

“No. 1 Chung Ying Street” Wins at Osaka Asian Film Festival

The Osaka Asian Film Festival was held from 9 March to 18 March. Three out of the fifteen films screened were from Hong Kong, including Chapman To's self-directed feature “The Empty Hands”. Tam Wai Ching's “In Your Dreams”, and Derek Chiu's “No. 1 Chung Ying Street” starring Fish Liew and Yau Hawk Sau. Upon making its world premiere at the festival, “No. 1 Chung Ying Street” was awarded the Grand Prix (Best Picture Award), the highest honour in the competition section.

“We feel emotionally connected to the young people in this powerful and brave movie. It's definitely an important film for our generation,” the jury spoke highly of the film.

Chiu expressed his gratitude to the film festival during his acceptance speech. “This is the 18th film for me and I have received other awards but I consider this award here to be the most important of all,” he said.

“It took eight years to complete this film and it was not without challenges that we were able to complete it,” Chiu added. He was unsure if all the restrictions were due to political impediments. No one would have admitted to it even if that had been true. He just wanted to do his part of filmmaking. Having received love and support from overseas audience, and being recognized by the jury would somehow help getting the film released in Hong Kong. Chiu wasn't too pessimistic about a Hong Kong release, “I hope many people in Hong Kong will get to see this film and I would like to hope that you will continue to support the development of Hong Kong cinema.”

Produced by Boundary Film, “No. 1 Chung Ying Street” is an adaptation from screenplay-novel of the same title published in 2015, co-written by director Derek Chiu and Tse Ngo Sheung. Set against the backdrop of the leftist riots in 1967 and social activists movement in 2019, the film talks about hot-blooded youth taking to the streets their roaring passion to protest against social injustice. The story follows three present-day young freedom fighters from different family backgrounds expressing their voice in the face of social intolerance. They cross paths with an old man from the 1967 upheaval. By putting the two periods side by side, the film examines the differences between the two eras, and young people's political participation in social activism.

About Derek Chiu

Derek Chiu graduated from the National Taiwan University with a Bachelor Degree of Arts in 1984. He worked for the Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) as an Assistant Producer upon his return to Hong Kong. Chiu's directorial debut came about in 1993 when he released “Pink Bomb”. His work also include “Mr. Sardine”, “Oh! My Three Guys”, “The Log”, “Three-legged Race”, “Frugal Game”, “Brothers” and “The Road Less Traveled”.