Taiwan Film Festival
臺灣電影節
2015


Opening Night Film // Friday 20 March
Venue: Arc Cinema,
National Film & Sound Archive, McCoy Cct, Acton

A City of Sadness
悲情城市

Hou Hsiao-hsien 侯孝賢
159mins, 1989, M
The first Chinese-language film to win the Venice Film Festival's coveted Golden Lion, in 1989, A City of Sadness masterfully captures one of the most traumatic periods in Taiwan's history, told through the fate of one family. A rare screening of the original 35mm release from the National Film & Sound Archive collection, this iconic work is a poignant, visually stunning account of the island’s transition from Japanese colonialism to Nationalist Chinese rule in the late 1940s.

Opening Comments
6:15 pm
Film Screening
6:30pm – 9:15pm

From the romance and action of box office hits to contemporary cinematic masterpieces, from gritty independent documentaries to cool art house pioneers — Taiwan boasts a rich cinema, with generations of internationally lauded directors. Take this rare opportunity to immerse yourself in a special selection of Taiwan’s filmmaking talent from the last four decades.

More information
All films have English subtitles and are unclassified (R18+) unless otherwise noted. While screenings are FREE, places are limited so bookings are essential.

For Friday, Opening Night bookings: (02) 6248-2000 or tickets@anu.edu.au
For film programme and Saturday or Sunday bookings, visit the festival website: http://cwanu.edu.au/events/2015tff
Enquiries: (02) 6202 2086 or cwanu@anu.edu.au

The CIW Auditorium, Australian Centre on China in the World, Building 188 Fellows Lane, ANU, Canberra
### Drawing on the first-person accounts of former postal worker and political prisoner Hsu Chin-yu and her peers, this documentary confronts the grim fate of some who dared to oppose the authoritarian regime of 1950s Taiwan.

### The Austronesian first settlers of Taiwan maintain strong ties to cultures across the Pacific region. Reorienting the gaze away from East Asia, this documentary follows a group of young aboriginal Taiwanese on a globetrotting journey of self-discovery.

### This dark, gritty film probes the loneliness and confusion of youth in the alleys and video arcades of 1990s Taipei. Punctuated by a distinct, pulsating soundtrack, this film launched the careers of now iconic director Tsai, and his longtime collaborator Lee Kang-sheng.

### Screening preceded by a specially pre-recorded introduction from director Tsai Ming-liang.

### Session 1:
**11:00am – 12:00pm**

**Spring: The Story of Hsu Chin-Yu**

#### Tseng Wen-chen 曾文珍, 56min, 2002

Drawing on the first-person accounts of former postal worker and political prisoner Hsu Chin-yu and her peers, this documentary confronts the grim fate of some who dared to oppose the authoritarian regime of 1950s Taiwan.

### Session 2:
**1:00pm – 2:45pm**

**The Peach Blossom Land**

#### Stan Lai 賴聲川, 107min, 1992

One of the few films by acclaimed theatre director Stan Lai, *The Peach Blossom Land* is a creative journey through personal identity and the China-Taiwan relationship, in which two competing theatre productions are deftly staged together to perform an entirely new story.

### Session 3:
**3:30pm – 5:30pm**

**Rebels of the Neon God**

#### Tsai Ming-liang 蔡明亮, 106min, 1992

This dark, gritty film probes the loneliness and confusion of youth in the alleys and video arcades of 1990s Taipei. Punctuated by a distinct, pulsating soundtrack, this film launched the careers of now iconic director Tsai, and his longtime collaborator Lee Kang-sheng.

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### Session 4:
**7:00pm – 9:30pm**

**Monga**

#### Doze Niu Chen-zer 鈕承澤, 141mins, 2010, MA 15+

Outselling *Avatar* at Taiwan’s box office, *Monga* is a slick, action-packed and star-studded story about aspiring teenage gangsters. Set during the heady 1980s, in one of Taipei’s oldest neighbourhoods, a young gang’s loyalties are tested by changes afoot in the city’s cutthroat underworld.

### Session 2:
**11:45am – 12:35pm**

**The Gangster’s God**

#### Ho Chao-ti 賀照緹, 49min, 2006

In this startling documentary, a concrete labourer seeking retribution from his deteriorating life of alcohol abuse and infidelity, joins other troubled young men in a dangerous parade at the local temple.

### Session 3:
**2:00pm – 4:00pm**

**The Terrorizers**

#### Edward Yang 楊德昌, 109min, 1986, M

A series of odd coincidences draw strangers together, straining the relationship of a frustrated novelist and her doctor husband. Edward Yang, one of the key directors of the Taiwanese New Wave, explores the tensions felt by aspirational Taiwanese in 1980s Taipei in this mesmerising and critically lauded psychological drama.

### Session 4:
**4:45pm – 7:00pm**

**Cape No.7**

#### Wei Te-sheng 魏德聖, 129min, 2008

When a young postman fails to deliver a love letter from sixty years ago he unwittingly kindles an international romance and kicks off his rock music career. This local box office smash entertainingly explores connections between Taiwan’s vibrant multicultural present and its contentious colonial past.

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### Saturday 21 March

**Venue:** The Auditorium, Australian Centre on China in the World

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<tr>
<th>Session 1:</th>
<th>10:30am – 11:30am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cerise Phiv 張俐紫 &amp; Benoit Vermander 魏明德, 60mins, 2012</td>
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