MONSTERS HAVE long roamed our imaginations, and they continue to find their way onto our screens. Coming from the depths of the ocean, the reaches of outer space, from scientific misadventure or even supernatural realms, they are often villainous outcasts and social Others that articulate our perennial fears, troubled memories or suppressed desires.

Lurking between fantastical fictions and harsh realities, this season of films explores the literal and metaphorical idea of the monstrous; it promises not only encounters with ghoulish spectres or maniacal robots, for example, but also visits the unresolved histories and often grim social realities of these diverse modern societies.

This monthly film series aims to offer insights into lived realities in societies across Asia and the Pacific through documentary and feature films made by the most thoughtful, uncompromising and socially engaged filmmakers from the region. Each screening will be followed by a short discussion session led by a scholar acquainted with the issues raised in the film. Through regular screenings and discussion sessions, the curators of the film series hope to contribute to the building of an engaged community of researchers, teachers and students interested in life experience, social realities and cultural transformations in the Asia Pacific.

The series is sponsored by the Australian Centre on China in the World, and benefits from a curatorial team composed of ANU CAP researchers with diverse expertise in visual culture, dramatic arts, independent cinema and popular culture in Asia and the Pacific.

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