MADE IN HONG KONG

This season presents a selection of films showcasing Hong Kong’s New Wave cinema and its legacies.

SEASON FIVE
FILM SCREENING
Free and open to the public

16 March
Wednesday, 5:00-7:00pm

Comrades: Almost a Love Story
甜蜜蜜

Directed by Patrick Chan 陳可辛
1996, 118mins, Hong Kong
Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese; with English subtitles
The Auditorium, China in the World Building 188, Fellows Lane, ANU

Xiaojun is a small town northerner who arrives in Hong Kong dreaming of making enough money to bring his girlfriend from back home. He speaks no Cantonese and struggles to get ahead in the fast-paced city, until he befriends Qiao, a streetwise newcomer from Guangzhou, fluent in the local language and familiar with the opportunities the city offers. Their friendship turns to love, but Xiaojun refuses to let go of his original dream. Years later, now both migrants in another new land of opportunity, they may yet have the chance to reunite.

The Chinese title of Patrick Chan’s epic love story is from a popular song by Taiwanese pop idol Teresa Teng 鄧麗君, whose sweet ballads and innocent beauty charmed Chinese audiences across all borders throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Just as Teng is a symbol of popular culture’s ability to bridge political and historical differences, the film is also an oblique reflection on the experiences of loss and perseverance, and cultural identity, amid Chinese migrant experiences, in which Hong Kong has long been a gateway to the world.

The screening will be followed by a short informal discussion.

CONVENOR:
Olivier Krischer
olivier.krischer@anu.edu.au

MORE INFO:
http://ciw.anu.edu.au

Xiaojun is a small town northerner who arrives in Hong Kong dreaming of making enough money to bring his girlfriend from back home. He speaks no Cantonese and struggles to get ahead in the fast-paced city, until he befriends Qiao, a streetwise newcomer from Guangzhou, fluent in the local language and familiar with the opportunities the city offers. Their friendship turns to love, but Xiaojun refuses to let go of his original dream. Years later, now both migrants in another new land of opportunity, they may yet have the chance to reunite.

The Chinese title of Patrick Chan’s epic love story is from a popular song by Taiwanese pop idol Teresa Teng 鄧麗君, whose sweet ballads and innocent beauty charmed Chinese audiences across all borders throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Just as Teng is a symbol of popular culture’s ability to bridge political and historical differences, the film is also an oblique reflection on the experiences of loss and perseverance, and cultural identity, amid Chinese migrant experiences, in which Hong Kong has long been a gateway to the world.

The screening will be followed by a short informal discussion.