

DAY 2

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 2018

SCREEN

AT FILMART



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Film & TV Market (FILMART)
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Filmart

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19-22 March, 2018

Press Conference For All Projects

20 March, 2018

4PM - 6PM

Galaxy Theatre, Hall 1



Directed and Produced
by Roy Chow

二〇一九 吞食天地

Produced and Screenplay
By Christine To

Produced
By Stephen Shiu Junior



Lajin 拉亞影业

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Jeisen 捷成世纪



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BOOTH 1C-D14
UNIFRANCE

HONG KONG FILMART 2018 MARKET SCREENING SCHEDULE



NERVOUS TRANSLATION

DIRECTED BY SHIREEN SENO
PHILIPPINES // 2018 // 91 MIN



OFFICIAL SCREENINGS

TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH
7:15 PM
FESTIVAL GRAND CINEMA

THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND
7:15 PM
THE SKY



CHRISTMAS BLOOD

DIRECTED BY REINERT KIL
NORWAY // 2017 // 104 MIN



MARKET SCREENING
TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH
2:00 PM
HKCEC // N102-N103



THE MAN WITH THE MAGIC BOX

DIRECTED BY BODO KOX
POLAND - ITALY // 2017 // 103 MIN



MARKET SCREENING
WEDNESDAY MARCH 21ST
10:00 AM
HKCEC // N111-N112



FIVE FINGERS FOR MARSEILLES

NEW ACQUISITION

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MATTHEWS
SOUTH AFRICA // 2017 // 120 MINUTES

& MORE...

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Girls Always Happy, review, p8

REVIEW

Girls Always Happy

Chinese debut lays bare a complex mother-daughter relationship

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FEATURE

Korea hot projects

The latest work from the directors of *Inside Men*, *The Throne* and *The Whistleblower*

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SCREENINGS

What's on at Filmart

» Page 30

Jack Neo heads mm2's gala slate

BY SILVIA WONG

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Singapore's mm2 Entertainment presents an extended slate of 24 regional films at Filmart, including a trio of new titles co-produced with Turner Asia Pacific.

Taking the spotlight is *Killer Not Stupid*, Jack Neo's first film set outside Singapore and Malaysia. Filming began last week in Taiwan with popular Taiwanese actors Jay Shih and Amber An. Neo is Singapore's most commercially successful director, known for his *I Not Stupid* and *Ah Boys To Men* franchises.

Last year, mm2 entered into a five-picture deal with Turner. The other two Turner projects at Filmart are Ong Kuo Sin's Taiwan-set road movie *1 Headlight* and Kethsvin Chee's *Hello! Tapir*, a live-action/CG-hybrid fantasy drama.

iQiyi launches dramatic push as TV series travel

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Chinese streaming giant iQiyi is launching four new series at Filmart today, tapping into the trend for Chinese-language TV drama to find an audience overseas.

The four 24x45-minute series — *Meet Me @ 1006*, *Befriend*, *Plant Goddess* and *Re-play* — are the first to be produced by iQiyi's Taiwan production team. The shows feature leading Taiwanese film and TV actors, such as Guo Shu-yao (*The Teenage Psychic*), who stars in *Befriend* about a debt collector who helps people solve relationship conflicts.

Li Guo-yi (*In A Good Way*) and

Hsieh Hsin-ying (*Love At Seventeen*) star in *Meet Me @ 1006*, which follows a lawyer who finds a strange woman in his apartment at the same time every night, while Jasper Liu (*When I See You Again*) stars in *Plant Goddess* about a music executive stranded in a rural village.

Chinese TV dramas are gaining a higher international profile as season runs become shorter and budgets and production values increase. Streaming platforms such as iQiyi, Youku Tudou and Tencent have driven expansion by experimenting with new genres and storylines. Netflix recently acquired iQiyi's *Tientsin Mystic* and

Burning Ice, as well as Youku's *Day And Night*. iQiyi has also sold shows to US platform DramaFever, Korea's CJ E&M, Malaysia's Astro, Singapore's StarHub and Hong Kong's TVB.

"In the past, costume dramas from TV stations have been the most popular genre for overseas markets, but iQiyi is trying to introduce new genres such as youth drama, fantasy and adventure," said iQiyi sales director Bryce Tsao.

iQiyi's new dramas will stream on the company's platforms in Taiwan and China as well as on Taiwanese cable channels TTV and EBC.

Mei Ah taps into Keyboard Warriors

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Hong Kong's Mei Ah Entertainment unveiled a slate of new projects at Filmart yesterday, including Michael Sit's *Keyboard Warriors*, starring Stephy Tang and Grace Chan. Currently in post-production, the film is based on a true event in Hong Kong in 2014 when an armoured vehicle spilled large bundles of cash in a busy street.

The slate includes an as-yet-untitled romantic drama, produced by Joe Ma and starring Niki Chow and Ron Ng. The company is also selling two titles from Taiwanese filmmakers: Wei Te-sheng's drama *New Turn*, starring Cherry Ngan, and an as-yet-untitled romance directed by Cheng Hsiao-tse (*Miao Miao*) and produced by Jet Tone Films.

Wide House plays Piano, Waldheim Waltz

France's Wide House has announced a raft of deals on documentaries *Renzo Piano*, *The Architect Of Light* and *The Waldheim Waltz*.

Renzo Piano, *The Architect Of Light*, acclaimed Spanish filmmaker Carlos Saura's documentary on the architect behind the *New York Times* building and the Pompidou Centre, has sold to Hong Kong (Edko), Italy (I Wonder) and Joint Entertainment (Taiwan).

Austrian filmmaker Ruth Beckermann's *The Waldheim Waltz*, winner of the Berlinale's Glashutte Original Documentary Award, sold to North America (Menemsha Films) and ex-Yugoslavia (Tricontinental). It explores how former UN secretary general Kurt Waldheim's wartime past was uncovered after he announced his bid for the Austrian presidency.

Jean Noh



(From left) EMP group chairman Albert Yeung, actor Nick Cheung and filmmaker Dante Lam

Dante Lam pair tops Emperor pipeline

BY SILVIA WONG

Operation Red Sea director Dante Lam made a surprise appearance at Emperor Motion Pictures' (EMP) media launch, plugging two projects.

On stage with his producer Candy Leung and the company's group chairman Albert Yeung, Lam said his next project will again be set on the sea, a mega-budget project co-produced by EMP and China's state-run China Central Television (CCTV). After having made a couple

of military action films primarily for the mainland Chinese market — *Operation Mekong* and *Operation Red Sea*, which is China's second biggest film ever — Lam further revealed that his second new project is likely to be set in his hometown Hong Kong and star his *Unbeatable* actor Nick Cheung.

Lam's projects aside, EMP unveiled seven new titles. Crime thriller *Integrity* will be the first part of a trilogy directed and written by Alan Mak. Benny Chan's action

thriller *Crossfire* will see Donnie Yen play a former policeman who travels to South America to rescue his kidnapped wife. The sequel to *77 Heartbreaks* — *77 Heartburns* — reteams director Herman Yau with actors Charlene Choi, Pakho Chau and Michelle Wai.

Choi is also in Wai Kar Fai's *Cold Detective*, Calvin Poon's thriller *Fatal Visit* and Tsang Tsui Shan's *The Lady Improper*. Rounding out the slate is Benny Lau's romance *When Sun Meets Moon*.

WME IMG China snags Wong

Former Le Vision Pictures executive Ronan Wong has joined WME IMG China as vice president, film and TV, based in Beijing. He will be helping the agency ramp up its involvement in developing, investing in and distributing Chinese-language film and TV content, including sales to China's digital platforms.

Wong was previously general manager, international co-production and distribution at Beijing-based Le Vision.

Liz Shackleton

Celestial Tiger, Mega-Vision renew tie-up

Pan-Asian broadcaster Celestial Tiger Entertainment (CTE) has renewed its exclusive, multi-year output deal with Hong Kong's Mega-Vision Project Workshop (MVP). Under the terms of the deal, CTE has first and exclusive pay-TV rights, along with pay-per-view, video-on-demand and over-the-top rights, to MVP's upcoming movies in Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Titles that are covered by the deal include two upcoming action pics starring Donnie Yen: *Enter The Fat Dragon*, directed by Kenji Tanigaki, and Kam Kar Wai's *Big Brother*. The deal also includes gangland drama *Chasing The Dragon*, starring Yen and Andy Lau, which grossed \$87m in China last year.

Based in Hong Kong, CTE operates pan-Asian TV channels including Celestial Movies, cHK, Kix, Thrill and Celestial Classic Movies.

Liz Shackleton

Mars charges Battery

BY JEAN NOH

Russia's Mars Media Entertainment has sold Kirill Belevich's Second World War drama *Battery Number One* (*Ednichka*) to Japan (Inter Film) and South Korea (Scene & Sound). The company is in negotiations to lock a deal with China.

Starring Andrey Merzlikin and Mikhail Yevlanov, *Battery Number One* is based on an autobiographical story by Second World War veteran and writer Alexander Nikolaev.

The film takes place in August 1944 when Soviet troops are moving through eastern Poland. Under orders to ensure safe passage for the army over a bridge near an abandoned monastery, Lieutenant Egorov and his battalion discover a makeshift orphanage for deaf-mute children hiding in the monastery with their teacher Eve. They are faced with the dilemma of compromising the refugees or executing their orders blindly.



Battery Number One

Mars Media is also launching international sales on high-concept production *The Perfect Ones*, directed by Kirill Pletnev (*Light Up!*). When a young man dies leaving behind a wife and girlfriend, they start to receive mysterious text messages on their cellphones that prompt the two to put aside their mutual hatred and travel to the south of

Russia. *The Perfect Ones* is in post-production for release later this year.

The company is also selling Second World War film *T-34*, which it is marketing as "*Fast & Furious* on tanks". The film is set for wide release in Russia on December 28 via Central Partnership in alliance with Russia One Channel and Amedia.

Evolutionary moves Out Of The Shadows

BY JEAN NOH

UK-based Evolutionary Films has sold Australian horror thriller *Out Of The Shadows* to China (Virtual Cinema) and North America (Blue Fox Entertainment). Evolutionary has also taken UK rights and is planning to release the film day-and-date in that territory when Blue Fox Entertainment releases it in North America.

Directed by Dee McLachlan, the film stars Goran D Kleut (*Gods Of Egypt*), Jake Ryan (*The Great Gatsby*) and Lisa Chappell. A detective and his pregnant wife seek the help of a renegade demonologist when they find their dream house holds some horrific secrets.

Evolutionary has also closed a deal with Fox Networks Group Asia to broadcast family film *Who Killed Nelson Nutmeg?* across the continent. The film is about four friends on a camping holiday who suspect the park's squirrel mascot might have been murdered.

Bodrov heads Goldfinch Neon debut

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Goldfinch Neon, the Hong Kong outpost of the UK's Goldfinch Studios, has unveiled its debut production slate, including martial arts fantasy *The Three Swords Of Master Chan*, to be directed by Sergei Bodrov (*Mongol: The Rise Of Genghis Khan*, *Seventh Son*). Currently in development, the project will be set in 17th-century China and East Asia. The producers plan to bring on board an international cast and structure the project as a UK-China co-production.

The slate also includes a big-screen reworking of stage play *Stomp* and an untitled martial arts feature produced by Phillip Rhee (*Best Of The Best* series) and John Baca. The company's Hong Kong outpost is headed by London and Hong Kong-based head of sales and distribution Andy Green, who formerly headed online platform Distrify Media, and Hong Kong-based producer Michael Leeder.

Buyers bite for KK's Tofuman

BY LIZ SHACKLETON

Shenzhen-based animation studio KK Animation has sold 3D CGI feature *Tofuman* to Big Film for Korea, Sahamongkolfilm for Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia and Viswaas Films for India.

Directed by Joey Zou, the film follows a group of beans that come to life and start practising magical arts to gain immortality. Big Film plans to give *Tofuman* a

theatrical release in Korea in May.

In addition, KK Animation is making its international market debut at Filmart to launch its new project, 3D CGI animated feature *Tears*, directed by Mon Cheung.

In the early stages of production, the film is based on the Chinese classic text, *Classic Of Mountains And Seas* (*Shan Hai Jing*). The story follows a warrior princess who is searching for the

tears of a mythical creature to cure her father who has become blind.

Cheung previously worked with Hong Kong's Imagi Entertainment, where he was art director on Kevin Munroe's *TMNT*, which was distributed by Warner Bros and The Weinstein Company.

KK Animation is owned by mainland Chinese real-estate giant Kingkey Group, which operates a string of shopping malls in China.

Five Star rises with horror Pee Nak

BY SILVIA WONG

Thai sales and production company Five Star Production has announced a string of pre-sales at Filmart on its latest horror title, *Pee Nak*.

Directed by Phontharis Chotkijadsarsoyon (*Ghost Ship*, *Still 2*) and written by Kimhant Kanjanasomjai (*3AM* part 1 and part 2), the film is about three young men who want to become monks. However the old temple at which



Pee Nak

they will receive their ordination is cursed by the wrath of Pee Nak, a mythical giant snake.

The film has been sold to mm2 Entertainment for Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macau, MVPC Entertainment for Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines, Deepjoy Picture Corporation for Taiwan and Colourful Garden for Myanmar. A local release is expected in late 2018.

108 Media, Aurora pact on co-pro trio

Singapore-based 108 Media and Aurora Media are reteaming on a trio of regional co-productions. Filipino director Mikhail Red's *Eerie* follows the investigation of a murder to which the ghost of a suicide victim is the only witness. The Philippines-Singapore co-production with ABS-CBN's Star Cinema and Media East Productions has a cast headed by Bea Alonzo, Charo Santos-Concio and Jake Cuenca.

Spanish filmmaker Alejandro Suarez Lozano's *Mogwai* is a \$6m thriller about an expat American teen in Hong Kong who is trapped on a boat with a fisherman who is about to battle a sea monster. Indian filmmaker Ishan Shukla's *Schirkoa* is an animated feature about an intellectually confused addict who works as a senator in a dystopian city.

Silvia Wong

CONTENTS PANDA

BOOTH NO. 1B-C26

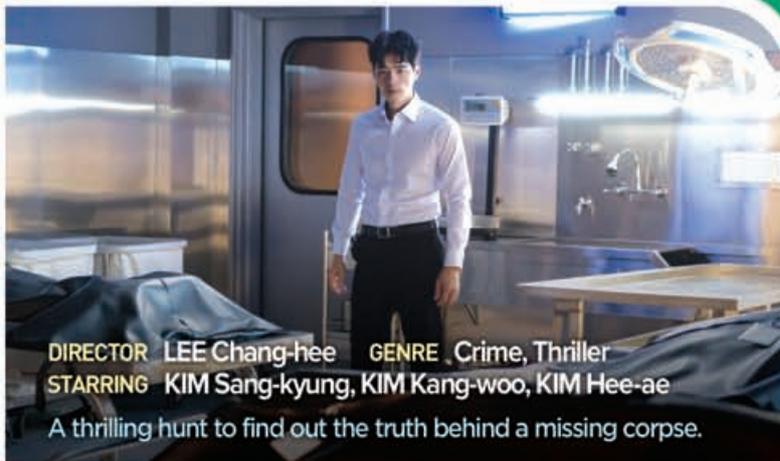


DIRECTOR LEE Byeong-heon **GENRE** Comedy
STARRING LEE Sung-min, SHIN Ha-kyun, SONG Ji-hyo, EL
Two couples' windy comedy movie that is more dangerous than typhoons in Jeju Islands.

WHAT A MAN WANTS

DATE MARCH 20TH **TIME** 10:00 AM

VENUE HKCEC N201A **INVITATION ONLY**



DIRECTOR LEE Chang-hee **GENRE** Crime, Thriller
STARRING KIM Sang-kyung, KIM Kang-woo, KIM Hee-ae
A thrilling hunt to find out the truth behind a missing corpse.

THE VANISHED

DATE MARCH 20TH **TIME** 14:00 PM

VENUE HKCEC N202 - N203

TRAILER

DIRECTOR LEE Hae-young
GENRE Crime, Action
STARRING CHO Jin-woong, RYU Jun-yeol
KIM Sung-ryoung, PARK Hae-jun

Find out the true identity of the mysterious 'Mr. LEE' to abolish Asia's biggest drug market.



BELIEVER

SPECIAL PROMO

DIRECTOR YOO Young-seon
GENRE Horror
STARRING SEO Young-hee, SHON Na-eun

Remake of a Korean legendary horror film about a woman unraveling the mysteries of unknown deaths in a family she becomes a member of.



THE WRATH

TRAILER

DIRECTOR LEE Han-uk
GENRE Thriller
STARRING LEE You-young, KIM Hie-won

A thriller story of a high school teacher and a former detective chasing after a mysterious person who commits a series of terrifying crimes.



MARIONETTE

BOONIE BEARS

#1 ANIMATED FRANCHISE FROM CHINA

Fantawild Animation presents



To discuss distribution partnerships, please VISIT OUR BOOTH 1C-C23&C25 at the IFTA Pavilion



BOONIE CUBS

Boonie Cubs is a unique edutainment series that couples beautiful animation with heartfelt stories and important lessons for children. The laughs are contagious and the journey unforgettable in this series that focuses on putting the fun back into learning. So take a seat and grab some paper and pencil because we are getting ready to learn with our friends Briar, Bramble, Vick and all the kids of Pine Tree Kindergarten.

THE ADVENTURERS

In this exciting new TV series, a whole new adventure is on the brink of brewing in Pine Tree Mountain when a local tour guide named Vick chances upon his first and most tremendous challenge of his new career: a girl. More specifically, a girl who needs his help finding the tiger that was her childhood companion. After a strange series of events, two bear brothers known as Briar and Bramble join the "finding tiger" team and their hilarious and wonderful adventure begins.

More than \$95 Million in Theatrical Box office



Bonnie
Bears

THE
BIG SHRINK

A clever animated take on the "Shrinking" premise.

Briar and Bramble, the two bear brothers always getting in Vick's way, are in for a rude awakening. Vick heads out to shrink them out of his life. In the tussle the device is tossed and all three of them are caught in the beam and find themselves looking up at the rest of the world. The tiny team have to get back to the device to reverse the effects but their efforts are intercepted by Vick's dad. He comes back to apologize to Vick but leaves with the machine when he can't find him. The three now go on a wild chase through a magnificent world just underneath our feet to not only restore their size, but to restore family.

HKIFF REVIEWS

» **Girls Always Happy** p8
» **Grass** p8

» **Last Child** p10
» **River's Edge** p10

Reviews edited by Fionnuala Halligan finn.halligan@screendaily.com



Girls Always Happy

Reviewed by Sarah Ward

Swap Sacramento's lower middle-class for Beijing's hutong dwellers and *Girls Always Happy* somewhat resembles Greta Gerwig's *Lady Bird*, laying bare a complex yet relatable mother-daughter relationship. A dark centre lurks at the heart of writer, director, editor and actress Yang Mingming's feature debut, however, eschewing warmth for a warts-and-all approach.

It is unflinching in its exploration of a difficult parent-child dynamic, benefitting from intricate performances from the two leads. As Yang bickers furiously with co-star Nai An about everything from marriage to money to table manners, *Girls Always Happy* proves fascinating. Yet, even though it gives the first-time filmmaker and her co-star a strong showcase, the film's richness of character and insight is not matched by its narrative thrust, and may remain confined to the festival circuit.

The first thing that is evident about twentysomething screenwriter Wu (Yang) and her unnamed single mother (Nai) is their festering despair. Wu cannot forgive her mother for past choices, while the parent never misses an opportunity to offer criticism and demand recognition.

And yet, with an astute understanding of the way such close bonds can simmer with anger one moment and resound with comfort the next, they tone down their war of words on two occasions: over meals, when the usual onslaught of bitterness becomes a trickle; and whenever Wu's Grandpa (Huang Wei) is around. That is only because they want to get into the elderly man's good graces to secure a place in his will. Their precarious financial state illustrates modern China's economic and social disparities.

What becomes clear in every exchange is that the two women are more similar than they would ever admit. Yang grew up with her mother in the same area, which helps explain the film's tone of art imitating life — not only in the intense central relationship, but in the detailed way she depicts every nook and cranny in their shared home, as well as the aesthetic of their neighbourhood. The setting shines courtesy of cinematographer Shen Xiaomin's crisp digital lensing, which, when outside, often follows Wu riding her scooter with carefree abandon.

YOUNG CINEMA COMPETITION

China. 2018. 117mins

Director/screenplay

Yang Mingming

Production company

Beijing Trend Cultural Investment

International sales

Parallax Films,
info@parallaxchina.com

Producer Yang Jing

Production design

Xia Nv, Xiong Yue

Editing Yang Mingming

Cinematography

Shen Xiaomin

Main cast Nai An, Yang

Mingming, Zhang

Xianmin, Li Qinqin, Huang

Wei, Yuan Li, Li Wenbon

Grass

Reviewed by Sarah Ward

Short, bittersweet and unsurprisingly soaked in soju, Hong Sangsoo's *Grass* could double as a snapshot of his filmography: tales of life, love, connection, sorrow and yearning all unfurling in a café. Each of the filmmaker's features may seem more archetypal than the last, but this 21st picture happily heeds Hong's recognisable traits, themes and flourishes into a conversation-driven package. This time, he is serving up an existentially minded series of vignette-like chats between men and women.

Indeed, *Grass* demonstrates a fresh type of playfulness from the prolific director. It is a film filled with his usual intimacy, but also one that is purposefully more concerned with the bigger picture than the individual details. Names are not mentioned, relationships are not explained, and emotions, not incidents, fuel the discussion. The approach is engaging, aided by a brisk 66-minute running time — although, while a more abstract, ruminative Hong feature is likely to intrigue existing fans, it is ultimately destined to play best on the festival circuit.

Brandishing his classic naturalistic style, Hong's black-and-white film hops between conversations at the central alleyway coffee house, listening in — and zooming for emphasis where necessary, of course. *On The Beach At Night Alone* star Kim Minhee, in her fourth consecutive film for Hong, proves a distinctively solo figure amid the groups chatting over beverages. Writing at her laptop but quick to explain she is not a writer, she is happy spinning her eavesdropped snippets into her own commentary.

Among her fellow patrons are a younger couple (Gong Minjeung and Ahn Jaehong) reconnecting after clear difficulties, and an older pair (Ki Joobong and Seo Young-hwa) swapping dreams and disappointments. The men are all actors, and there is more than one writer there.

Unsurprisingly, Kim stands out among the cast, though every player — many of them Hong regulars — really sells the emotion behind each conversation. That said, it is the classical music (Schubert, Wagner and Offenbach, for example) paired with the majority of *Grass*'s discussions that has the biggest impact. The film might paint existence as cyclical, but each melodic tune offers a reminder of the beauty and variety in its ebbs and flows.

THE MASTERS

S Kor. 2018. 66mins

Director/screenplay/

producer Hong Sangsoo

Production company

Jeonwonsa Film Co

International sales

Finecut, cineinfo@finecut.co.kr

Editing Son Yeonji

Cinematography

Kim Hyungkoo

Main cast Kim Minhee,

Jung Jinyoung, Ki

Joobong, Seo Young-hwa,

Kim Saebyuk, Ahn

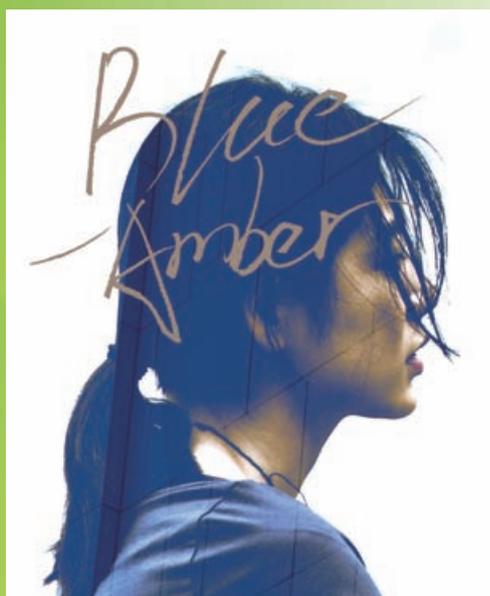
Jaehong, Gong Minjeung,

Ahn Sunyoung, Shin

Seokho, Kim Myoungsu,

Lee Youyoung



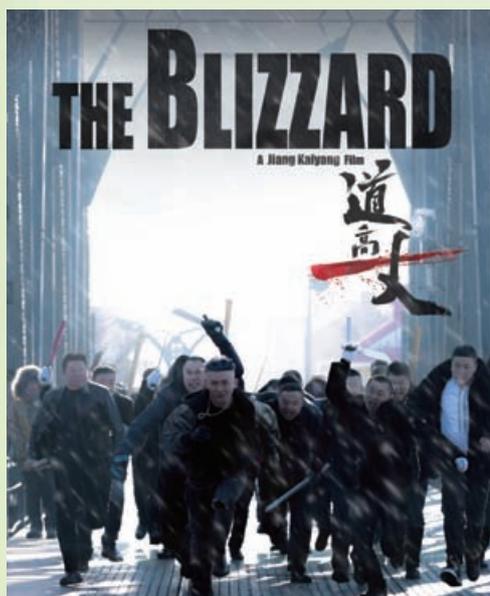


BLUE AMBER

淡蓝琥珀

97 MINS | Q4 2018

DIRECTOR 周劼 ZHOU JIE
CAST 王真儿, 吕聿来 WANG ZHEN ER, LU YU LAI



THE BLIZZARD

道高一丈

100 MINS | Q4 2018

DIRECTOR 姜凯阳 JIANG KAI YANG
CAST 聂远, 谭凯 NIE YUAN, TAN KAI



MEET ME AT 1006

1006的房客

45 MINS x 24 EPS. | Q1 2018

DIRECTOR 陈戎晖 CHEN RONG HUI
PRODUCER 廖健行 LIAO JIAN XING



I AM YOUR MOM

我是你妈

96 MINS | Q2 2018

DIRECTOR 张骁 ZHANG XIAO
CAST 闫妮, 邹元清 YAN NI, ZOU YUAN QING



WELCOME TO BEARTOWN

欢迎来到熊仁镇

95 MINS | Q3 2018

DIRECTOR 查慕春 ZHA MU CHUN
CAST 朱亚文, 张榕容 ZHU YA WEN, SANDRINE PINNA



BEFRIEND

人际关系事务所

45 MINS x 24 EPS. | Q2 2018

DIRECTOR 吴建新 WU JIAN XIN
PRODUCER 廖健行 LIAO JIAN XING

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Last Child

Reviewed by Jonathan Romney

Death, grief, reconciliation, truth — South Korean writer-director Shin Dong-seok tackles a weighty bundle of domestic-drama themes in debut feature *Last Child*, but handles them all with maturity and fine-tuned narrative skill. An impressive trio of lead performances will make this low-key but emotionally satisfying drama appealing for festivals, and it should also put Shin on the map as a substantial new talent to watch.

The closest comparison in South Korean cinema to Shin's approach would be the complex dramas of Lee Chang-dong (*Secret Sunshine*, *Poetry*). Indeed, *Last Child* has a common element of the bourgeoisie's tendency to close ranks when orderly social appearance is under threat. However, where Lee's films are novelistic in scope, *Last Child* is more a novella and a tad over-extended.

The intimate drama focuses on Sungcheol (Choi Moo-seong) and his wife Misook (Kim Yeo-jin) who run a smalltown decorating company, and whose teenage son recently drowned in an accident in the nearby river. One day, Sungcheol spots Kihyun (Seong Yu-bin), a boy centrally involved in the event, being victimised by other boys, and decides to honour his dead son by taking the youth under his wing.

Despite disapproval from Misook, who is dealing with grief in her own way, Sungcheol decides to train Kihyun as an apprentice. Gradually, and not without difficulty, the boy finds himself rising to the challenge. The day comes when their dead son Eunchan is officially honoured for his bravery, and Kihyun graduates as a qualified craftsman. All seems set for satisfactory closure all round, until the true facts emerge about Eunchan's death.

What could easily have toppled into melodrama is contained with sure-handed restraint by director Shin. Choi and Kim bring precise modulation to the gradual shifts in the couple's relationship, and in their attitudes to Kihyun, who becomes their surrogate son. As the boy, Seong plays nicely on the hard-to-read diffidence of this emotionally wounded character. Astute dramatic structuring makes for emphasis on Sungcheol in the first half and Misook in the second, as each discovers different aspects of the damage done to the life they have built.

YOUNG CINEMA COMPETITION

S Kor. 2017. 124mins

Director/screenplay

Shin Dong-seok

Production company

ATO

International sales

Finecut, jeong@finecut.co.kr

Producer Je Jeong-ju

Production design

Kim Young-tak

Editing Lee Young-lim

Cinematography

Lee Zi-hoon

Music Kim Hae-won

Main cast Choi Moo-seong, Kim Yeo-jin, Seong Yu-bin

River's Edge

Reviewed by Jonathan Romney

Teenage angst is one of the dependable universals of modern movie culture, and although Isao Yukisada's *River's Edge* gives the theme a distinctively Japanese spin, there's enough familiar about this intermittently gripping ensemble drama to leave you thinking: it's all just a phase they're going through. The source is an early 1990s manga series by Kyoko Okazaki, and although there is no direct connection with the 1986 US film of the same name, the theme — a shared secret of a dead body — is close enough to suggest that Tim Hunter's movie must have influenced the comic.

The cleverly constructed drama is absorbing as it builds, but once things hit a climax there are few surprises, and it is unlikely to make waves beyond Japan.

Set in an industrial waterside area of Tokyo in 1994, the story revolves around a group of variously troubled high-schoolers. The film's emotional centre is Haruna (Fumi Nikaidou), a strong-spirited young woman seen rescuing a young man from a locker where he has been bound and gagged, naked. He is Ichiro (Ryo Yoshizawa), the moody outsider who is being victimised by Haruna's rebellious boyfriend Kannonzaki (Shuhe Uesugi). Behind Haruna's back, Kannonzaki is meeting up for kinky sex with class vamp Rumi (Shiori Doi), whose private life brings home the film's highly conservative message that young sex is the royal road to big trouble.

Ichiro confides in Haruna, telling her that he is secretly gay and is only dating ingenue Kanna (Aoi Morikawa) as a front. As if these characters did not have enough woe to keep them busy, trouble is on the horizon, signalled by Ichiro showing Haruna a corpse that only he knows about, mouldering in a field of long grass by the river. The pair eventually bury it, but the very same spot later becomes the scene for a violent incident that will bring the slow-burning story to a dramatic climax.

Most of the characters are more or less archetypes, brought to life by nuanced acting. The film's most individual card is Kenji Maki's atmospheric cinematography in Academy ratio, which makes the best use of the sinister grassland and the smoke-belching chimneys across the river.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Jap. 2018. 118mins

Director Isao Yukisada

Production company

Thefool

International sales

Kino Films, maki-shimizu@kinofilms.jp

Producers Shinji Ogawa,

Takahiro Yoshizawa,

Shunsuke Koga, Tsuyoshi

Sugiyama

Screenplay Misaki

Setoyama, based on the

comic by Kyoko Okazaki

Production design

Takahisa Taguchi

Editing Tsuyoshi Imai

Cinematography

Kenji Maki

Music Hiroko Sebu

Main cast Fumi Nikaidou,

Ryo Yoshizawa, Aoi

Morikawa, Shuhe Uesugi,

Sumire, Shiori Doi



Tokyo FILM 31



Tokyo FILM 31

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2018

Film submissions for the 31st Tokyo International Film Festival
will be accepted from April 2018

tiff-jp.net

Asian Three-Fold Mirror 2018 亞洲三面鏡

Directors: **Daishi Matsunaga** (Japan), **Edwin** (Indonesia), **Degen Yun** (China)
Producer: **Satoru Iseki** (Japan) Cast: **Nicholas Saputra** and more

**Asian Omnibus Film Co-production by
the Tokyo International Film Festival
and Japan Foundation Asia Center**

The project aims to generate discovery, understanding
and kinship among all Asian neighbors, and to explore
the many Asian identities and ways of life.

The film will have its world premiere at the 31st Tokyo
International Film Festival in 2018.

General inquiries: TIFF Promotion Group tiff-pr2018@tiff-jp.net
Hong Kong FILMART 2018: **JAPAN BOOTH No. 1D-C14**

JAPAN FOUNDATION 



Nicholas Saputra from *Asian Three-Fold Mirror 2018*



Far Frontiers

Dir Maxim Dashkin

Project's country of origin Russia

Set in Kyrgyzstan, *Far Frontiers* follows the wife of a Russian military base deputy commander as she begins a relationship with another officer. Their affair spirals out of control, changing the course of her family's life. Director Maxim Dashkin says growing up in a military family and witnessing "dreams, frustrations and desires" of the officers' wives inspired him to make this his first theatrical feature.

With an MFA in film from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Dashkin has directed Russian TV series such as *Missing* and *Me Or Not Me* and award-winning short films such as *Broken Maiden* and *Moving In Circles*. *Far Frontiers* expands on the latter.

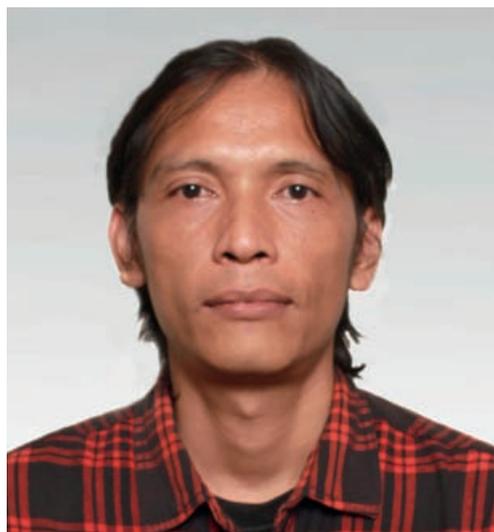
"I saw there was definitely a story and room for continuation of the film," says Dashkin. "I kept the same characters, changed them a bit and made their lives more difficult so now they serve overseas outside of Russia, in Kyrgyzstan. But the nature of the conflict of the love triangle that was the core of the short has been [maintained] and dramatised for the feature." The project, which is in pre-production, won a grant from the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and aims to shoot in August and September in Kyrgyzstan.

Established by Dashkin with his Tisch classmate Anna von Dzienbowska, Victoria Films is based in the UK and Russia. Its project *The Longest Birthday* was awarded B'est EAVE Producers' Workshop POV film development fund support at Cannes in 2015.

Jean Noh

Far Frontiers

Producers Anna von Dzienbowska, Denis Kovalevskiy, Ilann Girard (co-producer) **Production company** Victoria Films **Budget** \$700,000 **Finance raised to date** \$350,000 (Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation) **Contact** Maxim Dashkin ✉ maxim@victoria-films.com



Imah

Dir Eddie Cahyono

Project's country of origin Indonesia-France

Following his last film *Siti*, in which he explored the question 'Who do we live for?', Indonesian writer-director Eddie Cahyono's latest work asks, 'What if it turns out we don't live for anyone?' The film's titular protagonist is due to return to her Indonesian hometown after working as a domestic helper in Hong Kong, but is found dead before she is able to leave. Her mother and her fisherman husband vow to find the murderer.

"My films are always originated from questions, but life is not necessarily about getting an answer," says Cahyono, who made his feature debut with *Let's Dance* in 2010. *Siti*, his second film, earned multiple awards including best performance, for actress Sekar Sari, at the 2014 Singapore International Film Festival, and best film and best screenplay prizes at the National Indonesian Awards in 2015.

Imah unites Cahyono with Sari, who stars alongside Abimana Aryasatya, together with *Siti* cinematographer Ujel Bausad and producer Ifa Isfanyah, with whom he cofounded Yogyakarta-based Fourcolours Films alongside several local filmmakers.

Isabelle Glachant, longtime collaborator of Chinese filmmaker Wang Xiaoshuai, is co-producing through her Paris-based Shasha & Co Production, which recently produced Cannes 2017 Directors' Fortnight title *Marlina The Murderer In Four Acts*. Her Hong Kong-based sales outfit Asian Shadows handles international sales on *Imah*.

Silvia Wong

Imah

Producers Ifa Isfanyah, Isabelle Glachant **Production companies** Fourcolours Films, Shasha & Co Production **Budget** \$275,000 **Contact** Asian Shadows ✉ chineseshadows@gmail.com



The Big Picture

Dir E J-yong

Project's country of origin South Korea

Based on Douglas Kennedy's bestselling novel of the same title, and Eric Lartigau's 2010 French adaptation *L'homme Qui Voulait Vivre Sa Vie*, E J-yong's *The Big Picture* is about a lawyer in the midst of a midlife crisis. After accidentally killing his wife's lover, he takes on the man's identity as the photographer he always wanted to become.

"Many elements of the novel were interesting to me," says E. "For instance, that a man happens to make a fatal mistake that he can't turn back and then changes his identity, and the ironies we see about life and desires in this. I decided to do this film because of the subject matter and theme of the novel, and because it seemed like, through it, I'd be able to share stories about how the world works."

E's previous titles include *The Bacchus Lady*, *Behind The Camera*, *The Actresses*, *Dasepo Naughty Girls* and *Untold Scandal*, all of which screened at the Berlinale and other festivals. He is currently working on the script of *The Big Picture*, with dialogue in Korean, Japanese and English, and plans to start shooting on location in Japan in 2019.

Jason Chae is producing with his sales and production company Mirovision. The company's credits include Im Sang-soo's Cannes 2010 Competition title *The Housemaid*, and its co-producing credits include Kiyoshi Kurosawa's horror film *Loft* and Liu Bingjian's Cannes 2002 Un Certain Regard title *Cry Woman*.

Jean Noh

The Big Picture

Producers Jason Chae, Bae Ja-hee (associate producer) **Production company** Mirovision **Budget** \$7m **Finance raised to date** \$4.5m **Contact** Bae Ja-hee ✉ jaheebae@gmail.com

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Pictures

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A Family With Troubles

Dir Yan Xiaolin

Project's country of origin China

In Chinese writer-director Yan Xiaolin's latest project, six siblings return home to celebrate their father's 90th birthday, only for family squabbles to spoil the festive gathering. The most poignant discussion revolves around who will care for the old widowed man following his recent stroke.

The film will feature an ensemble cast, playing 17 characters across three generations. "Through their different viewpoints, I hope to take a close look at family bonding in today's society," says Yan, "as if I were recreating the classic Chinese films of the 1930s and 1940s, which used a single family as the focal point to reflect on family relationships and changing times in society?"

A graduate of Nanjing University of Finance & Economics, Yan has worked as a producer of TV shows and has directed around a dozen short films. His first feature was the ultra-low budget *The Years I Watch Hong Kong Movies* which, like *A Family With Troubles*, was produced by NeZha Bros Pictures, founded by Yang Cheng in 2016 with Lightriver Culture & Media as a subsidiary.

Two films produced by Yang premiered at the Berlinale last year: Liu Jian's animation *Have A Nice Day*, which played in Competition, and Yang Heng's *Ghost In The Mountains* in Panorama. His other production credits include Li Ruijun features *Fly With The Crane* and *River Road*.

Silvia Wong

A Family With Troubles

Producer Yang Cheng **Production companies** Lightriver Culture & Media, NeZha Bros Pictures **Budget** \$1.05m **Finance raised to date** \$220,000 **Contact** Annie Song ✉ songxiaojia@nezhabros.com



Ordinary People

Dir Huang Xi

Project's country of origin Taiwan-China

Writer/director Huang Xi reunites with her *Missing Johnny* producer Hou Hsiao-hsien and cinematographer Yao Hung-i in her latest project, *Ordinary People*. It tells of a 38-year-old woman, experiencing depression following her sister's suicide, who develops a bond with a 28-year-old Chinese opera actor with bipolar disorder. *Missing Johnny*, her 2017 debut feature, was praised for its sensitive portrayal of Taipei and its people, and this time Huang plans to set her new project in Hong Kong or Shanghai.

Inspired by friends who live with similar conditions, Huang says she aims to explore the impact of mental health on love and relationships. "What attracts me are people, not stories. A story exists only when it has people in it," says the filmmaker, who spent her teenage years in Vancouver before moving to New York to study at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Huang then joined Hou's Taipei-based production company 3H Productions in 2001, and has worked on his films and TV commercials in roles including production assistant and assistant director.

Hou's directing credits include *The Assassin*, which played in Competition at Cannes in 2015. He also produced *Missing Johnny*, which took four awards at the 2017 Taipei Film Festival (including best screenplay) and three Golden Horse Awards nominations (including a win for Rima Zeidan as best new performer) that same year.

Silvia Wong

Ordinary People

Producer Hou Hsiao-hsien **Production companies** 3H Productions, Luminous Pictures **Budget** \$2m **Contact** Chang Chu Ti ✉ changchuti@yahoo.fr



Let Me Rest In Peace

Dir Yoko Yamanaka

Project's country of origin Japan

For her sophomore feature film, 20-year-old Japanese director Yoko Yamanaka turns from the comedy of her 2017 debut *Amiko* — which screened in Forum at this year's Berlinale — to dealing with the aftermath of a tragedy. Yamanaka is currently working on the script, which sees young woman Mieko reminded of her former childhood friend Tsumugi, who was once her refuge during sad and repressive school days, and how they were torn apart after a tragic incident.

"I want to show the main character's wishes to remain deeply connected to somebody else, no matter how old she gets," says Yoko. "The sense of discomfort I felt towards adults when I was young is reflected in the root of the film. I've finally begun to understand the adults then, now that I have become one myself."

Yamanaka's debut *Amiko*, a humorous film about a high-school girl who is infatuated with a boy who runs away from home, won Pia Film Festival's audience award and Hikari TV award in 2017, before it made its international premiere this year at the Berlinale.

Pia Film Festival, one of Japan's most prominent independent cinema events, is supporting Yamanaka's new project while she works on the script and prepares to set up her own production company, ahead of shooting in spring 2019. *Amiko* co-producer Moeko Mizoguchi, who is studying film at Nippon University, will return for the project.

Jean Noh

Let Me Rest In Peace

Producers Moeko Mizoguchi, Yoko Yamanaka **Production companies** Pia Film Festival **Budget** \$300,000 **Contact** Miki Ohi ✉ international@pff.jp



A Mountain Splits

Dir Tetsuya Tomina

Project's country of origin Japan

Set on Japan's Sado Island, Tetsuya Tomina's latest project follows a woman who seems to be split in two — somewhat like the mountain that marks the former mine that fuelled the island's economic boom and bust, when gold was discovered there in the early 1600s. Midori waits for a husband who never comes home, secretly visits the place where he lives with another woman and meets a mysterious man who she calls "Nobody". He takes Midori to the mine where he makes her dig a hole.

At script development stage, Tomina says he is "fascinated" by Sado Island because of the "wonderful nature and traditions that remain intact" and "a magnetic primitive power that attracts people, something mysterious and spiritual". His first feature *Blue Wind Blows* (originally *Smoke On The Water*) also shot there and he is thinking of expanding it into a trilogy, with the third film to be a comedy. *Blue Wind Blows* won support from the Asian Cinema Fund's script development fund and was selected to the Asian Project Market in 2015. It made its world premiere in this year's Berlinale Generation Kplus section.

Producer Mina Hatanaka has been working with Tomina since his 2013 short *At The Last Stop Called Ghost Chimney*, which played in Busan's Wide Angle section. It was the first production of their company Tetsuya To Mina Film, which also produced *Blue Wind Blows*.

Jean Noh

A Mountain Splits

Producer Mina Hatanaka **Production company** Tetsuya To Mina Film **Budget** \$1m **Finance raised to date** \$30,000 **Contact** Mina Hatanaka ✉ minahatanakatomina@gmail.com



Oct.23 [TUE] – 25 [THU], 2018

**2017
Business
Results**

13%up!
Total Market Value
\$60,050,000
(*)

15%up!
Total
Business Meetings
7,798

10%up!
(**)
Registered Buyers
1,549

*1 including prospective deals *2 overseas buyers



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Loud and clear

A broad selection of new works from South Korea will be on display to international buyers here at Filmart. Jean Noh explores some of the available titles

Believer

Dir Lee Hae-young

This Korean remake of Johnnie To's *Drug War* (2012) is directed by *The Silenced* and *Foxy Festival* director Lee Hae-young and stars Cho Jin-woong (*The Handmaiden*), Ryu Jun-yeol (*A Taxi Driver*), Kim Sung-ryung (*The Target*), Park Hae-jun (*Fourth Place*) and the recently deceased Kim Joo-hyuck (*Confidential Assignment*). It follows a detective who, in an effort to bring down the notorious boss of Asia's biggest drug cartel, conspires with a lowly member of the gang seeking revenge against the boss. Currently in post-production, the film is produced by Yong Film (*The Handmaiden*, *The Beauty Inside*) and is expected to be released this summer.

Contact Contents Panda ✉sales@its-new.co.kr

Dark Figure Of Crime

Dir Kim Tae-gyun

From *Spring, Snow* director Kim Tae-gyun comes this thriller starring Kim Yoon-seok (*1987: When The Day Comes*) and Ju Ji-hoon (*Along With The Gods: The Two Worlds*) as, respectively, a well-known, work-obsessed police detective and the psychopath taunting him with the prospect of confessing to multiple murders. The film is in post-production.

Contact Showbox ✉sales@showbox.co.kr



The Drug King

Dir Woo Min-ho

Inside Men director Woo Min-ho's crime drama stars Song Kang-ho (*A Taxi Driver*), Cho Jung-seok (*My Annoying Brother*) and Doona Bae (*Cloud Atlas*). Set in 1970s Busan, the film follows the rise and fall of a small-time smuggler who becomes an infamous drug lord, playing the good community leader by day and running a criminal empire by night. The film is in post-production.

Contact Showbox ✉sales@showbox.co.kr

The Goose Goes South

(a.k.a. Woozoo Be Alright?)

Dirs Baek Jae-ho, Lee Hee-seop

When his boss goes missing in a shipping accident, Woozoo is sent to Osaka to finish his business. On his last day, he spots and chases someone who looks exactly like his boss, ending up in a small bar where he stays and meets two guitar players. Starring Kang Doo, Hori Haruna and Snow, the film made its world premiere at Japan's Osaka Asian Film Festival on March 18.

Contact Indiestory ✉indiejc@gmail.com

Intimate Strangers

Dir Kim Dae-woong

In this remake of Paolo Genovese's 2016 *Perfect Strangers*, a couple invite their close friends to a housewarming party and end up playing a game where everyone has to share all the messages to their mobiles. Though it starts off lightly, secrets begin to emerge. The film's ensemble cast includes Yoo Hae-jin (*A Taxi Driver*), Cho Jin-woong (*The Handmaiden*), Lee Seo-jin (*Love Forecast*), Yum Jung-ah (*The Mimic*), Kim Ji-soo (TV's *Memory*) and Song Hae-yoon (*Helpless*). In post-production, *Intimate Strangers* is set for release this year.

Contact Lotte Entertainment ✉inu3609@lotte.net

Little Forest

Dir Yim Soon-rye

Based on Daisuke Igarashi's Japanese manga (previously turned into a two-part Japanese film series), the Korean adaptation of *Little Forest* is directed by Yim Soon-rye (*The Whistleblower*). Shot over four seasons, it stars Kim Tae-ri (*The Handmaiden*), Ryu Jun-yeol (*A Taxi Driver*) and Moon So-ri (*The Running Actress*), and follows a young woman who returns to her hometown, reunites with her childhood friends and learns to prepare meals with organic local ingredients.

Contact M-Line Distribution ✉sales@m-line-distribution.com

SILENT NIGHT

DIRECTED BY PIOTR DOMALEWSKI

MARCH 20TH

**12h00 • MEETING ROOM
N109-N110 • HKCEC**

GENRE DRAMEDY LENGTH 100' YEAR 2017 COUNTRY POLAND



IMPERFECT AGE

DIRECTED BY ULISSE LENDARO

MARCH 20TH

**16h00 • MEETING ROOM
N109-N110 • HKCEC**

GENRE DRAMA LENGTH 96' YEAR 2017 COUNTRY ITALY



7:20 ONCE A WEEK

DIRECTED BY MATÍAS BIZE

MARCH 20TH

**18h00 • MEETING ROOM
N109-N110 • HKCEC**

GENRE DRAMA LENGTH 76' YEAR 2018 COUNTRY DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



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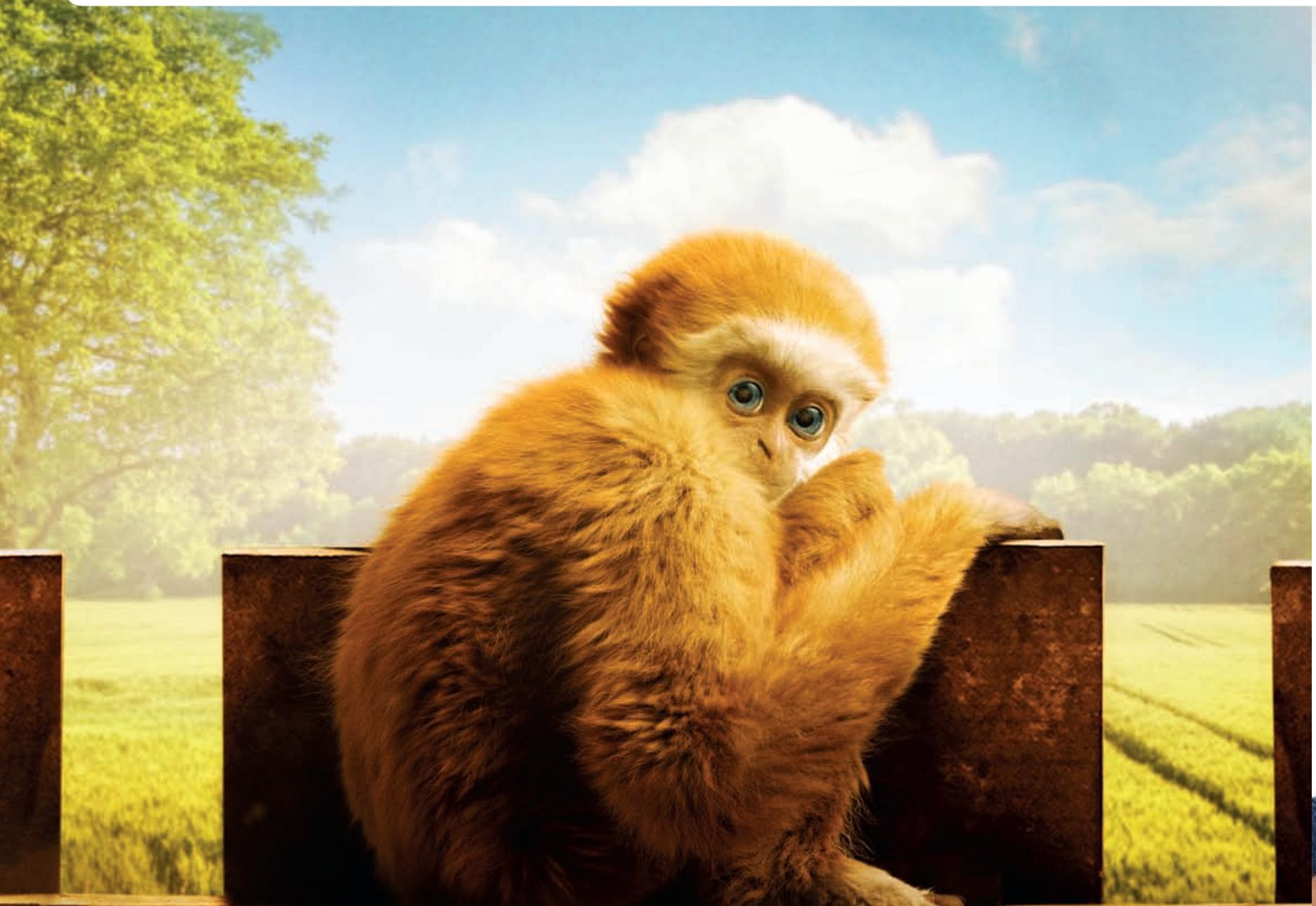
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PICTURE TREE
INTERNATIONAL



DIRECTED BY MARIA BLOM

MONKY

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JULIUS JIMENEZ HUGOSON FRIDA HALLGREN JOHAN PETERSSON

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COMPOSER ANDERS NYGÅRDS PRODUCED BY DENISE CARLFORD EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PER NYSTRÖM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALEX HANSSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CHRIS STENNER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PETER BENGTSSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TORBJÖRN OLSSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANDREAS HYLANDER
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The Vanished



Sunset In My Hometown

The Spy Gone North

Dir Yoon Jong-bin

Currently in post-production, this espionage drama from the director of *Nameless Gangster: Rules Of The Time* stars Hwang Jung-min (*The Battleship Island*), Lee Sung-min (*A Violent Prosecutor*), Cho Jin-woong (*The Handmaiden*) and Ju Ji-hoon (*Along With The Gods: The Two Worlds*). Based on true events from the 1990s, the film follows South Korean military intelligence agent Hwang (code name: Black Venus) as he goes undercover as a businessman working on a project with North Korea to win the

trust of the North's ruling class and infiltrate their nuclear facilities.

Contact CJ Entertainment ✉filmsales@cj.net

Sunset In My Hometown

Dir Lee Joon-ik

Directed by Lee Joon-ik (*The Throne*), *Sunset In My Hometown*, which is scheduled for local release in May, stars Park Jung-min as a failing rapper who rushes back to his long-abandoned hometown on hearing his father has fallen ill. It turns out to be a ruse, but meeting up with former classmates including Sun-

mi (*Coin Locker Girls* Kim Go-eun) and other circumstances, prevent him from leaving. Multiple award winner Lee's credits include 2015's *The Throne*, which won best film at Tallinn Black Nights.

Contact M-Line Distribution
✉sales@mline-distribution.com

Take Point

Dir Kim Byung-woo

The Terror, Live director Kim Byung-woo reunites with actor Ha Jung-woo for this action film, which also features Lee Sun-kyun, Jennifer Ehle and Kevin Durand. *Take Point* follows a team of elite mercenaries on a secret CIA mission to abduct a North Korean politician. They are caught in a crossfire that pushes the world to the brink of a Third World War. Shot in English and Korean, the film is in post-production.

Contact CJ Entertainment
✉filmsales@cj.net

The Vanished

Dir Lee Chang-hee

Debut director Lee Chang-hee's crime thriller stars Kim

(Right) *Take Point*

Sang-kyung (*The Tower*), Kim Kang-woo (*Cart*) and Kim Hee-ae (*C'est Si Bon*) and is a Korean remake of 2014 Spanish film *The Body*. When the president of a conglomerate is found dead and her body disappears ahead of an autopsy, detective Joong-sik suspects the husband. Meanwhile, the husband — who thought he had committed the perfect crime — starts receiving text messages that make him think his wife is still alive. *The Vanished* has been at the top of the local box office since its March 7 debut.

Contact Contents Panda
✉sales@its-new.co.kr

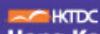
What A Man Wants

Dir Lee Byeong-heon

Lee Byeong-heon's comedy follows the intertwining relationships of two couples on windy Jeju Island, and stars Lee Sung-min (*The Sheriff In Town*), Shin Ha-kyun (*The Villainess*), Song Ji-hyo (*New World*) and EL (aka Lee El from *Inside Men*). In post-production, the film is set for an April 5 release in Korea.

Contact Contents Panda
✉sales@its-new.co.kr




**Hong Kong International
Film & TV Market (FILMART)**
 香港國際影視展

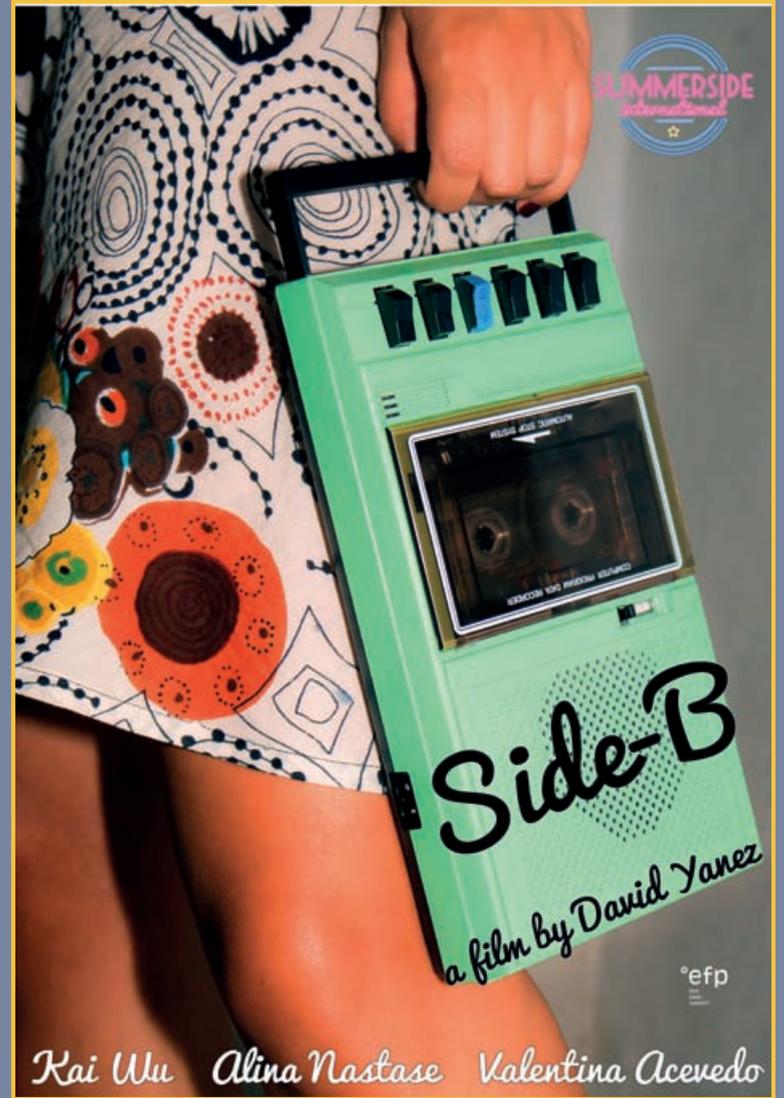
19-22 March 2018
 Hong Kong Convention
 and Exhibition Centre



SIDE-B a film by David Yáñez

Dialogues: **Spanish - Cantonese** | Subtitles: **English**

Synopsis: Wang Li-Sheng has met a Spanish girl on the Internet and has decided to leave everything behind and live his love story in Spain. Things don't work out the way he expected and he eventually ends up with no girlfriend, no money and no passport!

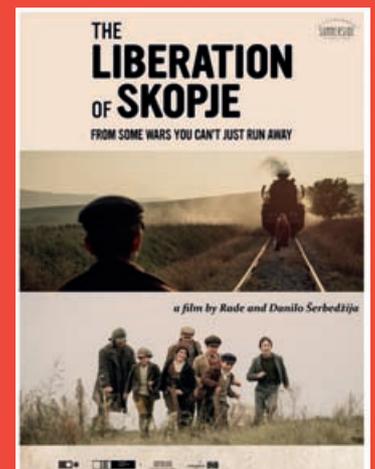
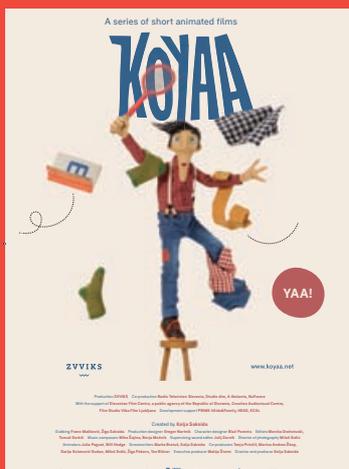


Kai Wu Alina Nastase Valentina Acevedo

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Info & Meetings: f.manno@summerside-international.com



LINE UP 2018



Global interest

With a firm footing on the international stage, Japanese cinema will be well represented on screen at Hong Kong International Film Festival and on the trading floor of Filmart. Liz Shackleton reports

Japanese cinema had a strong showing at the Berlinale in February, where Isao Yukisada's *River's Edge* and Kiyoshi Kurosawa's *Foreboding (Yocho)* played in Panorama, and, as usual, will be well represented at Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF).

The world premiere of veteran filmmaker Yoji Yamada's *What A Wonderful Family! 3: My Wife, My Life* is closing HKIFF, which is also screening recent festival favourites including *River's Edge*, Yoko Yamanaka's *Amiko* and Akiko Ooku's *Tremble All You Want*.

Meanwhile, at Filmart, Japanese studios will be offering recent local hits, such as Yojiro Takita's *Sakura Guardian In The North*, as well as hotly anticipated upcoming titles including Hirokazu Kore-eda's *Shoplifters*, Koji Fukada's *The Man From The Sea* and Takashi Miike's *Laplace's Witch*.



Amiko

Amiko

Dir Yoko Yamanaka

After winning the audience award at last year's Pia Film Festival and playing in the Berlinale's Forum section, Yoko Yamanaka's feature debut is screening in the Young Cinema Competition of HKIFF. The film follows a rebellious high-school girl who leaves her hometown and heads to Tokyo after the boy she thought was cool starts dating a girl who is the "embodiment of mass culture".

Contact Pia Film Festival international@pff.jp

It's Boring Here, Pick Me Up

Dir Ryuichi Hiroki

Three popular young stars — Ai Hashimoto, Mugi Kadowaki and Ryo Narita — head the cast of this female-orientated drama, directed by Ryuichi Hiroki (*Side Job, The Miracles Of The Namiya General Store*). Based on the novel by Mariko Yamauchi, the story follows a woman who moves back to her hometown fol-

lowing a stint in Tokyo and decides to look up the school heartthrob who is also attracting the attention of a former girlfriend. Currently in post-production, the film is scheduled for Japanese release this autumn.

Contact Yasushi Miyamae, Colorbird yymiyamae@colorbird.co.jp

Laplace's Witch

Dir Takashi Miike

Based on Japanese writer Keigo Higashino's bestselling novel, this mystery thriller tells the story of a detective investigating the bizarre deaths of two people at two different hot springs that appear to be connected to a young woman experiencing recurring supernatural phenomena. Directed by Japanese genre-meister Takashi Miike and starring Sho Sakurai (*Yatterman*) and Suzu Hirose

(Right) Laplace's Witch

(*Our Little Sister*), the film is currently in post-production for release during Japan's Golden Week in April.

Contact Akihiro Takeda, Toho a_takeda@toho.co.jp

Laughing Under The Clouds

Dir Katsuyuki Motohiro

An adaptation of a manga that sold more than 1.2 million copies, this Samurai-era action title follows three brothers who are guardians of a sacred tomb. The trio unite to tackle a giant serpent and an evil ninja clan. Katsuyuki Motohiro's credits include the blockbuster *Bayside Shakedown* series, and his new film stars Sota Fukushi, Yuma Nakayama and Kirato Wakayama. Japanese release is scheduled for March 21.

Contact Shion Komatsu, Shochiku shion_komatsu@shochiku.co.jp

The Man From The Sea

Dir Koji Fukada

Filmed entirely in Indonesia, Koji Fukada's drama revolves around a Japanese family working in Banda Aceh who find a man washed up on the beach. They take him in and discover that he understands some Japanese, but the local population become suspicious of him when he starts to perform miracles. Dean Fujioka, Taiga and Junko Abe head the cast of this Japanese and Bahasa-language film, which is co-produced by Japan's Nikkatsu, France's Commes des Cinémas and Indonesia's Kanninga Pictures. Fukada's last feature *Harmonium* won the Un Certain Regard jury prize at Cannes in 2016.

Contact Emico Kawai, Nikkatsu kawai@nikkatsu.co.jp

Maquia: When The Promised Flower Blooms

Dir Mari Okada

The directorial debut of anime screenwriter Mari Okada (*The Anthem Of The Heart*), this animated feature is set in a mystical land where people live for centuries while maintaining their teenage appearance. Released in Japan in late February, the film received its international premiere at Glasgow Film Festival this month and will be released in the UK and France by Anime Limited later this year.

Contact Atsumi Shibata, HakuHodo DY Music & Pictures sales@hakuhodody-map.jp

My Friend 'A'

Dir Takahisa Zeze

Based on a novel by Gaku Yakumaru, Takahisa Zeze's drama follows a former journalist working at a factory, who discovers that his colleague is a man convicted of child murder. While befriending him in an attempt to write an article, the journalist is haunted by memories of his own school days when he triggered the suicide of a classmate. Toma Ikuta (*Close-Knit*) and Eita (*Dear Doctor*) head the cast of the film, which is currently in post-production. International sales are handled by co-funder Gaga Corp, who will release in Japan in May.

Contact Haruko Watanabe, Gaga watanabh@gaga.co.jp



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FILMART Booth No:1D-A41



One Cut Of The Dead

The Name

Dir Akihiro Toda

Receiving its world premiere as the closing film of this year's Osaka Asian Film Festival, this adaptation of a Shusuke Michio story stars Kanji Tsuda as a divorced, middle-aged man who encounters a schoolgirl (Ren Komai) pretending to be his daughter. Akihiro Toda is a film and theatre director, screenwriter and producer, who is best known for 2014 drama *Neko Ni Mikan*.

Contact Shinsuke Mae, Glasgow15
 ✉shinsuke@glasgowpro.com

One Cut Of The Dead

Dir Shinichiro Ueda

Produced by Koji Ichihashi of Enbu Seminar, this indie production subverts the conventions of the zombie genre by morphing into a charming, audience-friendly comedy. Starting with a 37-minute, non-stop single take, it follows a film crew attempting to make a zombie movie in an abandoned warehouse, who fall prey to some real-life specimens of the undead. The feature debut of shorts filmmaker Shinichiro Ueda, the film stars Takayuki Hamatsu, Mao and Harumi Syuhama. Nikkatsu is sharing sales duties with Third Window Films and screening the completed film at Filmart.

Contact Adam Torel, Third Window Films
 ✉adam@thirdwindowfilms.com (international); Emico Kawai, Nikkatsu ✉kawai@nikkatsu.co.jp

Real Girl (working title)

Dir Tsutomu Hanabusa

Ayami Nakajo (*Let's Go, Jets!*) and Hayato Sano (*Mixed Doubles*) head the cast of this comedy drama about a bullied nerd who is forced to clean the school swimming pool with a classmate who is everything he



The Name



Real Girl

hates in real-life girls — she has a blunt manner, skips school and doesn't have female friends. When she's nice to him, he starts to contemplate her as a real-life girlfriend. Currently in post-production, the film is being lined up for Japanese release in the autumn.

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

(Left) River's Edge

River's Edge

Dir Isao Yukisada

Based on Kyoko Okazaki's classic 1990s manga of the same name, this ensemble drama revolves around a high-school girl and a bullied gay teen who make a gruesome discovery at a nearby river polluted by industrial waste. Fumi Nikaidou (*Himizu*) and Ryo Yoshizawa (*Gintama*) head the cast of the film, which opened in Japan last month, played in Panorama at the Berlinale and has also been selected for HKIFF's I See It My Way section. Isao Yukisada's recent credits include *Narratage*



(2017) and an entry in the Roman Porno series *Aroused By Gymnopedies* (2016).

Contact Maki Shimizu, Kino Films
 ✉maki-shimizu@kinofilms.jp

Sakura Guardian In The North

Dir Yojiro Takita

Veteran actress Sayuri Yoshinaga (*Kabei: Our Mother*), Masato Sakai (*Hanzawa Naoki* series) and Hiroshi Abe (*Thermae Romae* series) head the cast of this drama about a businessman's reunion with his estranged mother. The film grossed a decent \$2m on its opening weekend in Japan earlier this month. Yojiro Takita's credits include Oscar-winning drama *Departures* (2008) and *The Last Recipe*.

Contact Daichi Yashiki, Toei
 ✉dai_yashiki@toei.co.jp

Shoplifters

Dir Hirokazu Kore-eda

Returning to family drama after last year's courtroom film *The Third Murder*, Hirokazu Kore-eda is shooting a story about a father and son from a poor family who take in a girl they find on the streets. Sakura Ando (*100 Yen Love*), Lily Franky and Kirin Kiki head the cast of *Shoplifters*, which is produced by Gaga Corp, Fuji Television Network and AOI Pro. Gaga will also release the film theatrically in Japan in June 2018.

Contact Haruko Watanabe, Gaga
 ✉watanabh@gaga.co.jp (Asian territories); Fanny Beauville, Wild Bunch
 ✉fbeauville@wildbunch.eu (international)



What A Wonderful Family! 3...

What A Wonderful Family! 3: My Wife, My Life

Dir Yoji Yamada

Screening as the closing film of HKIFF, the third instalment in Yoji Yamada's hit comedy series revolves around a housewife who leaves her family to fend for themselves after the husband berates her for saving money that is then stolen by an intruder. Yui Natsukawa, Masahiko Nishimura, Isao Hashizume, Satoshi Tsumabuki and Yu Aoi star.

Contact Shion Komatsu, Shochiku
 ✉shion_komatsu@shochiku.co.jp

2018 What A Wonderful Family 3 - My Wife, My Life, 2018 Sakura Guardian In The North Production Committee

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Information

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Website: <https://oimf.jp/>

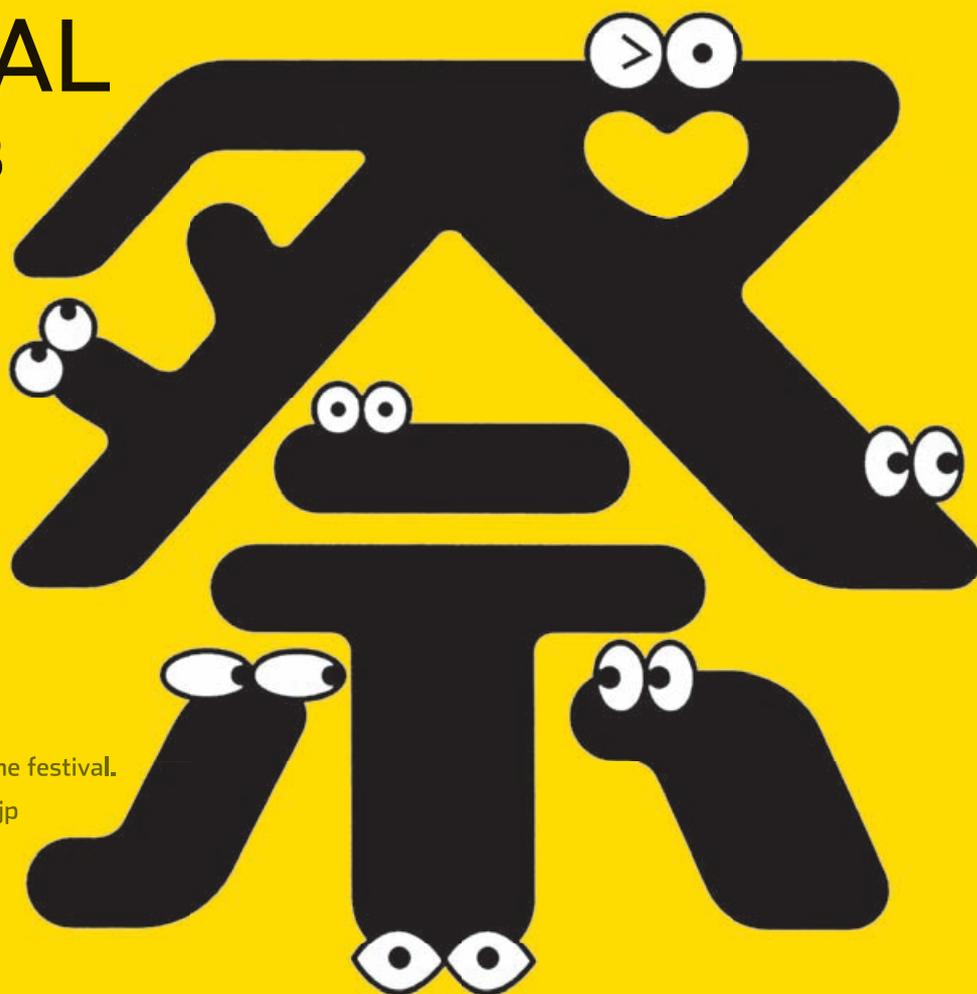
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Becoming Astrid

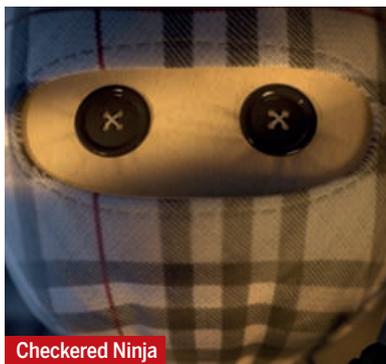
Becoming Astrid

(Swe-Ger-Den)

Dir Pernille Fischer Christensen

Danish filmmaker Fischer Christensen's debut *A Soap* won the Berlinale Silver Bear in 2006. Her fifth feature *Becoming Astrid* follows Swedish author Astrid Lindgren — who wrote the *Pippi Longstocking* children's book series in her youth — and her journey to becoming an independent woman following her affair with a married newspaper publisher that resulted in pregnancy. With 2018 European Shooting Star Alba August in the title role, *Becoming Astrid* also features Trine Dyrholm and Magnus Krepper. It made its world premiere last month as a Berlinale Special Gala.

Contact Sara Champagne, TrustNordisk
✉sara@trustnordisk.com



Checked Ninja

West meets
east

European sales agents are out in force at Filmart, with new films ranging from thrillers and documentaries to animations and recent Berlinale winners. Jean Noh profiles a selection

Checked Ninja (Den)

Dirs Anders Matthesen, Thorbjorn Christoffersen

This Danish animation follows teenage boy Aske, who receives a ninja doll from his uncle on his return from Thailand. The doll turns out to be alive and obsessed with revenge against the man who made him. Directors Matthesen and Christoffersen collaborated on 2004's *Terkel In Trouble*, and *Checked Ninja* is voiced by Matthesen and Alfred Bjerre Larsen. Producers are Trine Heidegaard (*The Incredible Story Of The Giant Pear*)

and Anders Mastrup (*Help! I'm A Fish*). In production, the film is scheduled for local release on December 25 by Nordisk Film. The English-language version will be ready by February 2019.

Contact Debra Liang, LevelK
✉debra@levelk.dk

Mug (Pol)

Dir Malgorzata Szumowska

Winner of the Berlinale's Silver Bear grand jury prize, *Mug* follows Jacek, a smalltown guy working at the construction site of what is supposed to become

the world's tallest statue of Jesus. After being disfigured in a site accident, he becomes the centre of media attention as the first person in Poland to receive a face transplant. Szumowska produced *Mug* with her longtime cinematographer Michal Englert and editor Jacek Drosio. She won the 2015 Berlinale Silver Bear for best director with *Body*, and *Mug* stars that film's Mateusz Kosciukiewicz alongside Agnieszka Podsiadlik and Malgorzata Gorol.

Contact Alexandre Moreau, Memento Films International
✉amoreau@memento-films.com

Party Hard, Die Young

(Aust)

Dir Dominik Hartl

Making its market premiere in Hong Kong, Hartl's horror-thriller follows Julia and thousands of her fellow graduates as they set off for an island resort in Croatia for the party of their lives. But one death after another turns the trip into a brutal game of survival. The film stars Elisabeth Wabitsch, Michael Glantschnig and Michael Ostrowski, and is produced by Florian Gebhardt. Hartl's credits include *Beautiful Girl* and *Attack Of The Lederhosen Zombies*.

Contact Moritz Hemminger, Arri Media
✉mhemminger@arri.de »



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Postcards From London



Vita And Virginia



Youtopia



The Raft



Touch Me Not

Blinder Films Limitedes 2017

Postcards From London (UK)

Dir Steve McLean

Arriving in London from the provinces, teenager Jim quickly goes from shy homeless novice to sought-after escort to art connoisseur. He is riding high until he discovers he has a rare syndrome that makes him faint in the presence of great art. Directed by Steve McLean (1994's *Postcards From America*), the film stars 2017 Screen Star of Tomorrow Harris Dickinson (*Beach Rats*) with Raphael Desprez and Ben Cura, and will close the BFI Flare London LGBTQ+ Film Festival on March 31. Soledad Gatti-Pascual produces, who executive produced Eran Creevy's *Shifty*.

Contact The Bureau Sales
 ✉ sales@lebureaufilms.com

The Raft (Swe-Den-US-Ger)

Dir Marcus Lindeen

Documentary filmmaker Lindeen (2010's *Regretters*) takes on the story of

the 1973 Acali Experiment, when five men and six women drifted across the Atlantic Ocean for 101 days on a raft as part of a scientific experiment to study the sociology of violence, aggression and sexual attraction. The surviving members reunite in a studio where they climb aboard a reconstruction of the raft to share the untold story behind the experiment. Production designer Simone Grau (*Dogville*) and editor Alexandra Strauss (*I Am Not Your Negro*) worked on the film, which world premieres at CPH:DOX in Copenhagen on March 17. The film has presold to France (Urban Distribution) and Switzerland (Xenix).

Contact Anais Clanet, Wide House
 ✉ ac@widehouse.org

Touch Me Not

(Rom-Ger-Czech-Bul-Fr)

Dir Adina Pintilie

Winner of the Golden Bear for best film at this year's Berlinale, Pintilie's confrontational debut feature is described

as a film that sits on the border of reality and fiction. *Touch Me Not* features Laura Benson, Tomas Lemarquis and Christian Bayerlein as three people who are exploring issues of sex and physical intimacy. The Romanian writer/director also produces alongside Philippe Avril (*Hunting Season*) and Bianca Oana, who is known for producing documentaries.

Contact Doc & Film International
 ✉ sales@docandfilm.com

Vita And Virginia (UK-Ire)

Dir Chanya Button

Directed and co-written by Chanya Button (*Burn Burn Burn*), *Vita And Virginia* is about the real-life love affair between acclaimed author Virginia Woolf (played by Elizabeth Debicki) and socialite/writer Vita Sackville-West (Gemma Arterton), and how the relationship inspired Woolf's novel *Orlando*. Isabella Rossellini and Rupert Penry-Jones also star. Evangelo Kious-

sis produced for London-based Mirror Productions and Katie Holly for Ireland's Blinder Films.

Contact Charlotte Lopez, Protagonist Pictures ✉ charlotte@protagonistpictures.com

Youtopia (It)

Dir Berardo Carboni

Featuring 2018 European Shooting Star Matilda De Angelis (*Italian Race*) with Donatella Finocchiaro (*The Wedding Director*) and Alessandro Haber (*The Unknown Woman*), *Youtopia* follows 18-year-old Matilde who turns to an online role-playing game to cope with her bleak life, senile grandmother and debt-ridden mother. There, she finds a way to make money through videochat strip shows. Director Carboni (*Shooting Silvio*) mixes live-action and machinima in this film, which is in post-production and set to market premiere in Cannes.

Contact Geremia Biagiotti, TVCO
 ✉ geremia@tvco.eu

First-ever Thai Night at Filmart to break new grounds for the Thai film industry

All sectors of the Thai Film industry to be represented in Hong Kong tonight



For its first-ever installment at the Hong Kong Filmart, Thai Night – Thailand Where Films Come Alive will be presided by Her Royal Highness Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya Sirivadhana Barnavadi.

Held tonight at the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong by the Thai Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP), Ministry of Commerce, the event aims at fostering new ties between the Thai, Chinese and Hong Kong film industries, and promoting Thai cinema and the Thai film services abroad.

The theme of Thai Night Hong Kong 2018 will be ‘The Art of Action’, putting the spotlight on action films — a genre that is associated with both Thai and Hong Kong cinemas.

The event will be attended by over twenty Thai film and television companies, representing the full spectrum of Thailand’s content industry, from production and distribution, to production services, to post-production, CGI and animation.

The participating Thai companies will showcase their latest film and TV productions, formats and film production and post- production services.

One of the evening’s topics is sure to be the growing attractiveness of Thailand as a shooting destination. Last year, the number of foreign feature films shot in Thailand increased by 68% compared to 2016.

Recent films shot in Thailand include “PARADOX”, the 2017 Hong Kong-Chinese action film directed by Wilson Yip and starring Louis Koo, Tony Jaa and Wu Yue, the Chinese hit comedy “DETECTIVE CHINATOWN” directed by Chen Sicheng and starring Wang Baoqiang and Liu Haoran, China’s box-office record “OPERATION MEKONG” directed by Dante Lam and starring Eddie Peng, or “MECHANIC RESURRECTION” starring Jason Statham.

The new film production incentive programme launched in 2017, offering up to 20% in cash assistance for qualifying production expenditures, will only contribute to make Thailand even more attractive.

For an invitation or information, please contact: thainighthk2018@gmail.com

Source: Department of International Trade Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Royal Thai Government

SCREENINGS

Edited by Paul Lindsell ✉ paullindsell@gmail.com

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

10:00

A BLUEBIRD IN MY HEART

(France, Belgium) Horror/suspense. 85mins. Alma Cinema. Dir: Jeremie Guez. Key cast: Rolland Moller, Veerle Baetens, Lola Le Lann.

An ex-con finds refuge in a motel run by a single mother and her teenage daughter Clara. The peace and freedom he has found in this safe haven disappears when Clara is assaulted, forcing him to face his demons.

Hong Kong Arts Centre Cinema

COUCH POTATOES

(Italy) Comedy. 102mins. True Colours Glorious Films. Dir: Francesca Archibugi. Key cast: Claudio Bisio, Antonia Truppo, Gaddo Bacchini. *Portrait of a difficult father-son relationship.*

Meeting Room N102-N103, HKCEC

DO IT YOURSELF

(Greece) Action/adventure. 98mins. Media Luna New Films. Dir: Dimitris Tsilifonis. Key cast: Konstantinos Aspiotis, Makis Papadimitriou. *A small-time crook agrees to star in a viral video to restore the public image of a prominent businessman.*

What he didn't expect is that he would end up fighting for his life after the director of the viral video, a powerful gangster, decides he is an expendable part of his plan.

Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC

FALLING

(Ukraine) Drama. 105mins. TVCO. Dir: Marina Stepanka. Key cast: Andriy Seletskiy, Dasha Plahitii, Oleg Mosiychuk. *Anton, a former child-prodigy composer who could not handle his obsession with music, returns to Ukraine after a long period in rehab for drug and alcohol problems. Katia, an ordinary girl*



FILMART

10:00

WHAT A MAN WANTS

(South Korea) Comedy. 115mins. Contents Panda (Next Entertainment World). Dir: Lee Byeong-heon. Key cast: Lee Sung-min, Shin Ha-kyun, Song Ji-hyo. *Seok-geun, an ex-rollercoaster designer turned taxi driver, loves his wife, Dam-deok. What he also loves is playing with fire on secret nights out. But Dam-deok's sudden death leaves Seok-*

geun heartbroken. Bong-soo is the boring and prudish husband of Seok-geun's sister, Mi-young. His Italian restaurant business looks lacklustre, and so is his marriage, until he meets Jenny, who later takes a job at Bong-soo's restaurant. Fond of Jenny's personality and good humour, Mi-young decides to hire Jenny as a housekeeper for her brother.

Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC

living on the outskirts of Kiev, is planning to move to Berlin with her boyfriend, a German photographer. Two bewildered, lost young people who meet at a crucial point in their lives.

Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC

THE HAPPY PRINCE

(Germany, Belgium, Italy) Tragicomedy. 105mins. Beta Cinema. Dir: Rupert Everett. Key cast: Colin Firth, Emily Watson, Colin Morgan, Edwin Thomas, Rupert Everett. *The last days of legendary writer Oscar Wilde — and the ghosts that haunted him as he lived them out in Europe. His body ailing and heavy, his mind spinning, Wilde survives*

by falling back on the flamboyant irony and brilliant wit that defined him and his work.

Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC

KNUCKLEBALL

(Canada) Horror/suspense. 90mins. Telefilm Canada. Dir: Michael Peterson. Key cast: Michael Ironside, Kathleen Munroe, Munro Chambers. *Twelve-year-old Henry finds himself at the centre of a maelstrom of terror, and a dark family legacy, when his secretive grandfather dies suddenly in the night.*

Meeting Room N206-N207, HKCEC

LAND

(Italy, Mexico, France, Netherlands) Drama.

90mins. BAC Films.

Dir: Babak Jalali. *A Native American family struggle with violence and alcohol when news reaches the reservation that one of their number has died during military service in Afghanistan.*

Meeting Room N109-N110, HKCEC

THE PRINCE AND THE DYBBUK

(Poland, Germany) Documentary. 82mins. Wide House. Dir: Elwira Niewiera, Piotr Rosolowski.

A cinematic journey on the trail of Hollywood filmmaker and "human chameleon" Michal Waszynski.

Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC

RESINA

(Italy) Drama. 90mins. Wide. Dir: Renzo Carbonera. *A kaleidoscope of characters gives irony and rhythm to this tale of a small world facing climate change, and the determination of a young woman discovering again the beauty of music.*

Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE

(Belgium) Drama. 100mins. Playtime. Dir: Marc Dugain.

Key cast: Lambert Wilson, Olivier Gourmet.

1721: a bold idea is brewing in the head of Philip of Orleans, Regent of France... 11-year-old Louis XV is soon to become king and an exchange of princesses would allow the nation to consolidate peace with Spain. He therefore marries his 12-year-old daughter to the heir to the Spanish throne, in exchange for which Louis XV must marry the Spanish Infanta.

Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC

THE TRIBE

(Spain) Comedy. 90mins. Film Factory Entertainment. Dir: Fernando Colomo. Key cast: Carmen Machi, Paco Leon. *Virginia, who works as a cleaning lady but whose true calling is street dance, is reunited with the son she gave up for adoption: Fidel, an executive who has lost it all, even his memory.*

Theatre 2, HKCEC

WHAT A MAN WANTS

See box, above

11:45

INLAND SEA

(Japan, US) Documentary. 122mins. Laboratory X. Dir: Kazuhiro Soda. *Wai-chan, 86, is one of the last remaining fishermen*

in Ushimado. Kumi, 84, wanders around the shore everyday. She believes a social welfare facility stole her disabled son to receive a subsidy from the government. Elderly Koso runs a small seafood store left to her by her deceased husband. This documentary poetically depicts the twilight days of a village by the sea.

Hong Kong Arts Centre Cinema

12:00

THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

(Belgium) Drama. 90mins. Be For Films. Dir: Samuel Tilman. Key cast: Fabrizio Rongione, Natache Regnier. *David has a wife he loves, two adorable children and a tight-knit group of friends. However, on returning from a trip away, David is taken in for questioning by the police as part of a murder investigation. Before long it is evident all is not what it seems behind the facade.*

Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC

BEYOND THE SUMMIT

(Russia) Sports film, biopic. 106mins. Loco Films. Dir: Tamara Tsotsoria, Yana Polarush, Konstantin Kutuev.

Based on the true story of Alexey, a skiing champion who was severely injured when he was only 16 and had both legs amputated.

Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC

CINDERELLA THE CAT

(Italy) Animation. 86mins. Rai Com. Dir: Ivan Cappiello, Marino Guarnieri, Alessandro Rak, Dario Sansone. *Set in the near future, in the infamous Port of Naples, aboard a magical ship: Cinderella is the daughter of the philanthropic ship owner, murdered by criminals with the complicity of Cinderella's stepmother.*

Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC

EVERYDAY HERO, EVERYBODY'S DREAM

(China) Drama. 91mins. »



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HANKY PANKY

Taiwan / 2017 / Comedy / 109 min

SEXTASY

Taiwan / 2018Q2 / Drama / 104 min

Guangdong Southern Lead TV & Film Communication Company. Dir: Zheng Hua. Key cast: Sun Hongtao, Ru Ping, Ai Liya.

A supervisor at the Heavy Industries Group steps in to become the new captain of the poverty alleviation team in LiTan Village, Yang Xi. In nearly two years, he helps the village overcome poverty and achieve prosperity. But tragedy strikes when he suffers a sudden heart attack and dies at his desk.

Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC

KOYAA. AN ANIMATION SERIES

(Slovenia-Croatia) 45mins. Summerside International. Dir: Kolja Saksida.

Koyaa and his friend, the wise Mr Raven, live on a rocky ledge high above the clouds. Koyaa stumbles into comical adventures when the everyday objects that surround him come to life and begin to act in all sorts of weird and wacky ways.

Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC

LULLABY KILLER

(Poland) Thriller. 100mins. TVP Polish Public Television. Dir: Krzysztof Lang. Key cast: Andrzej Chyra, Tomasz Schuchardt.

For years many people have been disappearing in Cracow. Detective Karski constructs his own hypothesis of a serial killer, contrary to the convictions of his superiors.

Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC

SILENT NIGHT

(Poland) Comedy. 100mins. Intramovies. Dir: Piotr Domalewski. Key cast: Dawid Ogrodnik, Tomasz Zietek. *Adam visits his family at Christmas. No one knows about his secret plans and the real reasons for his visit.*

Meeting Room N109-N110, HKCEC

TRENDY

(UK) Thriller. 96mins. UDI — Urban Distribution International. Dir: Louis Lagayette. Key cast: Lachlan Nieboer, Haluk Bilginer, Alan Ford. *Richard is a singular man,*



FILMART

14:00

COLORS OF WIND

(Japan, South Korea) Drama. 119mins. Mirovision. Dir: Jaeyong Kwak. Key cast: Yuki Furukawa, Takemi Fujii, Naoto Takenaka. *Yuri leaves Ryo with mysterious words.*

Ryo goes to Hokkaido knowing that his doppelganger magician is missing. Ryo realises Yuri was also the magician's lover and he learns magic. A story that crosses over two identities, illusion and magic.

Theatre 1, HKCEC

socially different. Having moved to east London, he quickly faces violent gentrification. It doesn't take long for his darkest impulses to emerge.

Meeting Room N102-N103, HKCEC

WE

(Netherlands) Drama. 100mins. Wide. Dir: Rene Eller. *During a scorching summer in a Belgian-Dutch border village, eight teenagers play games of discovery to break the listless monotony. They challenge each other and themselves and pretty soon their sexual curiosity starts to blur the lines between right and wrong.*

Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC

12:15

POSTCARDS FROM LONDON

(UK) Comedy. 87mins. The Bureau Sales. Dir: Steve McLean. Key cast: Harris Dickinson. *From shy novice to sought-after escort and artist's muse, Jim would be the toast of the town if it wasn't for his annoying affliction, which causes him to faint in the presence of great art.*

Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC

13:50

SAMSON

(South Africa) Action/adventure. 130mins. Pure Flix/Quality Flix. Dir: Bruce Macdonald. Key cast: Billy Zane, Jackson Rathbone, Rutger Hauer, Taylor James. *Out of the pages of ancient scripture arises the first superhero saga — that of a child born with supernatural strength in 1200BC who, as an adult, leads his oppressed tribe against the mighty empire of his day. Though seduced by women and wine, his feats of might strike fear into the hearts of his enemies. In the end, only one God can stand in this tale of seduction, revenge and supernatural might.*

Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC

14:00

A CASA TUTTI BENE

(Italy) Drama. 105mins. Indie Sales Company. Dir: Gabriele Muccino. Key cast: Pierfrancesco Favino, Stefano Accorsi, Claudia Gerini. *An unexpected storm strands a family gathered to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary*

of Pietro and Alba. The relatives are forced to live together under the same roof for two days and two nights, with no way out.

Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC

CALL ME MRS CHAN

(Hong Kong) Drama. 16mins. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Chan Hau-chun, Chui Chi-yin. *Mrs Chan works in a public housing estate, clearing the garbage every day except for the first day of the Chinese New Year. For the past 10 years, her quiet dedication to the building has brought her no respect, only back pain.*

Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC

CHRISTMAS BLOOD

(Norway) Horror/suspense. 104mins. Reel Suspects. Dir: Reinert Kil. Key cast: Stig Henrik Hoff, Sondre Krogtoft Larsen. *For the past 13 years, a killer has struck every Christmas Eve. Police investigators Thomas Rasch and Terje Hansent try to solve the mystery before the killer strikes again. A group of friends celebrating the holiday do not realise a crazy killer is on the loose.*

Meeting Room N102-N103, HKCEC

COLORS OF WIND

See box, above

CREAM OF MOVIE I (HONG KONG DESIGN INSTITUTE)

(Hong Kong) Drama. 65mins. Hong Kong Design Institute. Dir:

Tung Siu Wai, Lo Ka Yi, Lam Kwan Fai.

Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC

DIFFERENT KINDS OF RAIN

(Germany) Drama. 91mins. Media Luna New Films. Dir: Isa Prahl. Key cast: Bjarne Madel, Bibiana Beglau, Emma Bading, Louis Hofmann. *Suddenly, the door is locked. A boy has shut himself in. His family stays out. In trying to cope with the situation, the door to his room increasingly mirrors his father's, mother's and sister's own lives.*

Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC

I MISS YOU WHEN I SEE YOU

(Hong Kong) Drama. 90mins. Heart Productions. Dir: Simon Chung. Key cast: Jamie Mak, Rene Lam. *Jamie re-encounters his old school friend, Kevin, who has been suffering from depression, and must make a choice between following his heart or society.*

Hong Kong Arts Centre Cinema

KUNG FOOD

(China) Action/adventure. 30mins. Yi Animation. Dir: Haipeng Sun. *Super Bao, an innocent and passionate steamed stuffed bun, goes through untold hardships and grows into a great hero who saves the world of foods.*

Meeting Room N204-N205, HKCEC

LOVE TALK

(Taiwan) Documentary. 90mins. Cnex Studio

Corporation. Dir: Shen Ko-Shang. *Features eight couples and their daily conversations.*

Meeting Room N109-N110, HKCEC

MONKEY BUSINESS

(Hong Kong) Drama. 30mins. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Wong Hoi-yin, Suen Sui-hung, Wong Chung-yan, Wong Ka-man, Chan Hoi-yu. *Three young people get a chance to become rich. In their temporary shelter in an old apartment, they start a dangerous back-alley business.*

Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC

PILED CLOUD

(Hong Kong) Drama. 26mins. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Wong Cheuk-man.

Ex-sailor Lam Dong has retired and lives alone in the city. He sub-lets his apartment to Zheng Yang, a film student from Beijing.

Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC

SOLIS

(UK) Sci-fi/fantasy. 90mins. Cinema Management Group. Dir: Carl Strathie. Key cast: Steven Ogg, Alice Lowe. *When Troy Holloway wakes up to find himself aboard a drifting escape pod shooting towards the sun, he quickly realises the true terror of his situation. Commander Roberts leads a rescue party to save him.*

Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC

SUPERGRID

(Canada) 80mins. Telefilm Canada. Dir: Lowell Dean. Key cast: Leo Fafard, Marshall Williams, Natalie Krill. *In the near future, two brothers are forced to make a mysterious cargo run on the dangerous road that claimed the life of their sister.*

Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC

THE VANISHED

(South Korea) Thriller. 99mins. Contents Panda (Next Entertainment World). Dir: Lee Chang-hee. Key cast: Kim Sang-kyung, Kim Kang-woo. *When the president of a*

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at Filmart • Hong Kong

SCREENINGS

ANA *by* DAY

TODAY

at 14:00H in NIII-NI2

a film by Andrea Jaurrieta

DO IT YOURSELF

TOMORROW

at 10:00H in NI04-NI05

a film by Dimitris Tsilifonis

DIFFERENT KINDS OF RAIN

TOMORROW

at 14:00H in NI04-NI05

a film by Isa Prah

NEW

A DYSFUNCTIONAL CAT

a film by Susan Gordanshekan

a film by Kristoff & Dimitri Leue

Fairytale

a film by Sebastiano Mauri

ANNA'S WAR

a film by Aleksey Fedorchenko

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conglomerate is found dead, her body is kept in a morgue until it disappears mysteriously. Detective Joong-sik sets out to find out who stole the corpse. **Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC**

WEREWOLF GAME LOST EDEN 1

(Japan) Horror/suspense. 105mins. Crei. Dir: Shinya Ayabe. Key cast: Rena Takeda. *Hiroki is locked up in an unknown room with nine classmates. They become either "Villager" or "Werewolf" and vote to kill someone in the bloody Werewolf Game.* **Meeting Room N101B, HKCEC**

WHEN MARGAUX MEETS MARGAUX

(France) Drama. 97mins. Indie Sales Company. Dir: Sophie Fillières. Key cast: Sandrine Kiberlain, Agathe Bonitzer, Melvil Poupaud. *Margaux, 20, meets Margaux, 45. They cannot help but be drawn to each other as they are the exact same person at two different ages.* **Meeting Room N206-N207, HKCEC**

WINE CALLING

(France) Documentary. 90mins. WTFilms. Dir: Bruno Sauvard. *Over the course of a year, we follow some of the world's most exciting new wine growers, from harvest to bottling.* **Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC**

15:45

FATHER TO SON

(Taiwan) Action/adventure. 115mins. Ablaze Image. Dir: Ya-Chuan Hsiao. *Van Pao-Te, 60, is suffering from a serious illness. Instead of getting treatment, he goes to Japan to look for his father who abandoned him 50 years ago. At the same time, a young man from Hong Kong somehow related to Van's past arrives in Taiwan.*

Hong Kong Arts Centre Cinema

16:00

ALL THE DEVIL'S MEN

(UK) Action/adventure.

100mins. GFM Films. Dir: Matthew Hope. Key cast: Milo Gibson, Sylvia Hoeks, William Fichtner. *A battle-scarred bounty hunter is forced to go to London on a manhunt for a disavowed CIA operative.* **Meeting Room N201B, HKCEC**

BE WITH YOU

(South Korea) Romance. 132mins. Lotte Entertainment. Dir: Lee Jang-hoon. Key cast: So Ji-sub, Son Ye-jin. *Woo Jin takes care of his son following the death of his wife. Before she died she promised she would be back on a rainy day one year later. True to her word she reappears but does not remember anything.* **Meeting Room N102-N103, HKCEC**

BLACK SUMMER

(South Korea) Drama. 111mins. Mirovision. Dir: Lee Won-young. Key cast: Woo Jihyeon, Lee Geonwoo. *Jihyeon works part-time at a university writing and making films. One day, as he holds an audition for his next film, he meets Geonu. They become close as they work together and are confused by unfamiliar emotions.* **Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC**

GROW WITH LOVE

(China) Drama. 90mins. China Film Promotion International. Dir: Zeng Jianying. Key cast: Xufan, Dai Jiaxi, Zhang Chi, Liang Cuishan. *Love stories of four couples.* **Meeting Room N206-N207, HKCEC**

HORIZON

(Hong Kong) Drama. 30mins. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Kong Ka-yiu Rony. *Lee Chi-ho believes in the Flat Earth theory. He debates with his son's teacher and decides to prove it is true. He must borrow an old man's spaceship to validate the theory.* **Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC**

I AM NOT PRETTY

(Hong Kong) Animation. 6mins. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Keung Yin-ni, Sin Man-ting.

Della always puts on heavy make-up, anecdotes happen because of it. Because of our society's tendency to judge a book by its cover, Della believes appearance means everything and heavy make-up is beautiful. **Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC**

IMPERFECT AGE

(Italy) Drama. 96mins. Intramovies. Dir: Ulisse Lendaro. Key cast: Marina Occhionero, Paola Calliari, Anna Valle, Anita Kavros. *Camilla is a good girl, with high grades and a dream to become a ballet dancer. She and her friend Sara try out for an important audition. Sara passes but Camilla doesn't and blames Sara.* **Meeting Room N109-N110, HKCEC**

JUGGERNAUT

(Canada) Organised crime. 115mins. Telefilm Canada. Dir: Daniel Di Marco. Key cast: Amanda Crew, Jack Kesy, Ty Olsson. *An outlaw returns home, violently obsessed with the notion that his mother's death was not a suicide.* **Meeting Room N104-N105, HKCEC**

LET THE GIRLS PLAY

(France) Comedy. 90mins. Indie Sales Company. Dir: Julien Hallard. Key cast: Max Boublil, Vanessa Guide. *1969: forced to plan his newspaper's annual fair, a journalist comes up with a crazy idea — organise the first women's football match in France.* **Meeting Room N111-N112, HKCEC**

LOST CEMETERIES

(Hong Kong) Drama. 26mins. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Ho Ying-kuen. *Tung and Yan, brothers from a single-parent family, relied on their mother. A year after she passed away, the government implements a plan to demolish the public estates.* **Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC**

LOVE X DOC

(Japan) Romance. 114mins. Asmik Ace. Dir: Osamu Suzuki. Key cast: Yo Yoshida, Hiroshi Tamaki, Shuhei Nomura.

A pastry chef decides to go to the mysterious Clinic Love Doc, which lets people know everything about love through a gene test. **Meeting Room N204-N205, HKCEC**

NOGIZAKA46 MEETS ASIA (SINGAPORE VERSION)

(Japan) Documentary. 60mins. M-ON! Entertainment. Dir: Tsutomu Iwashita. Key cast: Nogizaka46. **Meeting Room N101B, HKCEC**

OH! MILLION FIST!

(Hong Kong) Drama. 7mins. Hong Kong Arts Centre. Dir: Huge Cho. *Having practised martial arts for years, dancer Hugh Cho develops a choreography based on fight scenarios.* **Meeting Room N211-N212, HKCEC**

RESURRECTION

(Belgium) Drama. 110mins. TVCO. Dir: Kristof Hoornaert. Key cast: Johan Leysen, Gilles De Schryver, Kris Cuppens. *A hermit who takes in a half-naked young man is faced with a dilemma.* **Meeting Room N202-N203, HKCEC**

TOTO

(Philippines) Comedy. 115mins. BidSlate. Dir: John Paul Su. Key cast: Sid Lucero, Thou Reyes, Liza Dino, Blake Boyd. *A Filipino is determined to obtain a US visa. But when his schemes put the lives of his loved ones in danger, he must re-evaluate the cost of his dream.* **Meeting Room N209-N210, HKCEC**

16:20

THE DMZ

(South Korea) Horror/suspense. 94mins. Mirovision. Dir: Oh In-chun. Key cast: Joo Min-ha, Kim Jun-Seop. *A female cop and an escaped prisoner both tread on mines during a chase.* **Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC**

16:30

ISIS — A NEW FOUND BASE IN AFGHANISTAN

(India) Action/adventure. 135mins. Atlantic Films. Dir: Yuvraj Kumar. Key

cast: Rahul Dev, Rasheed Naaz, Yuvraj Kumar, Manon Faure. *Exposes the commanders of an Isis camp.* **Theatre 1, HKCEC**

18:00

7:20 ONCE A WEEK

(Dominican Republic) Romance. 92mins. Intramovies. Dir: Matias Bize. Key cast: Eva Arias, Josue Guerrero. *Manuel and Julia meet and spend an intense night together. They have feelings that go beyond physical attraction but both of them are married.* **Meeting Room N109-N110, HKCEC**

ON HAPPINESS ROAD

(Taiwan) Animation. 111mins. Ablaze Image. Dir: Sung Shin-Yin. Key cast: Wei Te-Sheng, Gwei Lun-Mei. *Chi earned her American dream after persevering with her studies in Taiwan. Following her grandmothers' death, she returns to her family on Happiness Road.* **Theatre 2, HKCEC**

18:15

GATAO 2: RISE OF THE KING

(Taiwan) Action/adventure. 127mins. Swallow Wings Films Co. Dir: Yen Cheng-Kuo. Key cast: Shih Hsien Wang, Collin Chou, Cheng, Jen-Shuo. *Conflict in the world of dangerous gangsters.* **Meeting Room N201A, HKCEC**

PORORO: DINOSAUR ISLAND ADVENTURE

(South Korea) Animation. 80mins. Ocon. Dir: Kim Hyunho. *Pororo meets a dinosaur who remembers nothing but his name. The pair must work together to save their friends from aliens.* **Meeting Room N101A, HKCEC**

18:30

LENSES ON HER HEART (KIRAKIRA MEGANE)

(Japan) Drama. 120mins. SDP. Dir: Kazutoshi Inudo. Key cast: Hiroto Kanai, Chizuru Ikewaki, Masanobu Ando. *A painful love story for all the broken hearts.* **Meeting Room N102-N103, HKCEC**

SCREEN

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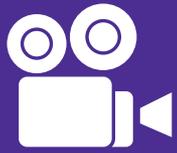
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Hot issues will be addressed at our series of thematic conferences, including Chinese TV market, global marketing and distribution on documentaries, VR technology on animation, opportunities for live-streaming!

Documentary Documentaries: From Local to Global

Moderator



Chang Chao-wei
Chief Producer,
CNEX Foundation

Date: 20 March 2018, Day 2
Time: 10:00 - 12:00
Venue: Hall 1 (Moonlight Theatre)

Speakers



Daniel Braun
Co-President,
Submarine
Entertainment



Patrick Connolly
Vice President,
Programming,
AMC Networks,
Sundance TV Global



Summer Song
Director of Copyright
Operation Center,
China Visible Influence
Pictures Ltd.

TV

TV World 2018 – Opening Ceremony cum International Forum: Television and new media: Competitors? Or complement each other?

Moderator



Peter Lam
Vice President,
Hong Kong Televisioners
Association

Date: 20 March 2018, Day 2
Time: 14:00 - 16:30
Venue: Hall 1 (Starlight Theatre)

Speakers



Yasuo Furuhashi
Deputy Editor,
Global Information
Desk,
Kyodo News



Yong-ju Jeon
President/
CEO,
D'LIVE



Michelle Mou
CEO,
New Studios
Pictures



Ng Yu
Chief Executive
Officer,
Asia Television
Digital Media Ltd

FILM

Filmmaker Spotlight – Renowned Producer Sharing

Date: 20 March 2018, Day 2
Time: 17:00 - 18:00
Venue: Hall 1 (Starlight Theatre)

Moderator



Liz Shackleton
Asia Editor,
Screen International

Speaker



David Kosse
President, STXinternational,
STX Entertainment / Executive
Producer of Oscar-winning films
"Room" and "The Theory of Everything"

Day 3
21 March

VR/AR: What Will This Change the Animation Industry
Time: 10:30 - 12:00
Venue: Hall 1 (Moonlight Theatre)

Digital Entertainment Summit 2018
Time: 14:00 - 16:00
Venue: Hall 1 (Starlight Theatre)

Day 4
22 March

Sharing with Young Filmmakers
Time: 14:30 - 15:30
Venue: Hall 1 (Moonlight Theatre)



PERSPECTIVE
CANADA

MAKING BIG WAVES AT HONG KONG.

A curated program of Canadian genre films screening at FILMART,
financed by Telefilm Canada.



► International Premiere/
Market Premiere

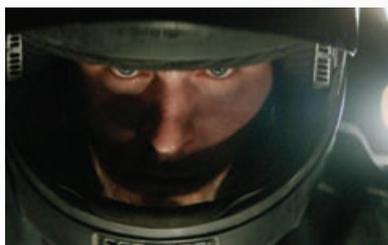
Ice Blue

Sandi Somers

THRILLER

Production/Sales
Iylond Entertainment
scott@iylond.com

21/03 10:00 ► N109 - N110



Juggernaut

Daniel Di Marco

THRILLER

Production
Mad Samurai
Sales
Spotlight Pictures
rm@spotlight-pictures.com

20/03 16:00 ► N104 - N105



► Asian Premiere

Knuckleball

Mike Peterson

HORROR/SUSPENSE

Production
775 Media Corp.
Sales
AMP International
nina@amp-film.com

20/03 10:00 ► N206 - N207



► International Premiere/
Market Premiere

Ordinary Days

Jordan Canning
Kris Booth
Renuka Jeyapalan

DRAMA/MYSTERY/THRILLER

Production
Relay Station, Seedaylight
Sales
Relay Station
gcockburn@meridianartists.com

21/03 16:00 ► N102 - N103



► Asian Premiere/ Market Premiere

Todd and the Book of Pure Evil: The End of the End

Craig David Wallace
Richard Duhaney

ANIMATED COMEDY/HORROR

Production
Aircraft Pictures, Corvid Pictures,
Frantic Films, Smiley Guy Studios
Sales
Raven Banner
michaelangelo@ravenbanner.ca

19/03 10:00 ► N111 - N112



Trench 11

Leo Scherman

HORROR/THRILLER/WAR

Production
Carousel Pictures
Sales
Raven Banner
michaelangelo@ravenbanner.ca

19/03 16:00 ► N102 - N103

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