Made in Hong Kong
香港製造
Directed by Fruit Chan 陳果
1997, 108mins, Hong Kong
Cantonese with English subtitles

Moon is a high school dropout working as a debt collector for the local triads, but is proud of his independent spirit. His father has left the family for his Mainland mistress and their baby. On Moon’s rounds with Sylvester, his mentally handicapped sidekick, he meets and falls for Ping. When Moon discovers Ping has a terminal kidney disease, he agrees to a hit job for quick cash that might fix everything. But although he beats people up for a living, the local high school children seem capable of more wanton violence—can he follow through?

Hailed as Hong Kong’s leading independent director since the 1990s, Fruit Chan studied and worked with many of the key New Wave directors of the 1980s. As with all of Chan’s films, Made in Hong Kong deals with marginal lives that populate another Hong Kong, of nondescript apartments and dank Kowloon back alleys. Costing less than $100,000, the film features non-professional actors and was shot on leftover film stock Chan had collected during commercial projects he had been working on for years prior. Part of a trilogy obliquely reflecting on the handover period, it garnered Best Film at the 1998 Hong Kong Film Awards.

The screening will be followed by a short informal discussion.