of diversifying entertainment options.

16:30 - 18:00

PINEWOOD ISKANDAR MALAYSIA STUDIOS COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Venue Studio, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
By invitation only

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SCREENINGS

» Screening times and venues are correct at the time of going to press but subject to alteration

09:30

IF YOU DON'T, I WILL (France) 102mins. Comedy, drama. Les Films du Losange. Dir: Sophie Fillières. Key cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Mathieu Amalric. *Pomme and Pierre have been together for a long time. But where has their love gone? Conjugality has taken over. They can't stand being two any more, and especially those two... During a hike, Pomme will decide to stay and live in the forest.*

Theatre 2, HKCEC

IN THE COURTYARD

(France) 105mins. Wild Bunch. Dir: Pierre Salvadori. Key cast: Catherine Deneuve, Gustave Kervern. *A taciturn caretaker and an anxiety-stricken resident form an awkward, touching friendship that might just save them from madness.*

Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC

09:45

FIELD OF DOGS

See box, right

KEENING WOMAN

(Hong Kong) 114mins. Drama. All Rights Entertainment. Dir: Rita Hui. Key cast: Michelle Wai, Mitsu Hana, Ryan Lau, Hon Man Ko, Wing Chung Leung. *In a farewell ceremony for a friend of the family, Cotton acts abnormally. Her body and her consciousness are separating. Different memories, identities and actions are lingering inside her, which collaborate in the unusual relationship between herself, her lame boyfriend and her psychiatrist.*

Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC

MONSTER

(South Korea) 114mins. Horror/suspense. Lotte Entertainment. Dir: Hwang In-ho. Key cast: Lee Min-ki, Kim Go-eun. *Bok-soon is slightly*



FILMART

09:45

FIELD OF DOGS

(Poland, Italy) 102mins. Drama. Wide. Dir: Lech Majewski. Key cast: Michal Taterek, Elcbieta Okupska, Jacenty Jedrusik, Karolina Korta. *Father ploughs a supermarket with oxen, the plough ripping up the tiles; a girl in a*

bikini tempts the hero on the snowy slopes of the Matterhorn; Niagara falling onto a cathedral altar; and a forest full of the dead – these are the visions of Adam, a poet who has lost his closest friend and his beloved in a car crash.

Meeting Room N204-N205, HKCEC

lacking in intelligence, but is a brave and bright young lady. One day, she loses her beloved younger sister to Tae-soo, a heartless murderer. At last, a deadly combat unfolds between a frail but strong young woman and a cold, ruthless killer.

Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC

THE VERDICT

(Belgium) 110mins. Drama. Media Luna new films. Dir: Jan Verheyen. Key cast: Koen De Bouw, Johan Leysen, Veerle Baetens, Jappe Claes. *When his wife's murderer is set for release after a procedural error, Luc Segers will do everything in his power to stop it from happening. He is going to take justice into his own hands and will then compete with the*

constitutional state that let him down.

Meeting Room N101B, HKCEC

10:00

FAKE FICTION

(China) 93mins. Comedy, drama. China Film Promotion International. Dir: Shao Xiaoli. Key cast: Xu Zheng, Zhang Zifeng. *Ou Dawei is a down-on-his-luck con artist and trickster who peddles himself as a conjurer. It's a quack's life if ever there was one, but his rakish ways are stopped in their tracks when he is approached by an eight-year-old girl, Diu Diu, who claims to be his daughter. When his partner-in-crime, Wenxue, cuts and runs with the money for an upcoming performance, leaving Ou high and dry, he must*

find a way to do the show without him – and with his daughter in tow.

Meeting Room N206-N207, HKCEC

HUMAN CAPITAL

(France, Italy) 102mins. Drama. Bac Films. Dir: Paolo Virzi. Key cast: Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Valeria Golino, Fabrizio Bentivoglio. *Lake Como, Italy. A cyclist is knocked off the road by a jeep the night before Christmas Eve. What happened that night? How will this accident change the destiny of the rich Bernaschi family and the Rovelli family on the edge of bankruptcy?*

Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC By invitation only

SCHOOL OF BABEL

(France) 89mins. Documentary. Pyramide International. Dir: Julie Bertuccelli. *They are Irish, Senegalese, Brazilian, Moroccan, Chinese... They are between 11 and 15 years old and have just arrived in France. For a year they will all be together in the same adaptation class of a Parisian secondary school. In this multicultural arena, we see the innocence, the enthusiasm and inner turmoil of these teenagers who, caught in*

the midst of starting out on a new life, question our preconceived ideas and give us hope for a better future.

Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC

MY LITTLE NIGHTMARE: THE MOVIE

(Japan) 120mins. Drama. Nippon Television Network Corporation. Dir: Noriyoshi Sakuma. Key cast: Keiko Kitagawa, Gackt, Yuka, Manatsu Kimura. *The hit TV drama series returns to the silver screen. Fun dreams, scary dreams, bizarre dreams. We see dreams every night but they're veiled in mystery. What if it were possible to connect with a stranger's unconsciousness while sleeping, and be able to see the misfortune in that person's future in the form of a prophetic dream? This story is about a girl who possesses such mysterious powers.*

Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC By invitation only

MY PRETEND GIRLFRIEND

(Japan) 109mins. Drama, romance. Nikkatsu Corporation. Dir: Saiji Yakumo. Key cast: Akari Hayami, Taro Takeuchi, Anna Ishibashi, Asuka Kudo, Naomi Nishida, Yuko Nakamura,

Kitaro And Osamu Mukai.

Since entering high school, Noboru Aihara has gone mostly unnoticed by his peers. One day, a friendly senior student called Shun Miyazaki calls him over and introduces him to Yo Momose, a student from another class, then makes a strange request. In order to quell a rapidly spreading rumour that Shun has become romantically involved with Momose despite going out with Tetsuko Kanbayashi, one of the most popular girls in school, he asks Noboru to pretend to be Momose's boyfriend.

Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC

SEVEN LITTLE KILLERS

(Italy) 86mins. Drama, horror/suspense. Intramovies. Dir: Matteo Andreoli. Key cast: Gianmarco Tognazzi, Michele Venitucci, Nicola Nocella, Anna Gigante, Rosaria Russo. *The 1980s, in a small village in the south of Italy. A group of kids enjoy their youth until one windy afternoon something terrible happens. Thirty years later, now adults, they have to deal with the ghosts of their past.*

Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC

TRANSIT

(Philippines) 93mins. Drama. Electric Entertainment. Dir: Hannah Espia. Key cast: Irma Adlawan, Ping Medina, Mercedes Cabral, Jasmine Curtis-Smith, Marc Justine Alvarez. *Explores the intersecting stories of Filipinos in Tel Aviv when the threat of a law deporting the children of migrant workers looms over their precarious lives. Janet, a domestic worker on an expired visa, struggles to hide her half-Israeli daughter Yael, a rebellious teenager caught up in a juvenile romance. Most endangered in the situation is Janet's four-*

year-old nephew, Joshua, whom Janet and Yael watch over while the boy's father, Moises, works out of town as a caregiver.

agnes b. CINEMA – Hong Kong Arts Centre

11:30

LA SANTA

(Italy) 110mins. Comedy drama. European Film Promotion (representing Rai Trade). Dir: Cosimo Alemo. Key cast: Gianluca Di Gennaro, Massimiliano Gallo, Michael Schermi, Francesco Siciliano. *A small village in southern Italy, frozen in time, sees the arrival of four strangers, chasing a desperate dream to redeem their lives.*

Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC

PLASTIC

(UK) 101mins. Action/adventure. Cinema Management Group. Dir: Julian Gilbey. Key cast: Ed Speleers, Will Poulter, Alfie Allen, Emma Rigby, Thomas Kretschmann. *A group of credit-card thieves battle time and each other to repay their \$2m debt to a dangerous Miami gangster.*

Theatre 2, HKCEC

12:00

BOONIE BEARS: TO THE RESCUE!

(China) 90mins. Action/adventure, animation, children's. All Rights Entertainment. Dir: Ding Liang.

When two boxes are switched mistakenly in the middle of a stormy night, the lives of Bald and his friends — the Bear brothers — change dramatically.

Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC

COWBOYS

(Croatia) 104mins. Comedy. Wide. Dir: Tomislav Mrcic. Key cast: Sasa Anocic, Zivko Anocic, Matija Antolic, Kruno Klabucar, Hrvoje Baricic, Ivana Rushaidat, Rakan Rushaidat. *The story of eight outsiders who will try to create a theatre play while breaking every rule of the craft.*

Meeting Room N204-N205, HKCEC



FILMART

12:00

FUKU-CHAN OF FUKUFUKU FLATS

(Japan) 110mins. Comedy. Third Window Films. Dir: Yosuke Fujita. Key cast: Miyuki Oshima, Asami Mizukawa, Yoshiyoshi Arakawa.

Fuku-chan is a caring and helpful person whose long-standing fear of women leaves him in an uncomfortable situation when a woman from his past returns.

Meeting Room N101B, HKCEC

FUKU-CHAN OF FUKUFUKU FLATS

See box, above

JOSSY'S

(Japan) 97mins. Comedy. HKIFF Industry Screenings @ Filmart. Dir: Yuichi Fukuda. Key cast: Mirie Kiritai, Mina Fujii, Mitsuki Takahata, Kasumi Arimura, Mitsuki Yamamoto.

Five girls team up as rangers to beat the evil monsters who try to conquer the Earth.

Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC

JUNGLE SHUFFLE

(South Korea) 84mins. Action/adventure, animation, children's. Wonderworld Studios. Dir: Taedong Park. Key cast: Drake Bell, Rob Schneider. *Manu is a little coati in the Mexican jungle. He is intelligent but always makes trouble. Sacha is the only one who can see Manu's merit. One day, a poacher hired by a global GMO company*

captures jungle animals including Sacha. Manu is exiled from the coati village and he decides to save Sacha. But in order to rescue the love of his life, Manu must learn to give himself to others and work as a team with other endangered species. Meanwhile, the crazy Dr Loco hatches a plot to fulfil his personal ambition against the company.

Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC

NATURAL RESISTANCE

(Italy) 85mins. Documentary. Rezo. Dir: Jonathan Nossiter. *Four Italian winemakers live the kind of life we all dream about: from a Tuscan couple's 11th century monastery winery to a radical Piemontese farmer-poet. But these protagonists of an international natural wine revolution have to struggle fiercely for their ecologically and culturally progressive dream. With*

the help of a magical film curator, they use the power of fiction films to fight the system and stir the hidden rebel inside all of us.

agnes b. CINEMA – Hong Kong Arts Centre

WHITE TIGER

(Russia) 104mins. Drama, horror/suspense, war. Mosfilm Cinema Concern. Dir: Karen Shakhnazarov. Key cast: Aleksey Vertkov, Vitaly Kishchenko, Valery Grishko, Karl Kranzkowski, Christian Redl.

The Second World War is drawing to a close. The Soviet army advances decisively. But there appears in the battlefield White Tiger, a huge, indestructible fascist tank. The Soviet command has built a special version of the T-34 tank. Its crew is headed by a man who was almost burnt alive in combat but survived. He remembers nothing of his past, but he has the unusual ability to communicate with tanks. He is convinced that White Tiger exists and must be destroyed. The pursuit of the mystic monster begins.

Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC

12:15

THE HUNTED

(US) 88mins. Horror/

suspense. Cinema Management Group. Dir: Josh Stewart. Key cast: Josh Stewart, Ronnie Gene Blevins, Skipp Sudduth. *In an attempt to land their own hunting TV show, Jak and Stevie head to the dense, secluded mountains of West Virginia. Equipped with only their bow and cameras, they have three days to kill a monster buck big enough to grab the attention of a TV network. Once they find the massive animal, they look to strike fast. But as the sun sets, they realise they're not alone. A supernatural force appears to be lurking in the vacant woods... and now they're the ones being hunted.*

Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC

I CAN QUIT WHENEVER I WANT

(Italy) 100mins. Comedy. Fandango. Dir: Sydney Sibilia. Key cast: Edoardo Leo, Valerio Aprea, Pietro Sermoniti, Paolo Calabresi, Libero De Rienzo, Valeria Solarino, Neri Marcoré. *Pietro Zinni is 35 years old, a researcher and a genius. But this is not enough. When cuts are made at his university, he is laid off. What can a nerd do to survive when he has spent his whole life studying? The idea is dramatically simple: put together a*

criminal gang such as the world has never seen. So he recruits the best of his ex-colleagues, who despite their skills are by now all living on the margins of society.

Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC

PARTS PER BILLION

(US) 95mins. Drama, sci-fi, fantasy. XYZ Films. Dir: Brian Hourichi. Key cast: Josh Hartnett, Rosario Dawson, Frank Langella, Penn Badgley. *As the US is devastated by biological attacks, life as we know it is pushed to the brink of extinction and three couples must fight for love, survival and the legacy of humanity.*

Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC

13:30

MISS GRANNY

(South Korea) 124mins. Comedy. CJ Entertainment. Dir: Hwang Dong-hyeuk. Key cast: Sim Eun-kyung, Na Moon-heec. *A 70-year-old granny lives a second heyday after she turns into her 20-year-old self again.*

Theatre 2, HKCEC

13:45

RED SQUARE

(Mongolia) 92mins. Horror/suspense. Film Asia Entertainment Group Company. Dir: Ganbold Byambaa. Key cast: Tumurbaatar, Ankhbayar Batbaatar, Gantsetseg Dorj, Tumurbat Nasan, Batkhuu Enkhtaiwan, Byambasuren Tumurbaatar. *The head of a psychiatry treats his patients in strange and disturbing ways.*

Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC

14:00

19TH IFVA AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS (OPEN CATEGORY)

» **BEAUTIFUL LIFE**

(Hong Kong) 26mins. Drama. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Chan Ho-Lun Fredie.

» **THE ECHOES OF CIRCLES**

(Hong Kong) 29mins. »



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Drama. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Lam Kin-Hung Joel.

» **INVISIBLE ROCK**

(Hong Kong) 23mins. Drama. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Chen King-Yuen.

» **YEUNG YEUNG WITH COWS**

(Hong Kong) 25mins. Drama. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Wong Cheuk-Man, Law Wan-I, Law Hoi-Ki, Leung Wing-Sze, Tang Ka-Hei.

Meeting Room N204-N205, HKCEC

DAYS OF WRATH

(South Korea) 103mins. Action/adventure. 9ers Entertainment. Dir: Shin Dong-yeop. Key cast: Joo Sang-wook, Yang Dong-geun, Lee Tae-im.

In high school, Chang-sik bullied Jun-suk relentlessly and even caused Jun-suk's girlfriend to commit suicide. After 15 years the two bump into each other again. Chang-sik is getting ready for his wedding while working for a conglomerate. On the other hand, Jun-suk is working at a convenience store having a difficult time getting a decent job – even though he graduated from a prestigious university. Jun-suk never forgot their past and plans revenge.

Meeting Room N109-N110, HKCEC

FROM VEGAS TO MACAU

(Hong Kong) 93mins. Action/adventure, drama. Mega-Vision Project Workshop. Dir: Wong Jing. Key cast: Chow Yun Fat, Nicholas Tse.

The policeman half-brother of small-time conman Cool is murdered by Ko, the head of an illegal gambling syndicate.

Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC

HELLO ZOMBIE

(Japan) 47mins. Horror/suspense. Okinawa Prefecture OCVB Okinawa Film Office. Dir: Souichi Takayama. Key cast: Benbi, Ai Kawamitsu, Kyouhei Higa, Tomoji Yamashiro, Shinichirou Chinen,



FILMART

14:00

THE TEACHER'S DIARY

(Thailand) 105mins. Romance. GMM Tai Hub Company. Dir: Nithawat Tharatorn. Key cast: Sukrit Wisetkaew, Chermarn Boonyasak. *In 2012, Song, a former professional wrestler, had to find a new job as a teacher at a primary school located on a floating community that sits by a dam surrounded*

by mountains. Bee is the only teacher at this school. Being in the middle of nowhere, Song must learn to cope with the loneliness of being cut off from the rest of the modern world. The only relief is the diary notes of Ann, a former teacher who moved away but accidentally left behind her personal memoirs.

Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC

Yasushi Murayama, Akabana-Seinenkai. Meeting Room N206-N207, HKCEC

RADIO LOVE

(Japan) 67mins. Drama. TimeRiver Pictures. Dir: Hideyuki Tokigawa. Key cast: Yuji Yokoyama, Sakura Nakano, Angirls. *A charismatic radio DJ in Hiroshima is so disillusioned he wants to quit his job. One day, the DJ saves a young girl who is about to jump off a bridge. This girl pleads with him not to leave radio because it helps to connect people. He doesn't believe her but a series of strange events that revolve*

around even stranger characters occur, and his heart opens to the invisible connection between the radio and the people of Hiroshima.

Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC

THE TEACHER'S DIARY

See box, above

14:15

TAKAMINE

(Japan) 105mins. Drama. TAKAOcan Dream Company. Dir: Tohru Ichikawa. Key cast: Hatsunori Hasegawa. Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC

TREKKING THE WAY HOME

(Taiwan) 99mins.

Documentary. Creative Century Entertainment Co. Dir: Vivien, Huimei Chen, Kuo-Wei Chuan. Key cast: Wang, Ke-Wei, Chu, Chin.

The story of teenagers from dysfunctional families looking for a home of their own. These teens were hurt by their closest family members or deserted by society as a whole. This time, they will begin a different journey. It is hoped that through the healing power offered by the nature and the company of the group, they are about to find a sense of belonging that they lost a long time ago.

Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC

14:30

ONE CUT

(Japan, South Korea) 86mins. Horror/suspense, organised crime. Nikkatsu Corporation. Dir: Koji Shiraishi. Key cast: Yeon Je-Wook, Kim Kko-Bbi, Tsukasa Aoi, Ryotaro Yonemuracc. *A journalist, Soyeon receives an unexpected phone call from her old friend Sangjoon, a murderer on the run after killing 18 people. He asks her to record an interview with him. Soyeon decides*

to accept the offer and as requested heads to meet him with a Japanese cameraman. Sangjoon threatens them not to turn off the camera whatever happens and starts confessing his crimes.

Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC

OUR FAMILY

(Japan) 117mins. Drama. Mode Films. Dir: Yuya Ishii. Key cast: Satoshi Tsumabuki, Mieko Harada, Sosuke Ikematsu, Kyosuke Nagatsuka.

A mother's illness brings together a family on the edge of collapse. A subtle and beautiful tale about rediscovery and rebirth in an ordinary Japanese family, humorously and movingly portrayed. Based on a true story.

Meeting Room N101B, HKCEC

WHERE THE DEVIL HIDES

(US) 86mins. Horror/suspense. Cinema Management Group. Dir: Christian Christiansen. Key cast: Rufus Sewell, Alycia Debnam Carey, Adelaide Kane, Leah Pipes, Thomas McDonnell, Jennifer Carpenter. *Tells the story of a prophecy in a small village of New Bethlehem that on the eve of every girl's 18th*

birthday, the devil might inhabit her soul. Now as that day approaches, six girls, all born on the sixth day of the sixth month, begin to disappear mysteriously, one by one. Could this be the work of a crazed serial killer, a village elder or the horrific prophecy come true... the work of the devil?

agnes b. CINEMA – Hong Kong Arts Centre

15:45

MAI'S MAGIC AND THE FAMILY DAY

(Japan) 29mins. Animation. P.A. Works. Dir: Masayuki Yoshihara. Key cast: Kanako Miyamoto, Yoshitsugu Matsuoaka, Nakamura Daiki, Sumi Shimamoto. *On the parent-teacher day at Mai's school, her mother is told something peculiar. "Your daughter, Mai, has been helping people with her inherited magic." Mai's mother is unable to make sense of these words and days pass by. One day, Mai's mother, expecting their third child, is hospitalised. Through magic, Mai will learn what family and caring for others is all about.*

Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC

16:00

THE GREAT MUSEUM

(Austria) 94mins. Documentary. Wide. Dir: Johannes Holzhausen. *This feature documentary portrays one of the most important museums in the world, Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. It presents a unique look behind the scenes of this institution and encounters charismatic protagonists and their work in the museum's special world – as an art institution as well as a vehicle for state representation.*

Meeting Room N204-N205, HKCEC

ABERDEEN

(Hong Kong) 96mins. Drama. HKIFF Industry Screenings @ Filmart. Dir: Pang Ho Cheung. Key cast: Louis Koo, Eric Tsang; Miriam Yeung, Gigi Leung, Ng Man-tat, Carrie Ng. *The sleepy fishing town*

of Aberdeen was where the British first landed when they founded Hong Kong, hence its Chinese name: 'Little Hong Kong'. Likewise, the extended Cheng family represents a microcosm of our city today, with its numerous contradictions between modernity and traditions, family and individuality. **Theatre 1, HKCEC**

THE FIFTH WHEEL

(Italy) 113mins. Comedy. Fandango. Dir: Giovanni Veronesi. Key cast: Elio Germano, Ricky Memphis, Alessandra Mastronardi, Virginia Raffaele. *Ernesto is a simple man who tries to follow his dreams without ever losing sight of the real values of life. An everyday man getting work wherever he can – as an upholsterer, a cook at a nursery, as a removal man and as a driver, to being an extra in films. Alongside Ernesto and his best friend, Giacinto, we relive the pivotal moments in Italian history from the 1970s to the present day.* **Meeting Room N109-N110, HKCEC**

GOING AWAY

(France) 98mins. Wild Bunch. Dir: Nicole Garcia. Key cast: Louise Bourguoin, Pierre Rochefort. *In the south of France, a loner with secrets, a beautiful woman on the run and her young son confront the dangerous mysteries of the past.* **Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC**

THE WHITE STORM

(Hong Kong, China) 134mins. Action/adventure. Universe Films Distribution Company. Dir: Benny Chan. Key cast: Louis Koo, Nick Cheung, Sean Lau, Lo Hoi Pang, Yuan Quan. *Tin, Chow and Wai are partners in the Narcotics Bureau. The three have an opportunity to capture notorious druglord Eight-Faced Buddah in Thailand. During the operation Tin's team is completely annihilated.*

Tin is forced to choose one survivor between Wai and Chow. The destiny of the three is intertwined.

Theatre 2, HKCEC

16:15

A TIME IN QUCHI

(Taiwan) 110mins. Drama. Creative Century Entertainment Co. Dir: Chang, Tso Chi. Key cast: Yang, Liang-Yu. *Bao, a city kid, is sent to grandpa's home, Quchi, in the countryside because his grandma has just passed away. Quchi is a completely foreign land of wonder for him. He goes to a new school, meets new friends, and learns about love and life.* **Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC**

THE MAFIA KILLS ONLY IN SUMMER

(Italy) 90mins. Comedy, drama. European Film Promotion (representing Rai Trade). Dir: Pierfrancesco Diliberto. Key cast: Pierfrancesco Diliberto, Cristiana Capotondi, Claudio Goe, Ninni. *Set in Palermo, Sicily, this is the sentimental story of Arthur and Flora. Against the backdrop of their tender but funny tale run the tragic events of the Mafia that took place between the 1970s and 1990s.* **Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC**

ONCE UPON A TIME IN SHANGHAI

(Hong Kong) 95mins. Action/adventure. Mega-Vision Project Workshop. Dir: Wong Ching Po. Key cast: Philip Ng, Sammo Hung, Andy On. *Ma Yongzhen flees from Shangdong to Shanghai to make a living, and becomes friendly with street performer Master Tie and his daughter, Tie Ju. Yongzhen meets local gang leader Long Qi, and becomes great friends. As they both oppose drug trafficking, they make enemies of the local gang leaders. When Qi and Master Tie are murdered and Ju is kidnapped by the Axe gang, Yongzhen enters their lair to eradicate their evil, using only his fists.* **Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC**

16:30

I SELL LOVE

(Hong Kong) 104mins. Drama. Ignite Productions. Dir: Kevin Chu. Key cast: Rose Chan, Chau Pak Ho, Liu Kai Chi. *Pretty undergraduate Tiffany starts compensated dating, considering it a personal choice – but every choice has a price.* **agnes b. CINEMA – Hong Kong Arts Centre**

LOVE IN THE USSR

(Russia) 89mins. Romance. Mosfilm Cinema Concern. Dir: Karen Shakhnazarov. Key cast: Aleksandr Lyapin, Lidia Milyuzina, Egor Baranovsky, Ivan Kupreenko, Armen Dzhigarkhanyan. *Moscow in the 1970s. The plot unfolds around two students, Sergey and Lyuda. The young couple quarrel and make up, face their first disappointments and victories. Life seems beautiful as they live in the best country in the world, the Soviet Union. But nothing is constant. The young people part. Lyuda gets married, and Sergey goes to see an ancient city discovered by his grandfather several decades before, a fragment of a long-forgotten empire, not knowing that soon the USSR will vanish just as his and Lyuda's feelings did.* **Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC**

RIDING THE BREEZE

(Taiwan, Japan) 95mins. Drama, romance. Fine Time Entertainment International. Dir: Koji Hagiuda. Key cast: Teresa Daley, River Huang, Mei Kuro. *A comedic road movie following a 26-year-old woman who struggles at work and in romance. But when she meets a 16-year-old girl, who believes wholeheartedly in her future success, she gradually regains her passion through cycling.* **Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC Press only**

TUMBLEWEED

(South Korea) 103mins. Drama. Mirovision. Dir:

Lee Duk-hee. Key cast: Im Chang-jung, Ahn Nae-sang, Jung Seong-hwa, Shon Eun-seo. *Chang-soo makes a living by serving prison time for other people's crimes. One day, he meets a beautiful woman and for the first time falls in love.* **Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC**

16:45

MONSTERZ

(Japan) 111mins. Action/adventure. Nippon Television Network Corporation. Dir: Hideo Nakata. Key cast: Tatsuya Fujiwara, Takayuki Yamada, Satomi Ishihara. *The man was born with an ability to control people by simply staring and willing. He can control anybody... except for one man. When their fates cross, it is a fight to death.* **Meeting Room N101B, HKCEC**

TAKAOACAN DREAM

(Japan) 100mins. Drama. TAKAOcan Dream Company. Dir: Tohru Ichikawa. Key cast: Hiroyuki Watanabe. **Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC**

18:00

STEREO

(Germany) 95mins. Action/adventure, horror/suspense, sci-fi, fantasy. Beta Cinema. Dir: Maximilian Erlenwein. Key cast: Juergen Vogel, Moritz Bleibtreu, Petra Schmidt-Schaller, Georg Friedrich. *Eric leads a quiet life, with his motorcycle workshop, his new girlfriend and her young daughter. But this seemingly happy world comes to an abrupt end when an eerie stranger, Henry, forces his way into their lives.* **Theatre 1, HKCEC**

18:15

LIVE

(Japan) 105mins. Comedy, horror/suspense. Kadokawa Corporation. Dir: Noboru Iguchi. Key cast: Yuki Yamada, Ito Ohno, Yuuki Morinaga. *A man's mother is abducted, and the only way to save her is to find clues hidden in the novel 'Live'.* **Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC**

THE LOSERS

(Taiwan) 112mins. Drama. HKIFF Industry Screenings @ Filmart. Dir: Lou Yi-An. Key cast: Hsu Hua-chien, Paicx Yatauyungana, Pan Chin-yu, Chiu Su-Chin, Lin Chih-ju, Yang Zong-hua. *A man leaves the city and returns home to the countryside. However, his dreams of being a farmer are shattered as property developers have flocked into this small town in southern Taiwan and the farmland is taken over by holiday homes and villas. When he meets a woman who has been trapped in one of the houses, both physically and mentally, their encounter changes everything.* **Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC**

18:30

BLIND

(Norway) 96mins. Drama. Versatile. Dir: Eskil Vogt. Key cast: Ellen Dorrit Petersen, Henrik Rafaelsen, Vera Vitali, Marius Kollbenstvedt. *Having lost her sight, Ingrid retreats to the safety of her apartment – a place where she can feel in control. But her real problems lie within, not beyond, the walls of her apartment, and her deepest fears and repressed fantasies begin to take over her life.* **Theatre 2, HKCEC**

THE JOURNEY

(Malaysia) 102mins. Comedy, drama. mm2 Entertainment. Dir: Chiu Keng Guan. Key cast: Ben Andrew Pfeiffer, Lee Sai Peng, Joanne Yew, Hong Im. *Uncle Chuan is an old-fashioned and conservative retiree living alone in the Cameron Highlands. His only wish is to be reunited with his daughter Ah Bee, who has been studying overseas. When she returns with Benji, her foreign fiancé, Uncle Chuan agrees reluctantly to their marriage on the condition his future son-in-law travels with him across the country to deliver the wedding invitations.* **Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC**

SCREEN

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SCREENING

24 MARCH, 10:00 AM Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC
25 MARCH, 2:00 PM Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC

25 MARCH, 4:15 PM Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC