

DAY 2

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 2015

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AT FILMART



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A TYRANT KING, A TREACHEROUS SUBJECT,  
AND A WOMAN SEEKING REVENGE

## THE TREACHEROUS

JU JI-HOON | KIM KANG-WOO | LIM JI-YEON  
DIRECTED BY MIN KYU-DONG <ALL ABOUT MY WIFE>, <HORROR STORIES>, <ANTIQUE>

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Stand No. 1C-F25



## THE SILENCED

*A mystery thriller of the lost girls,  
suspicious school, and abnormal changes*

**DIRECTOR :** LEE Hae-young *Like A Virgin* | *Foxy Festival*  
**CAST :** PARK Bo-young | UHM Ji-won | PARK So-dam



## THE TREACHEROUS

*Seduce a tyrant king to conquer the world*

**DIRECTOR :** MIN Kyu-dong *All About My Wife* | *Horror Stories* | *Antique*  
**CAST :** JU Ji-hoon | KIM Kang-woo | LIM Ji-yeon

\* Lotte Entertainment - Worldwide sales excluding Europe / Finecut - Europe Sales



## THE LONG WAY HOME

*From enemies to  
brothers during the most tragic war*

**DIRECTOR :** CHUN Sung-il  
**CAST :** SEOL Kyung-gu | YEO Jin-goo

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# SCREEN

AT FILMART

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Said on set with Shaheizy Sam

## Said shooting supernatural Interchange

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Malaysian director Dain Iskandar Said has started shooting supernatural thriller *Interchange*, the first project to be backed by Malaysia's new slate financing fund Sonneratia Capital.

Produced by Said and Nandita Solomon's Apparat, the film stars Malaysian actors Iedil Putra and Shaheizy Sam along with Indonesia's Prisia Nasution and Nicholas Saputra. Solomon is producing.

The story revolves around a forensics photographer investigating a series of macabre ritual murders.

A division of Rhizophora Ventures, Sonneratia Capital plans to provide partial slate financing for Malaysian films with export potential. It will invest in up to four qualifying films from Apparat and is in talks with further Malaysian production companies.

Rhizophora Ventures group managing director Michael Lake, who formerly headed Pinewood Iskandar Malaysia Studios, is executive producer on *Interchange*.

## Mei Ah grows slate with Jet Tone, Gordon Chan

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Hong Kong's Mei Ah Entertainment will unveil several projects at Filmart today, including a co-production with Wong Kar Wai's Jet Tone Productions and a *Boyhood*-inspired drama set to be shot over 15 years.

Jet Tone's *Drive Me Crazy* is a \$12m romantic drama scripted by Zou Jingzhi (*The Grandmaster*), which tells the story of a jilted bride who pays a stranger to take her on a road trip from Beijing to Yunnan. Chen Chang and Luodan Wang (*The Continent*) will head

the cast of the film, which is in pre-production. The director has yet to be confirmed.

*Growing Up* will follow a group of young actors across 15 years in Beijing, and aims to capture the growth of the city, the country and the children. Yu Zhong directs.

Gordon Chan and Chan Hing-ka are co-directing \$12m romantic drama *Dream Actually* for Mei Ah. The film, which is in pre-production, is the story of three young people pursuing their dreams overseas.

Manfred Wong is producing the

film, which will shoot partially in the UK.

Mei Ah will also handle Hong Kong and several Southeast Asian territories on Jet Tone's *The Ferryman*, directed by Zhang Jiajia and starring Tony Leung Chiu-wai. Alibaba Pictures is backing the film.

Mei Ah's slate also includes Joe Ma's 3D fantasy thriller *On Fallen Wings*; Philip Yung's *Port Of Call*, which will close HKIFF; and Pan Chih-yuan's romantic comedy *Sashimi*, starring Lee Kang-sheng, which was produced through Mei Ah's Taiwan office.



Director Sylvia Chang joined stars Angelica Lee Sin-je and Isabella Leong last night on the red carpet for Hong Kong International Film Festival's opening night film, *Murmurs Of The Heart*

## Emperor's 15 to mark anniversary celebrations

BY JEAN NOH

Hong Kong's Emperor Motion Pictures (EMP) has launched a 15-film slate to commemorate its 15th anniversary.

Titles include Chapman To-directed and Herman Yau-produced *The Mobfathers*, Stanley Kwan-produced romantic drama *Love In Sicily*, Fruit Chan's suspense thriller *Kill Time* and an untitled Yuen Wo-ping project.

For *The Mobfathers*, the makers of *Sara* are collaborating again on a dark comedy set in the Hong Kong underworld where the five leading gangs are holding an election for the ruling boss.

*Love In Sicily* sees Lin Yu-hsien (*Jump Ashin!*) direct Korean star Lee Jun-ki in a coming-of-age love story set in Shanghai and Italy, while Angelababy and Ethan Ruan star in *Kill Time*, a film about an obscure shopping website that leads to a vital clue in a mysterious murder.

Albert Lee is producing the untitled Yuen Wo-ping project, a comedy in which eccentric martial artists gather for a seminal kung-fu showdown.

EMP also has in development a new Benny Chan detective film, and a feature from *Infernal Affairs* directors Alan Mak and Felix Chong.

## Wolf Warrior prowls to US

Well Go USA has swooped on North American rights to Easternlight Films' 3D war epic *Wolf Warrior*, directed by and starring Wu Jing.

Yu Nan and Scott Adkins also star in the film, in post-production, which will be available in IMAX 3D. Easternlight has also sold it to Thailand (Noori Pictures), India (Visvaas) and Myanmar (Myanmar Cineplex).

Wu Jing stars as a Chinese

special forces soldier who is expelled from the army and joins a mysterious troupe of insurgents known as the Wolf Warriors. Yu plays the formidable female captain, while Adkins plays a foreign mercenary.

Easternlight, the Asian arm of Arclight Films, previously worked with Wu Jing on *SPL* and *Legendary Assassin*.

Liz Shackleton

## M-Line scores wonderful hat-trick

BY JEAN NOH

Korea's M-Line Distribution has picked up three films for international sales led by family drama *Wonderful Nightmare*, starring Uhm Jung-hwa and Song Seung-heon.

Directed by Kang Hyo-jin, the film follows a fast-tracked lawyer who dies and goes to Heaven but is returned following a clerical error and made to live for a month as a seemingly more ordinary woman. The film is set for a May release in Korea.

M-Line also has comic action feature *Untouchable Lawmen*, starring Yim Chang-jung and Choi Daniel. Directed by Shin Dong-yeop, the film about detectives investigating a criminal cult leader is in production.

The company also has medical horror film *The Black Hand* starring Han Go-eun and Kim Sung-su (*R2B: Return To Base*). Directed by Park Jae-sik, the film is completed and set for release in Korea on April 16.

## Ghost Theatre spooks buyers

BY JEAN NOH

Japan's Nikkatsu has sold J-horror master Hideo Nakata's *Ghost Theatre* to Red Pictures for Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

*The Ring* director is in post-production on the film, which takes place in a haunted theatre. A young actress, Sara, who lands a leading role in a major play, soon encounters bitter rivalry among her fellow cast members, which escalates into hatred. When strange things start happening at rehearsals, Sara investigates the threat.

Starring Haruka Shimazaki, Rika Adachi, Riho Takada and Keita Machida, the film is due for release in Japan later this year.

## UP introduces The Priests

BY JEAN NOH

Korea's United Pictures (UP) has launched sales on exorcist thriller *The Priests*. Starring Kim Yun-seok (*Haemoo*) and Gang Dong-won (*Woochi*), the film is produced by Zip Cinema and directed by Jang Jae-hyun.

*The Priests* is in production for release in mid-2015. In it, a girl falls into a coma after a hit-and-run accident. But Father Kim and a young seminarian named Choi suspect she is possessed.

UP is also selling documentary *Wonders*, directed by Cho Jung-rae and Kim Bo-kyung and produced by TPS Company. Set for an April release in Korea, the film investigates the dissolution of Korea's first independent professional baseball team, Goyang Wonders.

## Virtues heads to Japan, Taiwan

BY MICHAEL ROSSER

UK sales outfit Jinga Films has sold Ate De Jong's erotic thriller *Deadly Virtues* to Japan (New Select) and Taiwan (MovieCloud).

Edward Akrot stars as a home invader who exploits the troubled relationship of a suburban couple. The film was co-produced by Mulholland Pictures in the Netherlands and Raw Talent in the UK.

# One Cool Group debuts with Soi Cheang thriller

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

A collective of Hong Kong companies, under the banner One Cool Group, have launched their debut slate at Filmart, including an as-yet-untitled crime thriller to be produced by Soi Cheang.

Jonathan Li Chi-jun will direct the project, which interweaves the world of the internet and reality. Soi's credits include *The Monkey King* and upcoming action drama *SPL2: A Time For Consequences*.

One Cool Group's slate also includes an untitled youth love story to be produced by Sam Lee

and directed by Sam Leong Tak-sam; an untitled crime mystery to be directed by Cash Chin Man-kei; and an untitled drama about an football coach inspiring his team, to be directed by Lam Chi-chung.

Lee and Lam are both well-known Hong Kong actors — Lee works with Fruit Chan, while Lam starred in Stephen Chow's *Kung-Fu Hustle* and *Shaolin Soccer*.

The slate also includes two horror movies: *Get Outta Here*, produced by Lam Ka-tung and directed by Nick Leung, which is in post; and *Master Fat*, directed by

and starring Nick Cheung, which started shooting on March 9.

One Cool Group will invest in, produce, market and distribute films across Asia. It also aims to offer integrated production services to producers, including post-production, VFX and props.

The group comprises production outfit One Cool Film Production; VFX houses Fat Face Production and Different Digital Design; SFX make-up house Cinemorph SFX and equipment rental company Hang Wang Cinematic Equipment Rental.

## Nippon TV strays into Korea

BY JEAN NOH

Japan's Nippon TV has pre-sold *Heaven's Story* director Takahisa Zeze's sci-fi thriller *Strayer's Chronicle* to NK Contents for South Korea.

Starring Masaki Okada and Shota Sometani, the film features the struggles of two sets of genetically manipulated children who grow up with extraordinary powers that could either save or destroy the world. Warner Bros Japan has the film set for theatrical release locally in June 27.



Strayer's Chronicle

Nippon TV has also picked up romantic comedy *Heroine Shikaku* (aka *No Longer Heroine*), based on the popular manga series by Momoko Koda. Starring Mirei Kiritani, Kento Yamazaki

and Kentaro Sakaguchi, the high-school lesbian love triangle film is directed by Tsutomu Hanabusa (*Handsome Suit, Sadako 3D*).

The company also has *Initiation Love*, directed by Yukihiko Tsutsumi (*Memories Of Tomorrow*), starring Shota Matsuda and Atsuko Maeda. In post-production, the film is based on a bestselling novel by Kurumi Inui and moves from tender love story to shocking mystery. Toho is distributing it in Japan and Nippon TV handles international sales.



## Filmart converges on media panel

Filmart's thematic conferences opened with a lively panel on the opportunities in the age of media convergence.

Chaired by *Screen International* Asia editor Liz Shackleton, the panel comprised (l-r) Tom Ara, shareholder at US law firm Greenberg Traurig; Michael Murphy, president of US distributor Gravitas Ventures; Liz Rosenthal, founder and CEO of cross-media outfit Power To The Pixel; and Jason Rubin, brand manager at US distributor Cinedigm.

See [ScreenDaily.com](http://ScreenDaily.com) for the full report.

## Mega-Vision plots Macau 3, Invincible 12

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Hong Kong-based Mega-Vision Project Workshop (MVP) has unwrapped a slate of five projects at Filmart, including action title *The Invincible 12* and a third instalment in the *From Vegas To Macau* franchise.

*The Invincible 12* will mark the 100th movie of MVP founder and veteran producer-director Wong Jing, whose credits as director include the wildly successful *From Vegas To Macau* movies. The second instalment in the franchise recently grossed \$160m in mainland China. The third instalment, again to be produced by Andrew Lau, will be released over Chinese New Year 2016.

MVP's slate also includes children's adventure film *Girl Of The Big House*, starring Francis Ng and Angela Wang, about a battle of wits between a group of street kids and a gang of robbers.

In addition, action drama *Cheat Me If You Can* revolves around a small-time conman who goes undercover for the police to help investigate a money laundering case in Macau.

MVP is also launching sales on romantic comedy *Get Your Dream Girl*, about three guys who buy their dream women online only to find they are robots.

## Sun in rhythm with Concerto

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Hong Kong-based Sun Entertainment Culture is unveiling several new projects at Filmart, including romantic drama *Concerto Of The Bully*, starring Ronald Cheng and Janice Man.

Fung Chih-chiang has scripted and will direct the project, in pre-production, based on his novel about a street punk who kidnaps a gifted songwriter who never forgets anything she has heard. Peter Kam, who won a Berlin Silver Bear for best music for *Isabella* in 2006, has written the score.

Sun is also introducing Fire Lee's *Robbery*, which stars Derek Tsang, J Aire and Lam Suet in a story about a series of bizarre events at a convenience store. The

Cantonese-language drama is in post for release later this year.

Sun has also invested in Wilson Chin's 'girls with guns' action film *Special Female Force*, starring Anita Chui, Jeana Ho and Eliza Sam. Chin previously directed comedies *Jan Kwai Fong* and its sequels, and *I Love Hong Kong 2012*.

China 3D and Pineapple Entertainment are handling international sales on *Special Female Force*, which is in post-production. Sun will handle sales on both *Concerto Of The Bully* and *Robbery*.

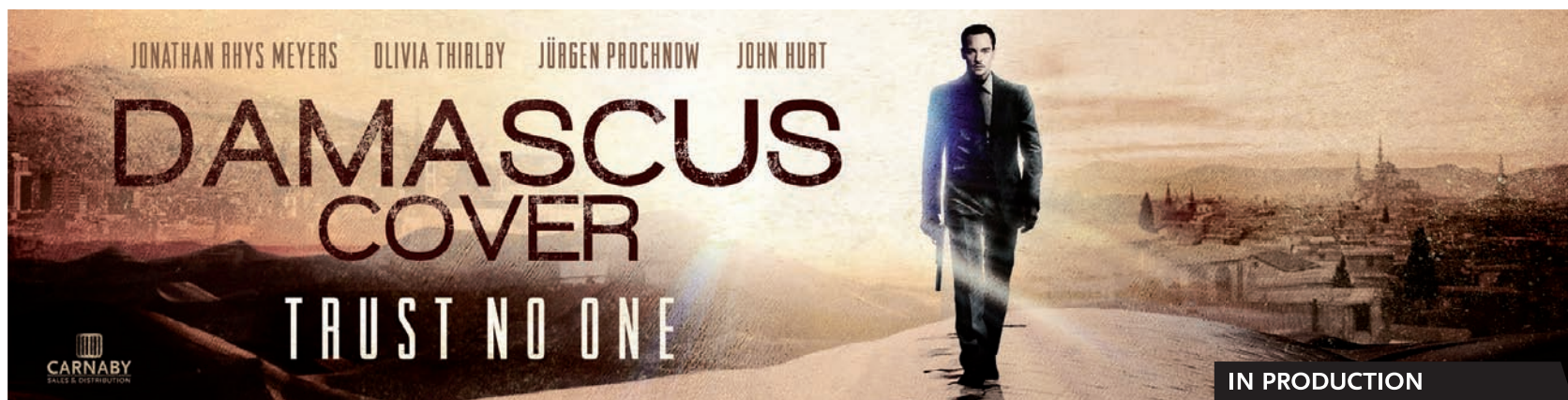
Sun also co-produced Nick Leung's horror title *Get Outta Here* with One Cool Film Production and Homemade Holdings. Bravos Pictures is handling international sales.



CAST DRIVEN  
COMMERCIAL TITLES  
INTERNATIONAL APPEAL  
STRONG MARKETABLE CONCEPTS



IN POST-PRODUCTION



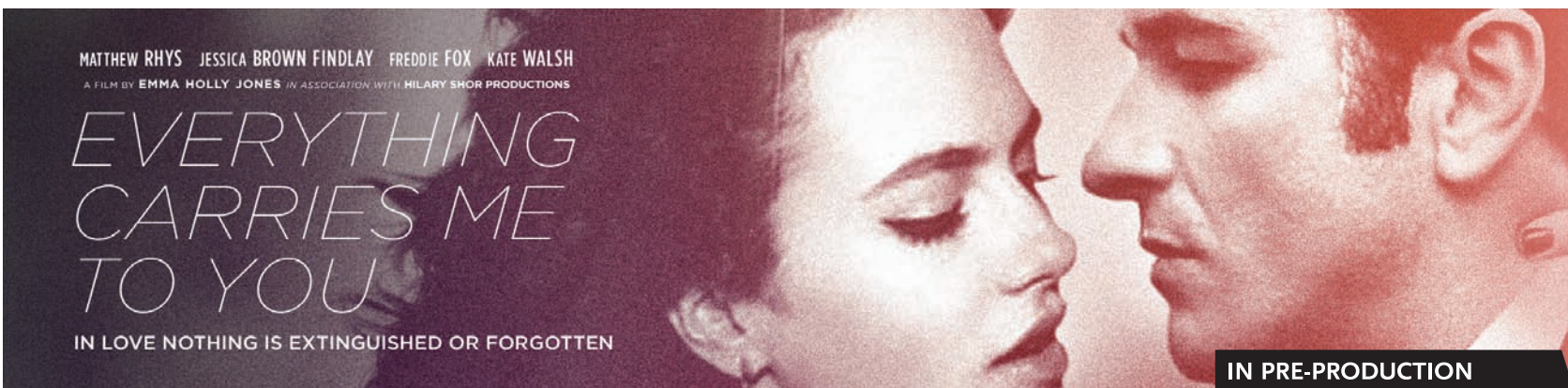
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# REVIEWS

Reviews edited by Fionnuala Halligan [finn.halligan@screendaily.com](mailto:finn.halligan@screendaily.com)



no-no sleep



The Tenant



Insomniac Diary



Three Days After My Death

WORLD PREMIERE  
HKIFF GALA

HK. 2015. 117mins

**Directors** Tsai Ming-liang, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Yim Ho, Huang Jianxin

**Portmanteau producer** Victor Koo

**Production companies** Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, Youkou Original

**Contact** HKIFF Society, [www.hkiff.org.hk](http://www.hkiff.org.hk)

**no-no-sleep**

**Director-screenplay** Tsai Ming-liang

**Cinematography** Liao Peng-Jung

**Editor** Lei Cheng-ching

**Cast** Lee Kang-sheng, Masanobu Ando

**The Tenant**

**Director** Mohsen Makhmalbaf

**Screenwriters** Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Marzieh Meshkini

**Editor** Marzieh Meshkini

**Cinematographer**

Maysam Makhmalbaf

**Cast** Amirali Khosrojerdi

**Three Days After My Death**

**Director** Yim Ho

**Screenwriter** Yim Ho, Wong Chin-yan

**Cinematographer** Jack Lam

**Editor** Stanley Tsang

**Cast** Gigi Wong, Shaopin Tsui, Rachel Yip, Huang Xian Guang

**Insomniac Diary**

**Director** Huang Jianxin

**Screenwriter** Chen Chen, Huang Xin

**Cinematography** Zhao Xiaoshi, Li Qiang

**Editor** Derek Hui

**Cast** Shawn Dou, Tong Liya

## Beautiful 2015

Reviewed by Fionnuala Halligan

*Beautiful 2015* is the fourth incarnation of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society's *Beautiful* series of short films, made in conjunction with Youko. Four renowned filmmakers from the region — Tsai Ming-liang, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Yim Ho and Huang Jianxin — present their cinematic essays, which are clearly stand-alone but barely linked outside a loose geographic affiliation (now stretching as far as Iran).

Taken in one sitting, the shifts in style are extreme and can be jarring. But apart, each film is a clear stand-out and could be programmed separately in global shorts festivals. The highlights are Makhmalbaf's London-set *The Tenant*, and Tsai Ming-liang's return to the series, *no-no-sleep*, featuring his slow-moving monk played by Lee Kang-sheng.

*The Tenant* is the shortest film, at just under 20 minutes, and it is also the most immediate and forceful: a desperate Iranian asylum seeker (Amirali Khosrojerdi) tries to hold on to his bedsit by taking two blind people to see the Queen's Jubilee procession down the Thames, charging £5 per-hour each. He is also juggling a small dog, blind from diabetes, and his wheel-

chair-bound landlady. When the time comes, nobody can see the Queen, least of all Amiral, who is doomed by the traumas of his past.

A House Makhmalbaf production — designed by Hana and shot by Maysam — *The Tenant* was written by Mohsen Makhmalbaf with Marzieh Meshkini (who also edits). It is almost a perfect short, each character full and loaded with potential, a situation with layers of significance yet no resolution. It is thought-provoking and disturbing but never needs to raise its voice. Shooting on the hoof in Battersea Park and on Chelsea Embankment in the rain, Makhmalbaf makes it all seem so effortless.

Taiwan's Tsai Ming-liang has always demanded an effort, however, and *no-no-sleep* veers into installation territory. The slow-moving monk returns from 2012's *Walker*, when a red-robed Lee Kang-sheng shuffled through Hong Kong. Tsai moves on to Japan this time, a train arriving in a blur of liquid lights at another staple of the auteur's cinema, a sauna, where Masanobu Ando is bathing in preparation for a swim and a steam. Nothing happens, of course, but nothing happens beautifully. At 32 static minutes, this is an ask for a portmanteau audience.

*Three Days After My Death*, from Hong Kong's Yim Ho (*Red Dust*), sees Gigi Wong cast as a Cantonese fishwife, a crusty mother-in-law who is crushed under the wheels of a car and hovers between life and death in hospital.

There she meets an angel (Shaopin Tsui) dressed in an American Football uniform, who shows her the way in an overtly sentimental mix of *Scrooge* and *Touched By An Angel*.

Fifth Generation director Huang Jianxin has been more active as a producer recently (*The Taking Of Tiger Mountain*, *The White Haired Witch Of Lunar Kingdom*), and his last films as a director were state-backed historical epics. *Insomniac Diary* is a very modern romance, set in Beijing and clocking in at 25 minutes. With a nod to *Love Story*, Huang brings together two sick people: insomniac Mr Liang (Shawn Dou) who cannot sleep, and hypersomniac Miss Zhou (Tong Liya), who cannot stay awake.

Huang has delivered a claustrophobic tale disguised as a sentimental love story, which moves in an endless circle of waking and sleeping. Mr Liang never feels tired, he cannot dream or be hypnotised. When Miss Zhou moves in with him, their unconsummated romance takes on healthier proportions; he installs cameras and watches her every move, he shuns promotion to look after her. He is endlessly wakeful and watchful and *Insomniac Diary* is more than it superficially appears.

*Beautiful 2015*'s production credits are smooth across the board. Visual excitement is never far away, whether it be with Tsai's experimental, Makhmalbaf's jarring reality, or Huang's soaring trip around a Beijing amusement arcade.



## Chasuke's Journey

Reviewed by Dan Fainaru

For those prepared to take it seriously, Sabu's film represents man's revolt against the preordained fate that guides one's life from birth to death. For the majority of audiences, however, this will look like yet another one of his action comedies, frenetic and colourful but no more than an exotic, fast-paced romp through present day Okinawa.

*Chasuke's Journey* (*Ten No Chasuke*), adapted by Sabu from his own novel, follows celestial tea-server Chasuke (Ken'ichi Matsuyama), who fills the cups of scriptwriters up in the heavens, each of them busy writing the fate of all individuals on Earth. This is a complicated affair, for the fate of every person affects so many others in the course of their life, and these writers, each in charge of a single person, have to co-ordinate between themselves, a process that sometimes generates conflict in the heavens.

When the destiny of one girl, Yuri (Ito Ohno), is thwarted by such a situation and she is doomed to die in a traffic accident before her time, her scriptwriter asks Chasuke to descend to Earth and prevent Yuri's early demise.

GALA  
PRESENTATION  
HKIFF/ASIAN  
PREMIERE

**Jap. 2015. 106mins**

**Director/screenplay**

Sabu

**Production companies**

Bandai Visual, Shochiku,  
Office Kitano

**International sales**

Film Boutique, www.  
filmboutique.com

**Producers** Shozo

Ichiyama

**Executive producer**

Masayuki Mori

**Cinematography**

Daisukei Soma

**Editor** Naoichiro Sagara

**Production designer**

Michitoshi Kurokawa

**Music** Junichi Matsumoto

**Main cast** Ken'ichi

Matsuyama, Ito Ohno, Ren

Osugi, Yusuke Iseya,

Hiromasa Taguchi, Tina

Tamashiro, Susumu

Terajima



This is the beginning of a *Heaven Can Wait* type of adventure, with Chasuke dropping down in Okinawa, right in the middle of a ceremonial parade. Feuding celestial scriptwriters both help and hinder him, leading to long chases, energetic rumbles and parodies galore.

Sabu does his best to hide his point — that if you live your life positively, you can change your fate — between the lines of a slapstick adventure, never paying too much attention to the mechanisms of a script that, on paper, offers countless pitfalls. Trying to make sense or find reasons for every twist can only lead to confusion.

For the cast this all seems to be a souped-up action farce that they overplay quite happily. That is probably the best way to treat it.

## HKIFF IN BRIEF

### Kung Fu Jungle

**Dir** Teddy Chen. HK-Chi. 2014. 100mins.  
**Hong Kong Panorama**

Pacy martial-arts thriller *Kung Fu Jungle* features no jungle in the traditional sense. A concrete jungle, perhaps, or a metaphorical one, as Teddy Chen's impressively staged action romp stays close to Hong Kong in a bloody, brutal and breezy story of two martial-arts masters caught up in a battle of skills and wills.

Donnie Yen — who also serves as action director — plays a jailed martial-arts instructor who is released to help the police find vicious killer Fung Yu-sae (Wang Bao-qiang). He soon realises Fung is killing experts in each discipline — boxing, kick-boxing, grappling etc, with the intention of becoming the best of the best.

There is an epic final showdown to cap a series of stylish and nicely brutal fight scenes, including a sword battle on a movie studio set, a grapple in a tattoo parlour and, perhaps most strikingly, a fight on top of a giant artwork skeleton.

Martial-arts films have perhaps been overtaken in Hong Kong-China cinema by the gun-heavy police dramas, but *Kung Fu Jungle* shows just how much fun there is to be had with a film that features some of the best martial-arts performers around.

Mark Adams

## Dragon Blade

Reviewed by James Marsh

The Roman Empire takes on China's mighty Han Dynasty in Daniel Lee's latest period action adventure, as Jackie Chan's Silk Road guard and John Cusack's renegade centurion form an unlikely partnership against Adrien Brody's despicable Roman general.

Committed performances, a hefty budget and assured hands behind the camera ensure *Dragon Blade* delivers on its promise of sprawling battle scenes, intriguing culture clashes and budding bromances, where its giddily high concept and unlikely casting may so easily have seen it fail. Nevertheless Hong Kong writer-director Lee (*14 Blades*, *White Vengeance*) never quite achieves the epic grandeur for which he strives.

*Dragon Blade* has proved a legitimate hit in China, topping the box office during the coveted Lunar New Year holidays (\$101m). Set in 48BC, it casts Chan as Huo An, leader of the Silk Road Protection Squad, assigned to keep the peace in China's desolate Western region. The squad's 'make peace not war' mandate is not shared by everyone, however, and after being framed for smuggling, they are sentenced to hard labour at a remote outpost, Wild Goose Gate.

When the fort is besieged by a wandering

MARKET

**Chi-HK. 2015. 126mins**

**Director/screenplay**

Daniel Lee

**Production companies**

Visualizer, Sparkle Roll  
Media, Huayi Brothers  
Media, Shanghai Film  
Group Co

**International sales**

Golden Network Asia,  
www.goldnetasia.com

**Producers** Jackie Chan,

Susanna Tsang

**Executive producers**

Jackie Chan, Wang  
Zhongjun, Ren Zhonglun,  
Zhou Maofei

**Cinematography** Tony

Cheung

**Production design** Daniel

Lee, Eddy Wong, Ge Yinan

**Cinematography** Tony

Cheung

**Main cast** Jackie Chan,

John Cusack, Adrien

Brody, Jozef Waite, Lin

Feng, Mika Wang, Choi

Si-won, Vanness Wu



Roman legion, the guards concede to Huo An's superior tactical know-how and let him lead the defence. A sandstorm forces them to stop the battle, and in keeping with the Protection Squad's code, Huo An offers shelter to Lucius (Cusack) and his men. In return, the Roman soldiers help the prisoners rebuild the fort.

When Lucius reveals he is on the run from the evil Consul Tiberius (Brody), Huo An offers his help, setting up the climactic stand-off.

*Dragon Blade* proves the most ambitious of Chan's buddy movies, and he develops a genuine rapport with Cusack's Roman officer; the film works best during a quiet mid-section as the pair exchange life philosophies.

Cusack, meanwhile, brings his calm screen persona to Lucius while Brody devours the scenery as the deliciously villainous Tiberius.

### Under Electric Clouds

**Dir/scr** Alexey German Jr. Russ-Ukr-Pol.  
2015. 130mins. Asian premiere, Auteurs

A dense, sprawling, melancholy, angry parable that deploys seven interconnected stories to probe the diseased soul of contemporary Russia, Alexey German Jr's *Under Electric Clouds* is a ravishingly shot, thought-provoking triumph of non-linear film-making.

Slowly assembling its cinematic mosaic piece by piece, and saturated with references to Russian history, politics, art, literature and social issues, it demands the commitment of its audience. But once you surrender to the film's slow dance it becomes strangely mesmerising.

The year is 2017, a voiceover narrator tells us, a hundred years on from the Russian Revolution, in a country "crucified between past and present". The story we are to watch will be about "special people — those who used to be called superfluous", and "an unfinished building".

That building — a sort of poor man's Burj al Arab, a sail-like skyscraper abandoned after its structural core was erected — features in the background of each of the seven stories, or chapters.

As with the director's previous film, the lyrical cosmonaut drama *Paper Soldier* (2008), characters talk at cross-purposes, holding conversational monologues, splitting and fusing like atoms as the camera circles slowly around them.

Lee Marshall

# HAF PROFILES



## The Foolish Bird

**Dir** Huang Ji

**Project's country of origin** China

Following her debut feature *Egg And Stone*, which won Rotterdam's Tiger award in 2012, Chinese writer-director Huang Ji returns with *The Foolish Bird* as the second instalment of her trilogy about Chinese village women.

Like the 14-year-old girl in *Egg And Stone*, the 17-year-old girl in *The Foolish Bird* is left behind with her grandparents in a small village as her parents make a living in the city. In a yearning for love in her mundane life, the girl uses her beautiful voice to flirt with men over the phone, and even sleeps with them.

"While China is undergoing a rapid economic development, there's no outlet for the teenagers staying behind in the villages to express themselves emotionally. They turn to sex to let it all out," says Huang.

The new project is semi-autobiographical — Huang was a left-behind child for a decade. She will cast amateur actors who speak the Hunan dialect and will film in the house where she lived during her teenage years in Meichang, Hunan province.

Production company Yellow-Green Pi was founded by Huang and her husband Ryuji Otsuka, the Japanese producer and DoP of *Egg And Stone*. He was also the DoP on *When Night Falls*, which won the best director prize for Ying Liang at Locarno in 2012.

In addition to the Tiger award, *Egg And Stone* won best first feature film at Toronto Reel Asian, a special mention at Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and a grand prix at Zerkalo film festivals.

WY Wong

## The Foolish Bird

**Producer** Ryuji Otsuka **Production company** Yellow-Green Pi **Budget** \$200,000 **Finance raised to date** \$10,800 (Hubert Bals script development fund)  
**Contact** Ryuji Otsuka ✉ ryujiootsuka@hotmail.com



## Die Beautiful

**Dir** Jun Robles Lana

**Project's country of origin** Philippines

Having completed his award-winning 'small-town Philippines trilogy' of *Bwakaw*, *Barber's Tales* and *Our Father*, Filipino director Jun Robles Lana is ready to tell an edgier story with *Die Beautiful*.

When a transgender beauty queen dies suddenly, her wish to be dressed like Lady Gaga at her funeral is ignored by her estranged, conservative family. This prompts her drag queen friends to steal her body and hold a week-long wake, making her up each day as a different celebrity she impersonated.

"*Die Beautiful* is comparable to *Bwakaw* and *Barber's Tales* in that they all tackle themes of identity, sexuality and self-empowerment, but there ends the similarity. This film is going to be fiery, irreverent and subversive; a departure from the generally quiet and reflective tone of my film trilogy," says Lana.

The director says he was inspired in part by a news story about a transgender woman in the Philippines who was allegedly murdered by a US Marine.

"My government's wishy-washy, tentative stance on the matter was both frustrating and unsettling. It motivated me to write about the complex and often difficult struggles of transgender people," he says.

He has cast actor and model Paolo Ballesteros in the lead. "*Die Beautiful* is the perfect project for him."

Octobertrain Films has completed funding and is looking at a possible rise in budget to \$300,000. Lana is working on the script and hopes to start principal photography by May.

Jean Noh

## Die Beautiful

**Producers** Ferdinand Lapuz, Perci Intalan **Production company** Octobertrain Films **Budget** \$200,000 **Finance raised to date** \$200,000 (private equity, co-producers) **Contact** Perci Intalan ✉ percinotpercy@gmail.com



## Last Days

**Dir** Degen Yun

**Project's country of origin** China

*Last Days* is about a father and his estranged daughter who spend their final days together after he is diagnosed with cancer. It is the personal story of Chinese director Degen Yun and her father, a forgotten Mongolian film director, who turned to smoking and gambling when facing death.

Like her father, she has become a lost soul with no direction in her life. Her sense of belonging together with her own language is gone after spending years away from her birthplace of Inner Mongolia.

"It's an ordinary story about human beings. The mood will be realistic while the cinematography and production design will be unpretentious yet beautiful," says Yun, who lives in Beijing after graduating from the University of London.

Her script was selected for Beijing Film Academy (BFA)'s New Talent Nurturing Programme last year. Veteran director and BFA professor Xie Fei will serve as producer of the project.

Youth Film Studio was set up in 1979 as the film-making arm of BFA. It has produced several critically acclaimed films, including Zhang Yimou's *The Story Of Qiu Ju* and Xie's *Black Snow*.

Yun made her debut feature, *Latitude 52*, with co-director Leon Du. The drama, about the unlikely friendship between a Chinese soldier and Soviet soldier on the China-Russia border, was nominated for best first fiction feature at Montreal World Film Festival in 2012.

WY Wong

## Last Days

**Producer** Xie Fei **Production companies** Youth Film Studio, Mailisi Film **Budget** \$800,000 **Contact** Degen Yun ✉ degena@qq.com



## Lost In Border

**Dir** Ho Hong

**Project's country of origin** Hong Kong

Hong Kong director Ho Hong attended HAF in 2013 with his debut feature *Doomsday-Party*, which won the HAF Award for a Hong Kong project. He returns this year with suspense drama *Lost In Border*, about a group of Hong Kong teenagers who cross the border into China for a wild night of fun. But events go awry when they get into trouble with local gangsters.

Ho, who is also writing the project, wanted to explore the minds of young people. "What are they thinking when they're making choices? Can they be responsible for their own actions? But the message is clear — there's no second take in life," he says.

While *Doomsday-Party* weaved together five stories to reach its climax, *Lost In Border* is told from the perspective of different characters. Ho plans to create a different look and style in each segment to give the audience a refreshing take on the same story.

Ho says a big budget is not required for this kind of story. "I'll use new and young actors while the action will be gritty and impactful without big sets or special effects, similar to the low-budget Hollywood film noirs of the 1940s and 1950s," he explains.

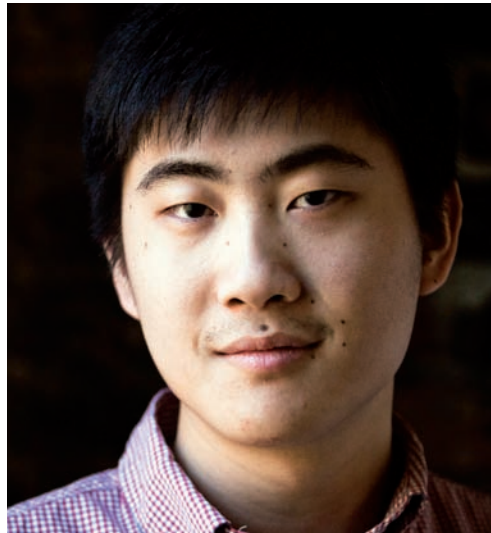
He is a co-founder of award-winning TVC production house Film Plus Productions, which made *Doomsday-Party* as its first film.

Gilbert Po, who has worked on TV commercials with Ho, will produce *Lost In Border*, marking his return to the film industry after more than 15 years in the advertising industry.

WY Wong

## Lost In Border

**Producer** Gilbert Po **Production company** Film Plus Productions **Budget** \$1m **Finance raised to date** \$180,000 (Film Plus) **Contact** Gilbert Po  
✉ gilbertpo@yahoo.com



## That Summer

**Dir** Zhou Quan

**Project's country of origin** China

Taimen, traditional dwellings in which unrelated families live together and share the same courtyard, are an important part of *That Summer*, the debut feature of Chinese director Zhou Quan.

Inspired by his childhood memories of living in a taimen, the story revolves around a 10-year-old boy who befriends an elderly neighbour in the summer of 1998. At the same time he discovers a secret affair between his father and his teacher, who is the neighbour's daughter-in-law.

"I hope this film opens a door for me to revisit my childhood before the traces of the past disappear completely," says Zhou. "While capturing China's ongoing modernisation, I'm seeking to retrieve my generation's collective memories."

Zhou currently travels between Beijing and his birthplace Shaoxing in southern China. He will shoot the film in Shaoxing and neighbouring cities.

In 2012, he interned for Terence Chang at Lion Rock Productions in Beijing. He then returned to Los Angeles for his AFI thesis production, *Woman In Fragments*, which won the Air Canada Short Film Award at Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival and the grand jury prize at the China Short Film Academy Awards.

Production is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2015. The film will be an international collaboration with a US DoP, UK composer and possibly a US team for post-production.

WY Wong

## That Summer

**Producers** Terence Chang, Jacqueline W Liu **Production company** Each Other Films **Budget** \$1m **Finance raised to date** \$200,000 (private equity) **Contact** Jacqueline W Liu ✉ jacqwlliu@gmail.com



## Silence In The Courts

**Dir** Prasanna Vithanage

**Project's country of origin** Sri Lanka

Acclaimed Sri Lankan director Prasanna Vithanage plans to make his first foray into documentary with his HAF project *Silence In The Courts*.

The film tells the true story of two women in a Sri Lankan village, about 100 kilometres from the capital city of Colombo, who were sexually abused by a magistrate presiding over cases that involved their husbands as accused parties.

The husbands swore revenge but their efforts were futile, so the editor of a leading alternative newspaper published the story of one of the women. He continued to follow the incident and published a series of articles exposing the magistrate's misdeeds. Yet, 18 years later, the editor and the two women are still waiting for justice.

"This true incident made me angry about our judiciary system. I wanted to puke," says Vithanage. "I channelled my anger as an inspiration for this documentary."

He made his feature debut with award-winning drama *Fire On Ice* in 1992, while his second feature, *Dark Night Of The Soul* (1996), won a special mention at the first Pusan film festival.

Vithanage's subsequent films have screened at prominent festivals. His latest feature, *With You, Without You*, was nominated for best film at the 2013 Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

*Silence In The Courts* is in post-production and Vithanage is looking for completion funds.

Nandita Dutta

## Silence In The Courts

**Producers** Prasanna Vithanage, Rahul Roy **Production company** Prasanna Vithanage Productions **Budget** \$50,000 **Finance raised to date** \$30,000 (Prasanna Vithanage Productions, Rahul Roy) **Contact** Prasanna Vithanage ✉ prasannavith@yahoo.com



Dragon Blade

# Triple threat

How do Hong Kong film-makers retain their identity when they are trying to please three very different audiences? Liz Shackleton reports

This year's Chinese New Year holiday was another box-office bonanza in mainland China thanks to hits including historical action epic *Dragon Blade*, gambling caper *From Vegas To Macau II* and fantasy adventure *Zhong Kui: Snow Girl* and *The Dark Crystal*. As usual, Hong Kong talent featured prominently in many of the big hitters, even if they were not all financed by Hong Kong companies. Jackie Chan starred alongside Adrien Brody and John Cusack in *Dragon Blade* and Chow Yun Fat returned for sequel *From Vegas To Macau II*. Both films also had Hong Kong directors, as did *Zhong Kui*, which was co-directed by Peter Pau.

But all these films were made with the mainland market in mind. With China's rise, the Hong Kong film industry finds itself in thrall to three distinct audiences: censorship-friendly co-productions for the mainland; edgier action films and thrillers for global export; and smaller films that cater to the tastes of Hong Kong audiences, who aren't usually captivated by mainland fare.

As if that were not complicated enough, industry dynamics at home and abroad mean none of these markets are risk-free: not all Hong Kong-China co-productions work on the mainland; western buyers have become much choosier in recent years about acquiring action titles; and Hong Kong audiences

need coaxing to visit the cinema for anything other than Hollywood 3D tentpoles. The only local films in Hong Kong's top 10 in 2014 were Chinese New Year comedies *Golden Chickensss* and *From Vegas To Macau*.

And yet reports of the death of Hong Kong cinema have been exaggerated. Last year saw quirky, imaginative films such as Fruit Chan's *Midnight After* and Pang Ho Cheung's *Aberdeen*, along with a bold experiment in Ann Hui's *The Golden Era*. There is also fresh indie talent such as Adam Wong (*The Way We Dance*) and Philip Yung, whose *Port Of Call* will close this year's HKIFF.

The real issue is sustainability, as the future of Hong Kong cinema is not assured unless new talent enters the industry and a thriving cinema-going culture is encouraged and supported. The government is helping to a certain extent — pledging a further \$25.8m (HK\$200m) for the Film Development Fund and mulling plans to reserve space for cinemas, which are threatened by the city's sky-high rents.

It remains to be seen whether such plans will scrape past legislators but as the list of new productions here demonstrates, Hong Kong producers are not waiting for help; they are working hard to serve their three audiences, without losing hope that some projects will prosper across all three. **S**



An Inspector Calls



12 Golden Ducks



A Tale Of Three Cities

## 12 Golden Ducks Dir Matt Chow

Matt Chow has reteamed with actress Sandra Ng, following *Golden Chickensss*, which became Hong Kong's highest-grossing local film in 2014 following its Chinese New Year release. While *Golden Chickensss* was a comedy about prostitutes adapting to Hong Kong's digital economy, *12 Golden Ducks* turns the gender tables by following a group of gigolos, known in the local vernacular as 'ducks'. The film grossed \$1.8m on its opening weekend over Chinese New Year in Hong Kong.

**Contact** We Distribution, Andree Sham  
✉ andree@wedistribution.com

## A Tale Of Three Cities Dirs Mabel Cheung, Alex Law

After Hong Kong-set drama *Echoes Of The Rainbow*, Mabel Cheung and Alex Law tackle a mainland-set drama about a couple separated from their children during the second Sino-Japanese war in the 1930s. Lau Ching-wan plays a former spy in the Nationalist party who falls for an opium-peddling widow (Tang Wei). The story is loosely based on the experiences of Jackie Chan's parents, which Cheung and Law explored in 2003 documentary *Traces Of A Dragon*. Produced by Huayi Brothers, the film is in post-production.

**Contact** IM Global, Leslie Chen  
✉ leslie\_chen@imglobalfilm.com



Full Strike

## An Inspector Calls

**Dirs** Raymond Wong, Herman Yau

Pegasus Motion Pictures has produced this adaptation of JB Priestley's play of the same name, which adds black humour to the social commentary about a rich family's involvement in the death of a young woman. Louis Koo plays the inspector who calls on a wealthy family to investigate the suicide of a pregnant girl and discovers that, despite claiming they don't know her, they are all connected to the victim.

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

## Dragon Blade

**Dir** Daniel Lee

John Cusack, Adrien Brody and Jackie Chan star in this \$65m epic action film that imagines Roman soldiers crossing the border into China. Chan plays the commander of the Silk Road Protection Squad who is wrongly accused of smuggling and joins forces with a Roman general (Cusack), who has fled into China to protect a young boy from his power-crazed brother (Brody). Financed by mainland investors including Sparkle Roll Media Corp, Huayi Brothers and Shanghai Film Group, *Dragon Blade* grossed \$101m over the Lunar New Year holidays.

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



Little Big Master

## From Vegas To Macau II

**Dir** Wong Jing

Chow Yun Fat is reprising his role as a legendary gambler in the sequel to Wong Jing's *From Vegas To Macau*, which grossed \$85m in mainland China over Chinese New Year 2014. In the sequel, he travels to Thailand with his sidekick (Shawn Yue) on the tail of the

mob's chief accountant (Nick Cheung), who has absconded with \$15bn of the bad guys' money. Carina Lau plays the love interest who appears to be on the wrong side of the law. The film grossed \$43m on the mainland over its Chinese New Year opening weekend.

**Contact** Mega-Vision Project Workshop, Angela Wong ✉angelaolwong@mvphk.biz

## Full Strike

**Dirs** Derek Kwok, Henri Wong

Josie Ho has produced and stars in this sports drama about a hot-tempered, former badminton player who returns to the sport to coach four reformed gangsters who are keen to play competitively. Derek Kwok (*As The Light Goes Out*) has co-directed with well-known visual-effects supervisor Henri Wong. Also

starring Ekin Cheng and Ronald Cheng, the film was produced by Ho's Hong Kong-based 852 Films with Why Entertainment and Star Chinese Movies.

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

## Knock Knock! Who's There?

**Dir** Carrie Ng

Now in post-production, actress Carrie Ng's directorial debut is a horror film interweaving three stories all connected to a funeral home, where rituals must be performed to convince the inhabitants to remain dead. The ensemble cast includes Annie Liu (*Mob Sister*), BabyJohn Choi (*The Way We Dance*) and Kate Tsui (*Eye In The Sky*). Ng won best actress for *Remains Of A Woman* at the Golden Horse Awards in 1993 and best supporting actress for *The Kid* at the Hong Kong Film Awards in 2000.

**Contact** Mei Ah Entertainment, Sara Law ✉sara@meiah.com

## Little Big Master

**Dir** Adrian Kwan

Hong Kong action director Benny Chan is serving as producer for director Adrian Kwan (*The Miracle Box*) on this social drama starring Miriam Yeung (*Love In A Puff*, *Aberdeen*) and Louis Koo. Based on a true story, the film follows an enthusiastic headmistress (Yeung) who runs a kindergarten for underprivileged children, despite receiving low pay and growing pressure to shut down schools due to Hong Kong's declining birth rate. Produced by Universe Entertainment, the film was released in Hong Kong and other Chinese-speaking territories on March 19.

**Contact** Universe Films Distribution, Alice Leung ✉alice\_leung@uih.com.hk

## Monster Hunt

**Dir** Raman Hui

After gaining fame as a supervising animator and lead character designer for films such as *Antz* and the *Shrek* franchise, Raman Hui is making his Chinese-language, live-action feature directorial debut with this \$30m 3D fantasy adventure. Jing Boran heads the cast of the film about a monster king who tries to bring unity between monsters and humans. Edko Films is producing and crew includes production designer Yohei Taneda (*Kill Bill*) and costume designer Yee Chung Man (*Curse Of The Golden Flower*).

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

## Lost And Love

**Dir** Peng Sanyuan

Andy Lau and Jing Boran (*Rise Of The Legend*) star in this drama about a man who embarks on a 14-year quest to find his son after the boy went missing aged two. On the road, he meets a young mechanic who was kidnapped at the age of four and has only snippets of

memory about his real family. Inspired by a true story, the film marks the feature debut of well-known novelist and TV screenwriter Peng Sanyuan. Produced by Huayi Brothers, the film was released on March 20.

**Contact** IM Global, Leslie Chen ✉leslie\_chen@imglobalfilm.com

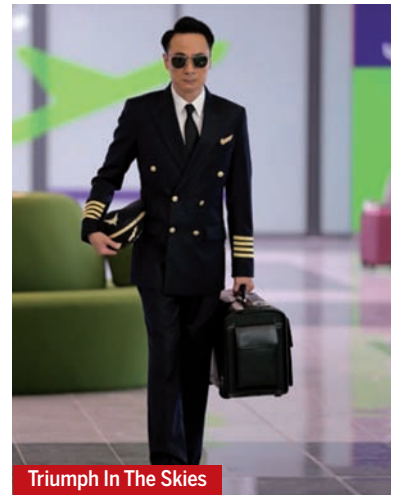




**Paris Holiday**  
Dir James Yuen

Louis Koo and Taiwanese singer-actress Amber Kuo (*Au Revoir Taipei*) star in this romantic comedy about a marketing executive for a red-wine company who is sent to work in Paris. While getting to grips with his new life, he runs into a former roommate who has been unlucky in love despite becoming an artist in Europe's most romantic city. Yuen is a prolific writer and director whose credits include comedies *My Sassy Hubby* (2012) and *Crazy N' The City* (2005). The film is in post-production for release in June.

**Contact** Alice Leung, Universe Films Distribution  
✉alice\_leung@uih.com.hk



Triumph In The Skies

**Port Of Call**  
Dir Philip Yung

The third feature from Hong Kong indie film-maker Philip Yung is a dark drama, based on a true story, which revolves around three characters: a mainland woman who resorts to 'compensated dating' to win her independence; a truck driver who appears to have murdered her; and the quirky police inspector investigating the case. Aaron Kwok, Elaine Jin and Patrick Tam head the cast of the film, which won a HAF award in 2011 and has been selected to close this year's HKIFF. Yung previously co-scripted *Rigor Mortis* and *As The Light Goes Out* and directed indie dramas *Glamorous Youth* and *May We Chat*.  
**Contact** Mei Ah Entertainment, Sara Law ✉sara@meiah.com

**SPL2 — A Time For Consequences**  
Dir Soi Cheang

Thai action star Tony Jaa stars in this loose sequel to 2005 action drama *SPL*, which is in post-production for release in summer 2015. The cast also includes Louis Koo, Wu Jing, Simon Yam and Zhang Jin, while Wilson Yip who directed the original is producing with Paco Wong for Sun Entertainment Culture. The story revolves around a Hong Kong cop, in a

Thai prison following false charges, and a prison guard who agrees to free him in return for saving his daughter's life through a bone-marrow transplant.  
**Contact** Bravos Pictures (excl-Asia), Ricky Tse ✉ricky.tse@bravospictures.com; Star Alliance (Asia), Lammy Li ✉lammyli@staralliancemovies.com

**The Sword Master**  
Dir Derek Yee

Hong Kong director Derek Yee's first 3D project is based on wuxia novelist Gu Long's classic work about an elite swordsman who is haunted by his skill and forced to fight a challenger who is determined to take his place. Bona Film Group and Yee's Film Unlimited are producing with another leading Hong Kong film-maker, 3D pioneer Tsui Hark, on board as producer. Lin Gengxin, Peter Ho, Jiang Yiyang and Jiang Mengjie head the cast. Also being developed as a TV series, the film is scheduled for release in early 2016.  
**Contact** Distribution Workshop, Virginia Leung ✉virginia@distributionworkshop.com

**To The Fore**  
Dir Dante Lam

Dante Lam's first sports drama delves deep into the action and psychological

drama of competitive cycling. Two support riders or 'domestiques', played by Eddie Peng and Shawn Dou, become disillusioned after helping a champion sprinter, played by Korea's Choi Siwon, win his race. They leave the sport but some years later are inspired to form an amateur cycling team and fight their way up from the bottom. Produced by Emperor Motion Pictures, *To The Fore* is in production to be ready for release in summer 2015.  
**Contact** Emperor Motion Pictures, May Yip ✉mayyip@emperorgroup.com

**Triumph In The Skies**  
Dirs Wilson Yip, Matt Chow

This feature version of one of Hong Kong's most popular TV series revolves around the glamorous lives and romantic escapades of pilots and flight attendants working for the fictional Skyette Airways. Francis Ng and Julian Cheung reprise their characters from the top-rated TVB series, while Louis Koo and Sammi Cheng play new characters. Directed by Wilson Yip and Matt Chow, *Triumph In The Skies* is produced by Media Asia and Shaw Brothers. It grossed \$13m in China and \$2m in Hong Kong during its opening weekend over Chinese New Year.  
**Contact** Media Asia, Fred Tsui ✉frederick\_tsui@mediaasia.com

**Two Thumbs Up**  
Dir Lau Ho Leung

Soi Cheang (*The Monkey King*) is producing this crime drama about gangsters who impersonate the police to commit a robbery but end up siding with the real police against a gang of hardened criminals. It marks the directing debut of Hong Kong scriptwriter Lau Ho Leung and features a strong cast including Francis Ng, Simon Yam, Leo Ku, Patrick Tam, Mark Cheng and Christie Chen. The film, in production, is produced by Emperor Motion Pictures.  
**Contact** Emperor Motion Pictures, May Yip ✉mayyip@emperorgroup.com

**Untitled Johnnie To Omnibus**

**Dirs Johnnie To, John Woo, Tsui Hark, Ann Hui, Ringo Lam, Patrick Tam, Sammo Hung, Yuen Woo-ping**  
This omnibus about Hong Kong's history will bring together eight of the territory's leading film-makers, each directing a segment focusing on a different decade. Johnnie To produces through his Hong Kong-based Milkyway Image. Ann Hui has already started shooting her segment, set in the 1940s, about kindergarten classes that were held on rooftops.  
**Contact** Media Asia, Fred Tsui ✉frederick\_tsui@mediaasia.com



SPL2 – A Time For Consequences; (right) To The Fore

Two Thumbs Up

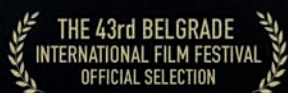
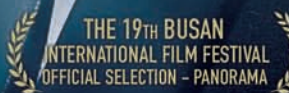
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The Treacherous



The Wait

# Hot titles South Korea

Sales agents from South Korea are in town with a line-up of intriguing character-driven dramas, period action titles and offbeat stories. Jean Noh profiles a selection

## Assassination

Dir Choi Dong-hoon

Choi Dong-hoon's much-anticipated follow-up to *The Thieves* is an action drama set during the Japanese occupation of Korea in the 1930s. *Assassination* follows a band of Korean resistance fighters who escape from prison in Shanghai on a covert mission to kill a Japanese army commander. In post-production, the film stars Gianna Jun, aka Jun Ji-hyun (*The Berlin File*, *The Thieves*), Lee Jung-jae (*The Face Reader*, *The Thieves*), Ha Jung-woo (*The Terror*, *Live*, *The Berlin File*), Oh Dal-soo (*The Attorney*, *The Thieves*) and Cho Jin-woong (*Roaring Currents*, *A Hard Day*).

Contact Showbox/Mediaplex, Eugene Kim ✉ sales@showbox.co.kr

## Planck Constant

Dir Cho Sung-kyu

Desire is the theme of the fantastical *Planck Constant*, which weaves together a series of stories about a man (Kim Jae-wook) who visits the same hair salon every day in order to see the assistant about whom he fantasises. Cho Sung-kyu's credits include *The Winter Of The Year Was Warm* and *Santa Barbara*.

Contact Mirovision, Sylvie Kim ✉ ekim0602@gmail.com

## Salut d'Amour

Dir Kang Je-kyu

Having made a name for himself with *My Way* and *Taegukgi: The Brotherhood Of War*, Kang Je-kyu has turned his hand to



Salut d'Amour

a family drama. *Salut d'Amour* stars veteran actor Park Geun-hyung (*Return Of The Mafia*, TV's *Empire Of Gold*) opposite Youn Yuh-jung (*The Taste Of Money*, *Boomerang Family*) with Cho Jin-woong (*A Hard Day*), Han Ji-min (*Detective K: Secret Of The Virtuous Widow*) and K-pop group EXO member Chanyeol. The film is about a lonely grocery store worker who falls in love only to make a shocking discovery that threatens his happiness. It is set for local release April 9.

Contact CJ E&M, Yoonhee Choi ✉ yoonheec@cj.net

## Shoot Me In The Heart

Dir Mun Je-yong

The directorial debut of Mun Je-yong, assistant director on *Tazza: The High Rollers* and *All For Love*, *Shoot Me In The Heart* stars Lee Min-ki (*For The Emperor*) and Yeo Jin-goo (*Hwayi: The Monster Boy*). It is about two 25-year-olds who meet in a psychiatric hospital, trapped there with abusive staff and noisy patients. Together they hatch endless plans to escape. Yoo Oh-seong (*Friend*:

*The Great Legacy*) and Kim Jung-tae (*Mourning Grave*) co-star.

Contact 9ers Entertainment, Angela Kim ✉ angela@niners.co.kr

## The Silenced

Dir Lee Hae-young

Park Bo-young and Uhm Ji-won star in this psychological thriller, in post-production, about a sickly young woman who is transferred to a strange boarding school to recover her health. She soon discovers students are disappearing and her body is mysteriously changing. Lee Hae-young's credits include *Like A Virgin* and *Foxy Festival*.

Contact Lotte Entertainment, Jiwon Lee ✉ geewon@lotte.net

## The Treacherous

Dir Min Kyu-dong

Min Kyu-dong (*All About My Wife*) directs a period drama about the famous tyrant king, Yeonsan-gun, who exploited his people for his own carnal pleasures. In post-production, the film stars Ju Ji-hoon (*Antique*, *The Naked Kitchen*), Kim Kang-woo (*The Taste Of Money*, *Cart*) and Lim Ji-yeon (*Obsessed*).

Contact Europe: Finecut ✉ cineinfo@finecut.co.kr

Contact Outside Europe: Lotte Entertainment, Jiwon Lee ✉ geewon@lotte.net

## The Wait (working title)

Dir Mo Hong-jin

Mystery thriller *The Wait* stars up-and-coming actress Shim Eun-kyung (*Miss Granny*), Kim Sung-oh (*The Man From Nowhere*) and Yoon Je-moon (*Boomerang Family*). Shim plays a woman whose father was killed 15 years ago. Now the serial killer is due to be released from prison. *The Wait*, in production, is backed by investor/distributor Next Entertainment World (NEW) and is set for local release this summer.

Contact Contents Panda, Dana Kim ✉ dana@its-new.co.kr

## Wonderful Nightmare

(working title)

Dir Kang Hyo-jin

Kang Hyo-jin follows *Dirty Blood* and *Twilight Gangsters* with this family drama with a twist. Uhm Jung-hwa (*Dancing Queen*) stars as a career-obsessed woman about to start work as a lawyer in the US. Killed in a car accident on the eve of her departure, she wakes in heaven to find she has died by mistake. To cover the error, she is asked by the heavenly authorities to live for a month as a woman who died the same day: a mother to a difficult teenage daughter and a precocious six year old, but the cold lawyer struggles to adjust to the new life. Song Seung-heon (*Obsessed*) co-stars.

Contact M-Line Distribution, Rachel Joo ✉ rachel@mline-distribution.com

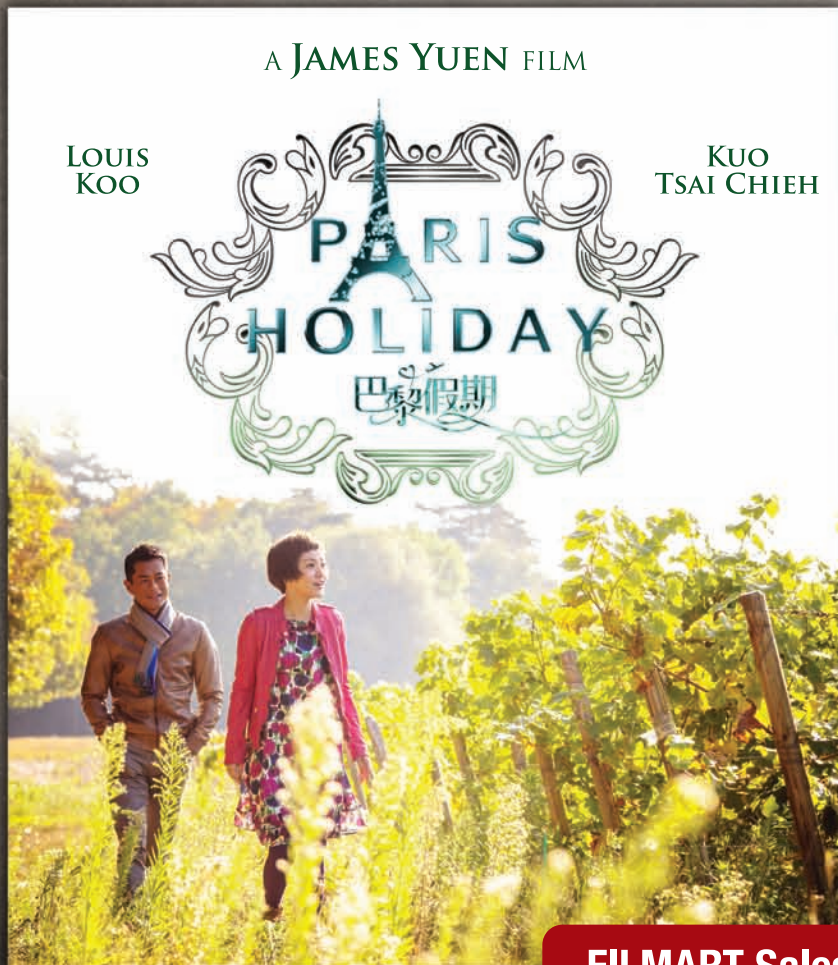
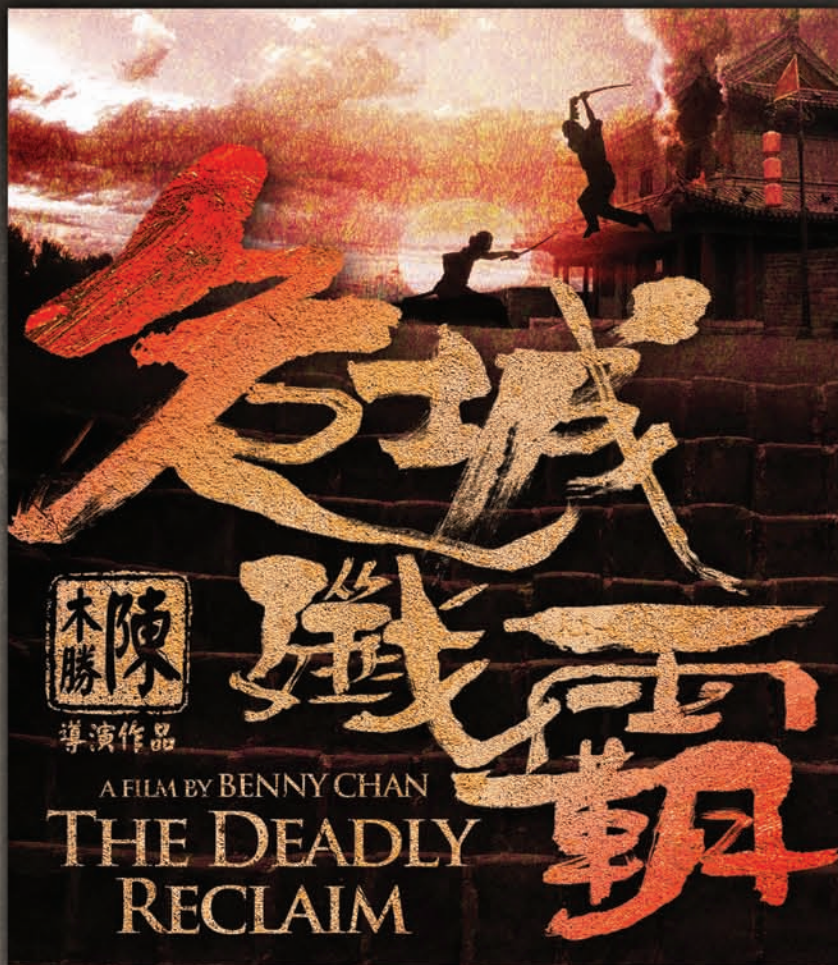


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Our Little Sister



Little Forest: Winter

## Ai Wo Tsumu Hito

Dir Yuzo Asahara

Romantic drama *Ai Wo Tsumu Hito* is based on Edward Mooney Jr's US-set novel *The Pearls Of The Stone Man*. Here the story is moved to the hills of Hokkaido where a couple move after retirement, dreaming of a peaceful existence. When his wife dies suddenly, the husband discovers letters she has written to guide him through life without her. The film stars Koichi Sato (*Pandemic*, *Brass Knuckle Boys*), Kanako Higuchi (*Ashura*), Keiko Kitagawa (*The After-Dinner Mysteries*, *Judge!*) and Shuheï Nomura (*Phone Call To The Bar*).

Contact Shochiku Co, Chiyo Mori  
✉chiyo\_mori@shochiku.co.jp

## If Cats Disappeared From The World

Dir Akira Nagai

Based on the novel by Genki Kawamura, *If Cats Disappeared From The World* tells the story of a 30-year-old postman who discovers he has a fatal brain tumour and is subsequently struck by visions of a devil who offers to extend his life. In production, the film is produced by Kei Haruna (*Crying Out Love In The Center Of The World*, *Permanent Nobara*) and stars Takeru Sato (*Rurouni Kenshin*) and Aoi Miyazaki (*The Great Passage*, *The Chart Of Love*). Shoichi Ato (*Confessions*, *Parasyte*) acts as cinematographer and the film is scheduled for 2016.

Contact Toho Co, Yusuke Kikuchi  
✉tohointl@toho.co.jp

## Little Forest: Winter & Spring

Dir Junichi Mori

*Little Forest* is a four-part film shot over four seasons. The segments *Winter* and *Summer* screened in the Berlinale's Culinary Cinema section earlier this year. *Ai*

# Hot titles Japan

Japanese companies are here with a strong line-up of literary adaptations, tear-jerkers and a comedy set in the make-up room of a porn shoot. Jean Noh reports

Hashimoto (*Confessions*, *The Kirishima Thing*) and Takahiro Miura (*Chronicle Of My Mother*) star. The film follows a young woman who moves from the city back to her home village to farm rice and gather seasonal foods from nearby mountains and fields. As she survives with nature through the changing seasons, she rediscovers herself, recharges and grows.

Contact Shochiku Co, Chiyo Mori  
✉chiyo\_mori@shochiku.co.jp

## Make Room

Dir Kei Morikawa

Winner of Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival's Grand Prix last month, Kei Morikawa's *Make Room* has its market debut at Filmart. Morikawa draws from his experiences as a former adult-video director for this comedy set in the make-up room of a porn film shoot. The cast features Aki Morita (*Sharing*) and an ensemble

of mostly Japanese porn stars including Beni Ito, Nanami Kawakami and Riri Kuribayashi.

Contact Asian territories and HK Filmart screening: Geta Films, Ryohei Masuoka  
✉inquiry@getafilms.com  
Contact worldwide festivals and worldwide sales excluding Asia: Third Window Films, Adam Torel  
✉adam@thirdwindowfilms.com

## Our Little Sister

Dir Hirokazu Kore-eda

Hirokazu Kore-eda, who won the 2013 Cannes Jury Prize with *Like Father, Like Son*, is in post-production on *Our Little Sister*. Based on the Shogakukan graphic novel *Umimachi Diary* by Akimi Yoshida, the film features three sisters in their 20s who meet their shy half-sister the first time at their estranged father's funeral.

Bonding quickly with the orphaned 14-year-old, they invite her to live with them in their seaside town. The

film stars Haruka Ayase (*Ichi*), Masami Nagasawa (*The Crossing*), Kaho (*Blindly In Love*) and Suzu Hirose (*Crows Explode*). Fuji Television Network, Shogakukan, Toho Company and Gaga Corporation are producing.

Contact Asia: Gaga Corporation, Haruko Watanabe ✉watanabh@gaga.co.jp  
Contact international sales excluding Asia: Wild Bunch, Olivier Barbier  
✉obarbier@wildbunch.eu

## Strayer's Chronicle

Dir Takahisa Zeze

Takahisa Zeze's *Heaven's Story* won the Fipresci and Netpac awards at the Berlinale in 2011. *Strayer's Chronicle*, in post-production, is a futuristic thriller about two sets of genetically manipulated children who are born with extraordinary powers. One set is a force for good while the other may try to destroy humanity. The film stars Masaki Okada, who worked with Zeze on *Life Back Then* and also featured in *Confessions*, and Shota Sometani (*Himizu*, *Parasyte*).

Contact Nippon TV, Naoko Satoh  
✉satohn.stf@ntv.co.jp

## The Voice Of Water

Dir Masashi Yamamoto

After its international premiere in Berlinale's Forum in February, *The Voice Of Water* is now screening at Hong Kong International Film Festival. Masashi Yamamoto (*Junk Food*) tells the story of a Korean-Japanese woman who is made the head of a cult called God's Water. She has to deal with believers, yakuza and businessmen. The film stars Hyunri (*Radio Days*) with Shuri, Jun Murakami and Natsuko Nakamura. It is produced by Shinichiro Muraoka (*The Whispering Of The Gods*, *Botchan*).

Contact Geta Films/Spirits Project Inc, Ryohei Masuoka ✉inquiry@getafilms.com



If Cats Disappeared From The World



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# EVENTS

**10:00 – 11:30**

**IQIYI SEMINAR : CONTENT FOR THE MULTI-PLATFORM ERA**

Venue Event room, Hall 1, HKCEC

**10:00 – 12:00**

**PRESS CONFERENCE ON FIRST FEATURE FILM INITIATIVE AND FILM PRODUCTION GRANT SCHEME**

Venue Meeting rooms S224-S225, HKCEC

**10:00 – 14:00**

**'CHINA'S PEARL RIVER DELTA: OPPORTUNITIES TO FINANCE U.S. FILM PRODUCTIONS' SEMINAR**

Venue Meeting rooms S226-S227, HKCEC

**10:15 – 12:30**

**8TH ASIAN VFX AND DIGITAL CINEMA SUMMIT 2015**

Venue Theatre 1, HKCEC

**10:30 – 11:30**

**SHAW BROTHERS PICTURES LTD LAUNCHING CEREMONY**

Venue The stage, Hall 1, HKCEC

**10:30 – 12:00**

**JAPAN-HONG KONG SEMINAR AT FILMART 2015 REGIONAL REVITALISATION: LOCATION X CONTENT**

Venue The studio, Hall 1, HKCEC

**Panel speakers** Kyoko Kashiwabara,

director, media and content industry division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI); Yukimoto Ito,

vice-mayor, Sendai City; Masato Tanaka,

rights & contents dpt manager/TV and radio programme producer, Hokkaido Broadcasting Company

**12:00 – 14:00**

**'THE MONKEY KING 2' PRESS CONFERENCE**

Venue Event room, Hall 1, HKCEC

**12:30 – 13:30**

**'INSANITY' PRESS CONFERENCE**

Venue The studio, Hall 1, HKCEC

**13:00 – 14:00**

**'MAMA EVA' PRESS CONFERENCE**

Venue Meeting room S228, HKCEC

**14:00 – 16:00**

**TV WORLD 2015 OPENING CEREMONY AND INTERNATIONAL FORUM: THE RISE OF TV STREAMING – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

Venue The stage, Hall 1, HKCEC

**Conference moderator**

Peter Lam, vice-president,

Hong Kong Televisioners Association

**Panel speakers**

Jonathan Ding, chair of Multiscreen Internet Access Standard Group, Ministry of Industry & Information Technology; Kim Jin Kwon, director of ICT Division, managing director of KBS-Media; Chong Li, Mango TV OTT Content Operations Director; Tin Mok, CEO of international business, Letv; and more

**14:00 – 17:30**

**'HONG KONG FILM & TV INDUSTRIES: GATEWAY TO CHINA MARKET' FORUM**

Venue Theatre 2, HKCEC

**14:30 – 15:30**

**'THE TREASURE' PRESS CONFERENCE**

Venue The studio, Hall 1, HKCEC

**15:00 – 16:30**

**ACTION! TAIPEI PRESS**

**CONFERENCE**

Venue Meeting room S226-S227, HKCEC

**15:00 – 18:00**

**TBS DIGICONG AWARDS HONG KONG CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY & CREATIVE MASTER WORKSHOP**

Venue Meeting room S224-S225, HKCEC

**14:30 – 16:00**

**MAKING ASIAN FILMS IN AMERICA**

Venue Event Room, Hall 1, HKCEC

**Panel speakers** Stu Levy, Chair, Producers Guild of America's International Committee, Online Video Committee and the PGA ProShow; Elizabeth Dell, head, China task force, Producers Guild of America; Jooick Lee, producer, CEO, SCS Boram Entertainment;

Howard Frumes, attorney, Alexander,

Lawrence, Frumes & Labowitz LLP; Wendy Reeds, executive VP of sales, Lionsgate International

**2015 MEDIA ASIA PRESENTATION**

Venue The stage, Hall 1, HKCEC

**HEAT CREATIVE WORKSHOP LTD AND STAR ALLIANCE PRESS CONFERENCE**

Venue Event Room, Hall 1, HKCEC

**15:30 – 17:00**

**THE 5TH GOLDEN FLOWER AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

Venue Meeting room S221, HKCEC

**16:00 – 18:00**

**MEI AH FILM PARADE 2015**

Venue The studio, Hall 1, HKCEC

**16:30 – 18:00**

**2015 MEDIA ASIA PRESENTATION**

Venue The stage, Hall 1, HKCEC

**16:30 – 17:30**

**HEAT CREATIVE WORKSHOP LTD AND STAR ALLIANCE PRESS CONFERENCE**

Venue Event Room, Hall 1, HKCEC

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# SCREENINGS

Edited by Paul Lindsell paul.lindsell@gmail.com

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

09:30

## GAME ON: TIME TO PULL THE STRINGS

See box, right

09:40

## THE NUTCRACKER

(Japan) Action, adventure, romance, animation, children's. 80mins. Crei. Dir: Sebastian Masuda. Key cast: Kasumi Arimura, Tori Matsuzaka, Ryoko Hirose, Masachika Ichimura. *In search of her stolen doll, a young girl finds herself in a land of dolls cursed by the two-headed mouse queen. The key to breaking the curse lays with the young girl's love. With a complete 3D conversion, the magical adventure is about to begin.*

Theatre 2, HKCEC

09:45

## KOZA

(Czech Republic, Slovak Republic) Drama. 75mins. Pluto Film Distribution Network. Dir: Ivan Ostrochovsky. *A former boxer, out of shape and struggling for money, steps back into the ring when his pregnant partner needs money for a termination.*

agnes b. CINEMA! Hong Kong Arts Centre

## THE MESSENGER

(UK) Drama. 95mins. Cinema Management Group. Dir: David Blair. Key cast: Robert Sheehan, Lily Cole, Joely Richardson.

*Unwillingly embroiled in the unfinished business of journalist Mark, Jack finds himself getting closer to his wife Sarah. Hidden secrets and lies finally push fragile Jack over the edge but there is hope when his estranged sister, Emma, gets in touch.*

Meeting room N104-105, HKCEC

## STRANGERLAND

(Australia) Drama. 110mins. Wild Bunch. Dir: Kim Farrant. Key cast: Nicole Kidman, Joseph Fiennes, Hugo Weaving.



## FILMART

09:30

## GAME ON: TIME TO PULL THE STRINGS

(Hong Kong) Comedy. 104mins. Dragon Horse Films. Dir: Aaron Palermo. Key cast: Jay Neville, Billy Buck, Jai Day, Danielle Chupak, Ailynn Murphy, Paul Sheehan, Ines Laimins. *The online game*

*Overglobe has a death count because people go insane chasing the money. But three fearless gamers join forces with a drama queen to steal the master player's password so they can take his position and win the game.*

Meeting room N101A, HKCEC

*Newcomers to the remote Australian desert town of Nathgari, Catherine and Matthew Parker's lives are thrown into crisis when they find their two teenage kids, Tommy and Lily, have mysteriously disappeared just before a massive dust storm hits.*

Meeting room N204-205, HKCEC

10:00

## HAPPY

(France) 97mins. Wide. Dir: Jordan Goldnadel. Key cast: Isabel Ryan, Jordan Goldnadel, Lea Moszkowicz, Vladimir Perrin. *Florent, 23, is an upper-class Parisian who dreams of going back to the US, where he attended college. One summer he meets Alessia, an American girl lost in the streets of Paris. Together and through a series of encounters while on a journey from Paris to Normandy, they explore their passion.*

Meeting room N101B, HKCEC

## ROMANCE

(Japan) Drama. 97mins. Nikkatsu Corporation. Dir: Yuki Tanada. Key cast: Yuko Oshima, Koji Okura. *Hachiko Hojo is a 26-year-old train car attendant on the 'romance car' regular route from Shinjuku to Hakone. She was supposed to get on with her job like any other day and return to Tokyo. Until Hachiko met him...*

Meeting room N102-103, HKCEC

## SILK ROAD WITH LOVE

(Hong Kong) Drama. 88mins. Cine Art Pro. Dir: Pierre Lam. Key cast: Pierre Lam, Isabelle Massabo, Edward Tripkonc, Akiko Obuchi, James Ji, Peony Shi. *Meeting room N206-207, HKCEC*

## TWO WOMEN

(Russia, Lavia, France) Drama. 100mins. Media Luna New Films. Dir: Vera Glagoleva. Key cast: Ralph

Fiennes, Sylvie Testud, Anna Astrakhanceva, Anna Levanova. *Natalya is married to Arkadi, a rich landowner older than her. Bored with life, she welcomes the attention of Mikhail that looks to develop into a love affair. However the arrival of her son's tutor, the attractive Aleksei, shakes her feelings.*

Meeting room N109-110, HKCEC

## UMRIKA

(India) Comedy. 104mins. Beta Cinema. Dir: Prashant Nair. Key cast: Surji Sharma, Tony Revolori, Adil Hussain, Smita Tambe, Rajesh Tailang, Amit Sial, Pramod and Prateik Babbar. *A small village in India is invigorated when one of their own travels to the US (aka Umrika) and details his adventures through letters home, sparking community debate and inspiring hope. But when the letters mysteriously stop coming, his younger brother Rama sets out to find him.*

House 1, UA CINE Times, Times Square

## ZOUZOU

(France) comedy. 81mins. Doc & Film International. Dir: Blandine Lenoir. Key cast: Nanou Garcia, Philippe Rebbot, Laure Calamy. *Solange is pleased to welcome her three*

*daughters for a few days. She has great news for them, she is in love. But the three women are struggling to imagine their 60-year-old mother in the arms of a man.*

Meeting room N201A, HKCEC No press

10:15

## CHOKOLIETTA

(Japan) Drama. 159mins. Suzufukudo. Dir: Kazama Shiori. Key cast: Toni Rakkaen, Ingkarat Damrongsakkul, Thira Chutikul, Kowit Wattanakul. *In Thailand, all males turning 21 years old must participate in the annual military draft lottery. On the morning of his lottery, Oat reflects back on his childhood, when as a child, his older brother Ek faced the possibility of being drafted.*

Meeting room N111-N112, HKCEC

11:15

## TWENTY

(South Korea) Comedy. 115mins. Contents Panda. Dir: Lee Byeong-heon. Key cast: Kim Woo-bin, Lee Jun-ho, Kang Ha-neul. *Chi-ho, Kyung-jae and Dong-woo are high school friends. Kyung-jae, the smartest of the three, is accepted into a respectable college and enjoys life. He meets the girl of his dreams during freshman initiation and falls head over heels for her. Dong-*

## BUS TIMETABLE

### FROM HKCEC TO AGNES B. CINEMA

09:35, 13:50

### FROM AGNES B. CINEMA TO HKCEC

11:10, 16:05

### FROM HKCEC TO UA CINE TIMES (TIMES SQUARE)

09:40, 11:40, 13:05 13:25, 13:40, 15:30, 15:35, 17:30, 17:35

### FROM UA CINE TIMES (TIMES SQUARE) TO HKCEC

12:00, 12:10, 13:50, 15:55, 16:00

*woo skips college and is forced to work part-time to provide for his family.*

Theatre 2, HKCEC No press

11:45

## FROM VEGAS TO MACAU II

(Hong Kong) Action, adventure, comedy, drama. 110mins. Mega-Vision Project Workshop. Dir: Wong Jing. Key cast: Chow Yun Fat, Nick Cheung, Carina Lau. *Now an Interpol agent, Vincent seeks Macau-based master gambler Ken's help in busting the mastermind of an international criminal syndicate with whom Ken had run-ins in the past.*

Meeting room N101A

11:50

## THE LITTLE MATCH MURDER GIRL

(Japan) Horror, suspense. 77mins. Elixir Entertainment. Dir: Naoyuki Tomomstso. *A TV reporter investigates a local story of a fire-breathing ghost and a woman wronged 30 years earlier.*

Meeting room N204-205, HKCEC

12:00

## BRAVE RABBIT 2: CRAZY CIRCUS

(US, China) Action, adventure, animation, children's, sci-fi, fantasy. 90mins. All Rights Entertainment. Dir: Xian Lin Zeng. *The peaceful town of Chuang Tang, inhabited* »

by rabbits, hosts the famous Wish ceremony, where rabbits pray to make their wishes come true. Tang Tang's father is an ingenious inventor and is creating a machine that would increase the power of the wishes. Unfortunately, evil characters are trying to steal the machine and possess the wishes.

**Meeting room N201B, HKCEC**  
By invitation only

**LIZ IN SEPTEMBER**

(Venezuela) Romance. 100mins. Cinema Management Group. Dir: Fina Torres. Key cast: Patricia Velasquez, Eloisa Maturen, Mimi Lazo.

*Eva's car breaks down, leaving her stranded on the road. She ends up at Margot's Inn where she meets Liz, who makes a bet that she can seduce Eva.*

**Meeting room N102-103, HKCEC**

**NATIONAL BASE FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL TRADE HIT SHOWS**

(China) 120mins. National Base For International Cultural Trade (Shanghai). **Meeting room N211-212**

**SPRING**

(US, Italy) Horror, suspense. 109mins. XYZ Films. Dir: Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead. Key cast: Lou Taylor Pucci, Nadia Hilker.

*A young man in a personal tailspin flees the US to Italy, where he sparks up a romance with a girl hiding a dark secret.*

**Meeting room N101B, HKCEC**  
No press

**12:05**

**RUBBERS**

(Singapore) Comedy. 86mins. 18g Pictures. Dir: Han Yew Kwang. Key cast: Marcus Chin, Julian Hee, Lee Chau Min, Oon Shu An, Catherine Sng, Alaric Tay, Yeo Yann Yann.

*An elderly couple's love is rekindled with 'balloon' condoms; a talking condom helps a single lady to seduce a plumber; and a selfish playboy*



**FILMART**

**13:45**

**DEADMAN INFERNO**

(Japan) Action, adventure. 108mins. Kadokawa Corporation. Dir: Hiroshi Shinagawa. Key cast: Show Aikawa, Sawa Suzuki, Yuichi Kimura, Daisuke Miyagawa, Shingo Tsurumi.

*Two rival Yakuza gangs, a pair of runaway girls, a local doctor and a young cop converge on an island overrun by zombies. They must fight their way to the mainland without becoming fodder for the army of walking dead.*

**Meeting room N201A, HKCEC**

*gets stuck with a condom that he cannot remove.*

**House 2, UA CINE Times, Times Square**

**12:10**

**THE TENOR LIRICO SPINTO**

(South Korea, Japan) Drama. 121mins. More In Group. Dir: Kim Sang-man. Key cast: Ji-Tae yoo, Kie Kitano, Natasa Tapuskovic, Cha Te-ryun, Tusuke Iseya. *Bae Jae-cheol is an opera tenor on the rise to stardom in Europe. After hearing Bae's voice, Japanese music producer Sawada Kohji invites him to Japan, which marks the beginning of their friendship. But thyroid cancer strikes Bae and he loses his voice at the peak of his career. Sawada seeks a solution.*

**Meeting room N109-110, HKCEC** By invitation only

**12:50**

**LION DANCE**

(Japan) Comedy. 95mins. Takaocan Dream Company. Dir: Toru

Ichikawa. Key cast: Syunta Fukawa. *A university student belonging to the Railway Love Association falls in love.*

**Meeting room N104-105, HKCEC**

**13:00**

**NASTY BABY**

(US) Drama. 100mins. Versatile. Dir: Sebastian Sliva. Key cast: Kristen Wiig, Sebastian Silva, Tunde Adebimpe, Reg E Cathey, Agustin Silva, Mark Margolis, Alia Shawkat. *Centres on a Brooklyn couple, Freddy and his boyfriend Mo, who are trying to have a baby with the help of their best friend, Polly. The film follows the trio as they navigate the idea of creating life while confronted by harassment from a menacing local.*

**Theatre 1, HKCEC**

**13:45**

**DEADMAN INFERNO**

See box, above

**13:50**

**LITTLE BIG MASTER**

(Hong Kong, China) Drama. 113mins. Universe Films Distribution Company Ltd. Dir: Adrian Kwan. Key cast: Miriam Yeung, Louis Koo. *Schools are being forced to close due to Hong Kong's low birth rate. Based on a true story, an enthusiastic headmistress stands by her principles to run a kindergarten for underprivileged kids. Regardless of the low pay and difficulties, her sacrifice wins the respect of public.*

**House 2, UA CINE Times, Times Square**

**14:00**

**BALI BIG BROTHER**

(Japan) Drama. 107mins. Colorbird. Dir: Toshio Lee. Key cast: Hinichi Tsutsumi, Machiko Ono, Naoto Inti Raymi, Hiroshi Tamaki. *Her wedding company having gone broke in Tokyo, Shoko comes to Bali, determined to end her life. There she encounters Aniki, an eccentric millionaire.*

**Meeting room N204-205, HKCEC**

**COIN LOCKER**

(South Korea) Action, adventure. 96mins. Mountain Pictures Co. Dir: Kim Tae-kyung. Key cast: Son Yu-eun. *A family is chased by the Mob for a gambling debt.*

*The parents hide their child in a coin locker — the gamble of a lifetime.*

**Meeting room N211-212, HKCEC**

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY NAME IS?**

(Japan) Documentary. 82mins. Sendai Television Incorporated. Dir: Naomi Kazama, Shigeru Ota. *"Do you know what my name is?" For a year now, it has been the director's daily task to ask this question. This documentary pursues the answers to what it means to live a happy life, and what may be considered a truly happy conclusion to that life.*

**Meeting room N111-112**

**FLOCKING**

(Sweden) Drama. 110mins. Media Luna New Films. Dir: Beata Gardeler. Key cast: Fatimeazemi, John Ristu, Eva Melander, Jakob Ohrman, Malin Levanon. *A small Swedish community seems idyllic on the surface. But everything changes when 14-year-old Jennifer claims to have been raped by classmate Alexander. A rumour spreads rapidly through the community. And more and more people are convinced that Jennifer is lying.*

**Meeting room N102-103, HKCEC**

**FORGET ME NOT**

(Japan) Drama. 94mins. Nikkatsu Corporation. Dir: Kei Horie. Key cast: Nijiro Murakami, Akari Hayami.

*Nobody remembers Azusa Oribe. Not her classmates from the previous year, nor the current ones. The people she met the day before no longer recognise her. Takashi Hayama, an ordinary third-year high school student on the verge of his university exams, falls in love with Azusa, who disappears from the memories of people she meets within a few hours. 'Forget Me Not' is a coming-of-age fantasy romance about two people who struggle to escape their inevitable destiny.*

**Meeting room N201B, HKCEC**

**HANABI**

(Japan) Romance. 88mins. Takaocan Dream Company. Dir: Toru Ichikawa. Key cast: Yu Nakajima. *The fireworks of Toyama Prefecture are held every year at the end of July.*

**Meeting room N104-105, HKCEC**

**LATIN LOVER**

(Italy) Comedy. 105mins. Rai Com. Dir: Cristina Comencini. Key cast: Virna Lisi, Marisa Paredes, Candela Pena, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi. *Saverio Crispo was a famous actor and a*



# media luna new films

## Two Women

by Vera Glagoleva

Starring **Ralph Fiennes** (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Harry Potter*, *The English Patient*) and **Sylvie Testud** (*La Vie en Rose*, *Lourdes*).

Based on the Ivan Turgenev's classic play *A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY*.

**Market Screening:**  
Tue 24th 10:00H (N109-110)



## flocking

by Beata Gardeler

Winner of the **Crystal Bear at Berlinale 2015** (*Generation 14Plus*). Based on true stories!

**Market Screening:**  
Tue 24th 14:00H (N102-103)



## GET MARRIED IF YOU CAN

by Marco Polo Constandse

**Box Office hit in Mexico! - Third highest-grossing film of all time**

Starring **Martha Higadera** (*Street Kings*, *Amar te duele*), **Luis Gerardo Méndez** (*Cantinflas*) and **Michel Brown** (*Pasión de Gavilanes - TV*)

**Market Screening:**  
Tue 24th 16:10H (N102-103)



## Baby Steps

by Barney Cheng

From **Oscar-winning producer** of *Crouching Tiger*, *Hidden Dragon*, *Eat Drink Man Woman* and *The Wedding Banquet* by **Ang Lee**.

Starring the award-winning actress **Ah-Leh Gua** (*The Wedding Banquet* and *Eat Drink Man Woman*).

**Market Screening:**  
Wed 25th 11:45H (N101A)



## 3 BEAUTIES

by Carlos Caridad Montero

*Miss Venezuela*. When obsession for beauty and cosmetic surgery is taken too far.

Starring **Diana Peñalver**, **Josette Vidal**, **Fabiola Arace** & **Fabián Moreno**.

**Market Screening:**  
Wed 25th 14:05H (N101A)



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a night-time Tehran full of mysteries and surprises, Arineh and Nobahar discover a parallel world they had never imagined. House 1, UA CINE Times, Times Square

**BEAUTIFUL 2015: YOUKU ORIGINAL MASTER'S MICROFILM** (Iran, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong) Drama. 120mins. 1verge Information Technology Co. Dirs: Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Tsai Ming-Liang, Huang Jianxin, Yim Ho. Key cast: Amirali Khosrojerdi, Lee Kang-Sheng, Tong Li-Ya, Dou Xiao, Gigi Wong. A portmanteau movie from four great directors. House 2, UA CINE Times, Times Square

FILMART

**14:00**  
**WOLF TOTEM** (China, France) Action, adventure. 116mins. Edko Films. Dir: Jean-Jacques Annaud. Key cast: Feng Shaofeng, Shawn Dou, Ankhnyam Ragchaa, Yin Zhusheng, Basen Zhabu. 1969, the time of the Cultural Revolution. Chen Zhen, a young student from Beijing, is

sent to inner Mongolia to teach a nomadic tribe of shepherds. But it is Chen who has much to learn — about existence in this harsh and breathtakingly beautiful wilderness, about community, freedom and responsibility, and about the most feared and revered creature of the Steppes, the wolf. **agnes b. CINEMA! Hong Kong Arts Centre**

friends has captured the hearts of audiences. Meeting room N206-207, HKCEC

**14:35**  
**TIME DESTROYER NINJA** (Japan) Action, adventure. 86mins. Stand Entertainment. Dir: Minoru Ohki. Key cast: Yohei Natsumori, Shinsaku Tokumaru. Meeting room N109-N110, HKCEC

**15:00**  
**BEING 14** See box, below

**15:35**  
**WONOGAWA** (Japan) Sci-fi, fantasy. 121mins. Elixir Entertainment. Dir: Hiroki Yamaguchi. One thousand years from now a young woman's life is at risk in post-nuclear sci-fi community as she investigates who controls and operates society and the economy. As she gets close to the truth, the walls start to close in on her. Meeting room N111-112, HKCEC

**15:50**  
**ROSE SEVEN VOL.1 — YUKIHIME** (Japan) Action, adventure. 20mins. Stand Entertainment. Dir: Kengo Kaji. Key cast: Nana Nanaumi. Seven girls who each has a speciality in battle weapons will fight against evil. Seven stories in one

film — this is one of the stories in production. Meeting room N104-105, HKCEC

**ZOMBIES VS THE LUCKY EXORCIST** (Malaysia) Comedy. 93mins. International Film. Dir: Jaguar Lim Boon Seng. Key cast: Jaguar Lim Boon Seng, Bobby Yip, Hidy Yu. Xiaohuang, Xiaomei and Xiaoyu go on a mission to stop their grandfather when he is resurrected as a zombie. Meeting room N201B, HKCEC

**16:00**  
**ATOMIC HEART** (Iran) Drama. 97mins. DreamLab Films. Dir: Ali Ahmadzadeh. Key cast: Taraneh Alidoosti; Pegah Ahangarani; Mehrdad Sedighiyan; Mohammadreza Golzar. On the way home from a party, Arineh and Nobahar crash their car. A strange man offers to pay the expenses and refuses to be reimbursed. Instead he asks the girls to follow him into the unknown. While travelling through

**GOODBYE, DEBUSSY** (Japan) Horror, suspense. 130mins. Ti Comnet. Dir: Go Rijyuu. Key cast: Ai Hashimoto, Shinya Kiyozuka, Mickey Curtis, Yu Yoshizawa, Akiko Aitsuki, Takeshi Yamamoto, Koji Shimizu, Mami Kumagai, Kenzo Saeki, Itsuki Sagara, Keiko Toda, Yuji Mitsuya, Hisashi Yoshizawa. The story of cousins Haruka and Lucia, who are more like sisters. After Lucia's parents go

womaniser: his five daughters — born from five different mothers in different parts of the world — gather in his home town on the 10th anniversary of his death. Meeting room N101A, HKCEC

**LIVING RIGHT** (Japan) Drama. 108mins. Open Sesame Co. Dir: Yoshiho Fukuoka. Key cast: Itoku Kishibe, Akira Emoto. Hosaku Tabata and his granddaughters Haru and Ai are the descendants of Halser Acre, who always lived in harmony with the soil. Haru has a complex stemming not only from her small stature, but also from her inexperience as a Halser compared with her younger sister, Ai. Meeting room N101B, HKCEC

**WOLF TOTEM** See box, above

**14:15**  
**PLANK CONSTANT** (South Korea) Drama, sci-fi, fantasy. 80mins. Mirovision. Dir: Cho Sung-kyu. Key cast: Kim Jae-wook. Various stories are connected under a theme of fantasy and desire, and start a fantastic experience that leads to one universe. Meeting room N209-210

**VENETIA'S GARDEN** (Japan) Documentary. 130mins. Ti Comnet. Dir: Kazuhiko Sugawara. Key cast: Venetia Stanley-Smith, Tadashi Kajiyama, Yujin Kajiyama, Julie Hachisu. Venetia Stanley-Smith is an English woman who lives in a farm house in the village of Ohara, Kyoto. Thanks to her TV programme, 'At Home With Venetia In Kyoto', her hand-crafted lifestyle that she shares with her Ohara family and



FILMART

**15:00**  
**BEING 14** (France) Drama. 86mins. Versatile. Dir: Helene Zimmer. Key cast: Galatea Bellugi, Athalia Routier, Najaa Bensaid.

The turbulent lives and adventures of a group of 14-year-olds, seen through the eyes of three young girls — Sarah, Jade and Louise — with one last year to go before high school. Theatre 1, HKCEC No press

missing while volunteering in Africa, she becomes a part of Haruka's family. Haruka, an aspiring pianist, makes a promise to Lucia to one day play Claude Debussy's 'Moonlight' for her. After sustaining near-fatal injuries in a fire that claims the lives of Lucia and her grandfather, Haruka is determined to keep her promise.

**Meeting room N209-210, HKCEC**

#### IRON GIRL — ULTIMATE WEAPON

(Japan) Action, adventure. 84mins. Crei. Dir: Kenichi Fujiwara. Key cast: Kirara Asuka, Hiroaki Iwanaga, Asuka Kishi, Ryunosuke Kawamura, Asami. *The super-heroine in a sexy suit returns.*

**Meeting room N206-207, HKCEC**

#### SHANTI DAYS: 365 DAYS OF HAPPY BREATHING

(Japan) Drama. 108mins. Colorbird. Dir: Koto Nagata. Key cast: Mugi Kadowaki, Jessica Michibata, Dean Fujioka. *Miku arrives in Tokyo from the countryside, wide-eyed and without a clue as to where to begin her cosmopolitan life. Then she comes across a yoga lesson taught by a beautiful model and yoga instructor named Kumi.*

**Meeting room N211-212, HKCEC**

#### THE TAKING

(UK) Horror, suspense. 87mins. Metrodome International. Dir: Dominic Brunt. Key cast: Victoria Smurfit, Joanne Mitchell, Jonathan Slinger, Rula Lenska. *Tired of their mundane lives on a street food stall in the poor side of town, Bex and Dawn dream of opening their own up-market café. No-one will take a risk on them until they meet Jeremy, an independent businessman.*

**Meeting room N201A, HKCEC**

#### TWENTY

(South Korea) Comedy. 115mins. Contents Panda. Dir: Lee Byeong-heon. Key cast: Kim Woo-bin, Lee Jun-ho, Kang Ha-neul.



#### FILMART

**16:10**

#### GET MARRIED IF YOU CAN

(Mexico) Comedy. 107mins. Media Luna New Films. Dir: Marco Polo Constandse. Key cast: Vlartha Higareda, Miri Higareda, Luis Gerardo Mondez, Michel Brown. *Ana is obsessed with her dream wedding,*

*Chi-ho, Kyung-jae and Dong-woo are high-school friends. Kyung-jae, the smartest out of the three, is accepted into a respectable college. He meets the girl of his dreams during freshman initiation and falls head over heels for her. Dong-woo skips college and is forced to work part-time to provide for his family.*

**Meeting room N204-205, HKCEC Buyers and press only**

**16:10**

**GET MARRIED IF YOU CAN**  
See box, above

#### HOMESICK

(Germany) 98mins. Wide. Dir: Jakob M Erwa. Key cast: Esther Maria Pietsch, Tatja Seibt, Matthias Lier, Hermann Beyer. *When a cello student receives an invitation to represent Germany in an international contest, it seems to be a great opportunity — but the stress begins to gnaw away at Jessica's life and soon*

*Daniela is focused on her career with no time for marriage. When Ana finds out her fiancé is cheating on her, and Daniela falls in love with her best friend, they discover that the only true path to marriage is love.*

**Meeting room N102-103, HKCEC**

*reality and imagination blur.*

**Meeting room N101B, HKCEC**

**16:15**

#### EXTRAORDINARY TALES

(Luxembourg, US, Spain, Belgium) Animation. 73mins. BAC Films Distribution. Dir: Raul Garcia. Key cast: the voices of Christopher Lee, Bela Lugosi, Julian Sands, Roger Corman, Guillermo Del Toro. *Anthology of five stories by Edgar Allan Poe.*

**Meeting room N101A, HKCEC**

**16:40**

#### HOMURA

(Japan) Action, adventure. 60mins. Stand Entertainment. Dir: Kengo Kaji. Key cast: Yukie Kawamura, Mika Akizuki, Goro Takeishi. *Professor Homura is attacked by a gang while in class. They want her to join their group as a gun specialist but she refuses and the battle begins.*

**Meeting room N104-105, HKCEC**

**18:00**

#### ASTRAGAL (L'ASTRAGALE)

(France) Romance. 97mins. Alfama Films. Dir: Brigitte Sy. Key cast: Leola Bekhti, Reda Kateb. *Albertine jumps from the wall of a prison in which she is serving a sentence for a holdup. The fall breaks a bone in her ankle: the astragal. She is rescued by Julien, a fugitive who feels protective of her. He hides her in Paris but while he leads his gangster life, the young woman struggles for her freedom and against the wounds inflicted by Julien's absence.*

**Theatre 2, HKCEC**

#### ENDLESS NIGHTS IN AURORA

(Taiwan) Romance. 110mins. MM Square Film Co. Dir: Sven Lee. Key cast: Rainie Yang, Chris Wang. *The love stories of Alisha and her mother.*

**House 2, UA CINE Times, Times Square**

#### ORIANA...

(Italy) Drama. 105mins. Rai Com. Dir: Marco Turco. Key cast: Vittoria Puccini, Vinicio Marchioni, Francesca Agostini. *Based on the life of Oriana Fallaci, the Italian journalist, author and political interviewer.*

**Meeting room N101A, HKCEC**

#### SUNRISE

(India, France.) Drama.

82mins. Stray Dogs. Dir: Partho Sen-Gupta. Key cast: Adil Hussain, Tannishtha Chatterjee. *When a new series of child abductions begin, a detective haunted by the disappearance of his daughter 10 years before must race against the clock to save the girls.*

**Meeting room N104-105, HKCEC**

#### TAXI DRIVER GARO THE MOVIE — TO ALL YOU DESERTED DUDES

(Japan) Animation. 56mins. Yuba Motion. Dir: Munenori Nagano. Key cast: Chikara Honda, Shiori Doi, Gota Ishida. *My name is Gion Taro. I'm an ordinary taxi driver. Born and raised in Kyoto, I'm ashamed to say I've never left the area: this is home to beautiful scenery, and nostalgic cityscapes. But seeing the world might help me learn more about Kyoto.*

**Meeting room N109-110, HKCEC**

**17:55**

#### CHRONICLE OF A BLOOD MERCHANT

(South Korea) Drama. 124mins. Finecut. Dir: Ha Jung-woo, Heo Sam Kwan. Key cast: Ha Jung-woo, Ha Ji-won. *Story of a man who sells his blood for his family whenever they need the money, even for a son he finds is fathered by another man.*

**House 1, UA CINE Times, Times Square**

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