

## **Mei Ah Entertainment Group Ltd. Announces New Slate Including “Theory of Ambitions”**

At this year’s Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART) held during 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, major film production companies announced their latest slate of films that are in preparation or already in production. “Theory of Ambitions” was one of the highly anticipated films introduced and a 2-minute trailer was shown to the guests at the film market.

Co-presented by Dadi Century Films and Mei Ah Entertainment, “Theory of Ambitions” is directed by Philip YUNG, whose previous title included “Port of Call”. Best Actor winners Tony LEUNG Chiu-wai and Aaron KWOK will be co-starring in this new film for the very first time. Other members of the cast include veteran actor Michael HUI; Michael CHOW, who has been “away” from the industry for as long as 18 years, TSE Kwan Ho, Patrick TAM, Elaine JIN, Jessie LI, Michael NING and Eddie CHEUNG. The film is expected to be release in 2019.

“Theory of Ambitions” was a story set during the time of the “four Heads of CID” (Lui Lok, Nam Kong, Hon Sum and Ngan Hung) in the 50s and 60s when the Heads and the cops would accept briberies and deal with drugs, a genre that was “mainstream” in the 90s. When speaking about Hong Kong films of similar subject in the 90s, director Philip YUNG believed not only there were not sufficient resources to recreate a setting of Hong Kong in the 50s and 60s; there was also a lack of computer-generated (CG) effects to support. Today, technology can greatly enhance the production of films of this genre. YUNG recalled, when he had watched “To Be Number One” and “Lee Rock”, he actually wondered why Hong Kong could not produce even more outstanding biography films like foreign classic “Gandhi” and “Amadeus”. “There was one time, when I was working in Mainland China, I met some film lovers who aged over 30. When they told me ‘Lee Rock’ was one of their favourite films, I was surprised it was ‘Lee Rock’ and not ‘Young and Dangerous’ or ‘Infernal Affairs’. I was amazed that a film about the history of Hong Kong would interest them,” he said.

The director also revealed at the press conference that Aaron KWOK was one of the main reasons he decided to make “Theory of Ambitions”. “When I was the director for ‘Port of Call’, I looked at Aaron KWOK and I felt the timeless Cary Grant-like delicacy and elegant bearing in him, with wax on his hair and a powdered face. Later when I watched ‘The Wolf of Wall Street’ by director Martin SCORSESE, I saw Leonardo DICAPRIO and I thought -- isn’t that exactly Lui Lok? DICAPRIO role as a well-dressed cultured scum had inspired us in the building of the ‘Lui Lok character. Aaron KWOK was the perfect fit for the role.” The director also joked saying that since he had made KWOK looked dirty and old in ‘Port of Call’, this time he would return the favour and make him look handsome in the film.

When building up the screenplay and writing the part of Nam Kong, an important character in the story, the director had never imagined he could actually get Tony LEUNG to play the role who appears a gentleman however with a card up his sleeve. “Why would you want to make a Hong Kong version of ‘Once Upon A Time in America’? I really want to know how you would do it.” LEUNG asked YUNG when he met the director for the first time. Charles HEUNG played the role of Nam Kong in “Arrest the Restless”, but the character was not portrayed in depth. With Tony

LEUNG now taking up the role, the director believes it will become another classic character in the Hong Kong film history.

The Chinese title of the film reflects not only the director's wish, but also his message to the Hong Kong film industry. "I believe that people should keep looking forward, especially when you know it is more or less luck that determines if what you do will win others' recognition. It is important to always remind ourselves that filmmakers of our generation are achieving far less than what directors such as HOU Hsiao-hsien, Ann HUI, Edward YANG, JIANG Yimou, Tian Zhuangzhuang, WONG Kar-wai, Johnnie TO have achieved. So the least we could do would be to humbly do our best and make films that we like. I have worked with Aaron KWOK before; and this time I get to work with Tony LEUNG. There is really nothing more I can ask for. How many new directors get to work with Tony LEUNG? He is really an iconic superstar in the best era in Hong Kong cinema. His acting charisma comes naturally from his personal charm. I am so lucky to have become a friend of his outside the filming world and be able to discuss different subjects with him. He has agreed to take up the role mainly for his love for Hong Kong films. We have invited Michael HUI to join the cast also for the same reason. Michael HUI's presence in the film is especially meaningful for Hong Kong people. There is a 5-minute solo shot of him delivering English dialogs which I believe audience will be as mesmerized as I am watching it. And I hope it will make history, or at least make a memorable experience for me as a big fan."

### **Joe Ma Is back to Make Romantic Comedies**

Aside from "Theory of Ambitions", Mei Ah also announced at FILMART other upcoming films. Since "Young, Pregnant and Unmarried" and "Love Undercover", Hong Kong director Joe MA will return to the romantic comedy genre and produce an as-yet-untitled love story starring Niki CHOW, Ron NG, and directed by Yaoliang TANG. It is a story about Chun-nam, who is suffering from a heartbreaking breakup when assigned to protect Daisy who by chance assisted the police in catching a criminal and the two eventually fell in love. The film is scheduled for release in 2019.

From new directors there is "Keyboard Warriors" produced by NG Kin Hung and directed by SitHoChing. 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. It centers on the culture on internet discussion forums where people's identities and personal information are uncovered and exposed. While "Keyboard Warriors" is the directorial debut of popular online writer SitHoChing, the list of members of the cast is also interesting as it includes recent Hong Kong Film Critics Society Award – Best Actress Award winner Stephy TANG, Grace CHAN, Neo YAU, Sing LAM and Larine TANG. It is a story based on a true event in the city with a realistic social subject. The film will be in cinema in late 2018.

Following "Weeds On Fire", CHAN Hing-kai and O Sing-pui will join hands again and co-produce a romantic film called "The first girl I loved" with YEUNG Chiu-hoi and Candy NG as directors, starring Hedwig TAM, nominee for Best New Performer at the latest edition of Hong Kong Film Awards, and first time performer Renci YEUNG. It is a story with scope across personal growth and development of the society which bring forth the idea that "it takes courage for one to grow". The film is set for release in 2019.